

## Supporting Beacon School was the Reason for Freezin' Over \$8,000 raised for Beacon PTA



Members of the Beacon Teacher Team pose just before their epic plunge. From left to right, Sam Dunlap, Mary Beth Musser, McKenzie Rader, Tosha Kasler, Krystal Palmer, Alana Palmer, Maddie Smart, Ava Kristofco, Heidi Smart, Susan Cablish-Kristofco, Gracie Justis, Jordan Hite, and a friend.

What might convince you to jump into a frozen lake? For many, the simple goal of raising money for a worthy cause was a warm enough consolation for them to take a quick dip in Lake Snowden.

"The Reason for a Freezin'" was hosted by VFW Post 9893 of Albany. Over \$8,000 was raised, all of which will be going to Beacon School's PTA. Brian Johnson, senior vice commander of VFW Post 9893 and lead organizer of the event, will be visiting the school March 1 to officially hand off the proceeds. At that time, the school will take the opportunity to formally thank him and his colleagues for their tremendously successful fundraiser.



From left to right, Ava Kristofco snuggles up with her mom Susan Cablish-Kristofco, a teacher at Beacon School, after their successful plunge.



## Plunge cont...

On the day of the event, snow was falling and the temperature was about 25 degrees.

Supt. Kevin Davis said he was appreciative of the turnout at the event.

"We're always looking for fundraisers, and this is a natural opportunity," he said. "We're going to be able to raise a lot of money this morning, but what's more important are all the people that are out here, 25 degrees, wanting to support us, and we're very appreciative of the community support."

Davis came not just to cheer on the participants, but to take the "plunge" himself.

"I'm ready to go and I'm going to go all the way under, I hope," he said beforehand, "and the bigger hope is that I come back out."

Davis managed a full dunk in the lake, and made it back to dry land safely. Around 120 other people showed up and took a plunge that morning. Also there were several volunteers to make the event run smoothly and safely.

"I would like to thank the Albany VFW and the many volunteers who worked so hard to make this event such a huge success," said Director Becky Martin. "I was overwhelmed at the level of support from the community, and appreciate everyone who, despite the freezing weather, came out to support Beacon School."

Johnson said that the plunge was the group's way to give back to the community.

**"What's more important are all the people that are out here, 25 degrees, wanting to support us, and we're very appreciative of the community support."**

**— Kevin Davis  
ACBDD Superintendent**



From left to right, Cecilia Foltz and Jordan Hite pose together after Jordan took the plunge. Jordan participated in the Beacon Teacher Team.



Kevin Davis quickly runs out of the water after his successful plunge.



## Plunge cont. ...



Starting upper left and going clockwise, Bailey Davis exits the water in a rush after braving the cold with her parents, Leslie and Kevin. Becky and her husband Curtis stayed shore side handing out hot chocolate. Kevin and Bill Porter pose together just before the plunge. Doug Mitchell, director of our Employment Options division, embraces the referee costume and keeps everyone in check.

## March activities for DD Awareness Month

The ACBDD is gearing up for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which is in March. We have a number of activities planned throughout the month and into early April. Every year we pick a theme. This year's is Integrate Athens.

This means we be highlighting our new division (Office of Integrate Athens) and other ways our community promotes integration and inclusion opportunities.

We hope you will join us! See below for a full listing of our activities for DD Awareness Month.



## DD Awareness Month Events

### The Athens NEWS ACBDD Special Edition

#### March 7 | available countywide

The A-NEWS ACBDD Special Edition has been published for the last 9 years. This is an excellent way for us to educate the community about the various DD services and providers available in the county. Be sure to pick up a copy on this day to learn about the ACBDD, our community partners, and how we promote integration and inclusion in the work that we do.



### “March on Court Street” For Disability Awareness

#### March 8, 10 a.m. | Baker University Center (4th Floor Entrance)

Join us for the second annual “March on Court Street” to increase disability awareness. Bring your signs, your banners, your voice, and your friends! Line-up begins at Baker University Center (4th Floor Entrance) at 9:30 a.m. The march starts at 10 a.m. The route goes up Court St. and ends at Courthouse with a brief presentation. In the event of inclement weather, the march will take place indoors at The Market on State in Athens.





## DD Awareness Month Events, cont...

### Developmental Disabilities Awareness Festival

**March 19, 6 p.m.—8 p.m. | Athens Community Center**

The purpose of this event is to bring the disabilities community and the broader community together to celebrate all of the resources that exist in Athens County that support individuals with disabilities. Join us at the Athens Community Center on March 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



### Integrate Athens Open House

**April 2, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.**

The ACBDD's Office of Integrate Athens officially launched this year. It will focus on promoting and enhancing integration and inclusion efforts for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and for the community at large. The office, directed by Autumn Brown, is located at 9033 Lavelle Road, in Athens. The open house will feature a tour, a brief presentation, and light snacks. Come celebrate with us!





## In Memorium: Jacque White

We were very sad to share that Jacqueline (Jacque) White passed away recently. Jacque worked for the ACBDD since March of 2002.

Jacque was both a van and bus driver during her time working with us. She drove thousands of people with disabilities around over the years (always with a smile) and she made an extremely positive impact on all of them.

Her ability to talk, laugh, and engage with staff from all levels of the ACBDD will also be missed. We invited her supervisor, Director Butch Withem, to share a few words about Jacque.



Jacque receiving her service award in 2017.

By Butch Withem

Jacque was one of the best employees I have ever worked with in my time with the ACBDD. Jacque had an excellent relationship with all her fellow employees and all the individuals she served at ATCO and Beacon during her tenure with the ACBDD. Jacque is and will be greatly missed in our organization. Below are comments from her colleagues.

- Jacque was the live wire of the group. You could always count on a laugh from her, and she was always willing to help any way she could. Not having Jacque around every day leaves an emptiness. She will be greatly missed.
- Jacque had a way of making all of us feel up when we were felling down and grouchy. She would come in and room and say Happy! Happy! Happy! You may say, "Really?" but you couldn't help but smile and laugh out loud. Jacque made us all feel stronger by her demeanor. She was a great and wonderful person to be around. We miss her.
- Jacque was the first employee I met when I started driving for the ACBDD in 2016. Jacque was always helpful with anything you asked and always had a fun story to tell about her experiences. Jacque had the best attitude and always had a smile to share. She will be missed very much.
- In the short time I worked with Jacque she left a forever impression. She will never be forgotten and deeply missed.



From left to right, Scott Crum, Greg Grimm, Tracy Gillum, Jacque White, Zeke Hutchison, Jayne Hart, Wes Kline, Jeff Dolman pose together outside of the bus garage on Lavelle Road.



## ACBDD bids farewell to Director Martin

We were fortunate to be able say good-bye to Director John Martin earlier this year. The ACBDD presented him with a world-famous Athens County Passion Works Studio flower.

Director Martin has retired after 12 years of leading the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Thank you Director Martin for everything you have done to support people with disabilities in Ohio! At right, Supt. Davis and Director Martin pose together.



## ACBDD managers take “I believe in you” pledge

**“I believe in you” - such simple words.**

In an effort to improve our services, at a recent meeting, the managers at the ACBDD discussed the importance of telling people, “I believe in you.” This simple phrase lets a person know they matter and that they are valued.

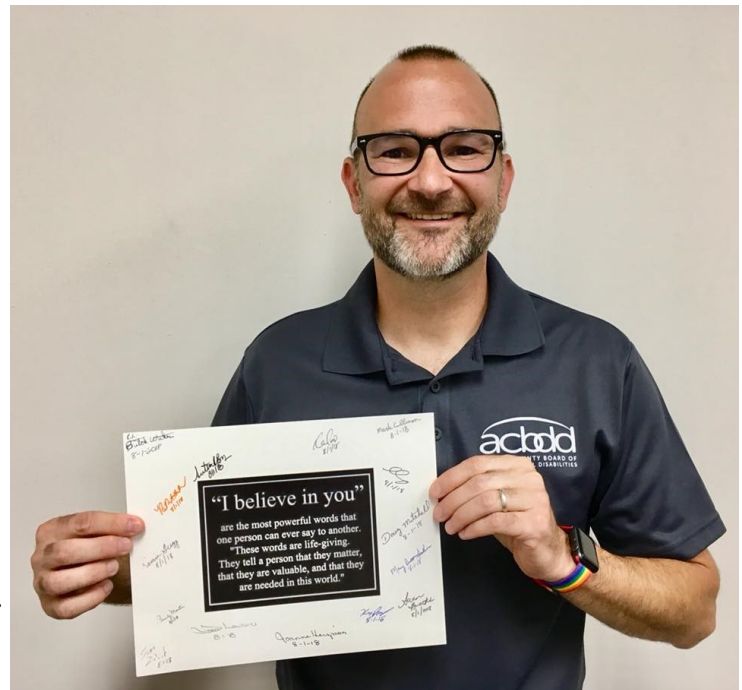
The managers also participated in an exercise expressing this message to each other, and we agreed it is something we should say to others more often.

As a commitment to do this, each manager signed off on this card. The card was framed and now hangs in our conference room.

At the ACBDD, we believe in our management team, we believe in our staff, and most importantly we believe in the people we serve.

We believe in an integrated and inclusive Athens County that we serve with compassion, innovation, and transparency.

“I believe in you.” You will be hearing more about this campaign in the months to come.







## School gym now has bright new floor

We were able to replace our gym floor over the winter break. The original floor had been in place since the building was built in 1980 and was in dire need of replacement. The new floor will be enjoyed by our students and by members of our community for many years to come. This project was made possible with the help of a generous donation from Dr. James K Bratton's estate. Since 2010, our gymnasium has been known as "The Dr. James K. Bratton Gymnasium." Dr. Bratton was one of the "founding fathers" of Beacon School. Be sure to come by some time and check out the new floor!

**Before**



**After**



## Beacon School wins recycling award for 2018

Beacon School won the recycling award for 2018! This award is given out by Athens Hocking Recycling Center and Rural Action.

Out of 22 participating schools in Athens and Hocking County, Beacon School had the highest percentage in recycling.

Pictured here in the center is Jayce, who manages our recycling program for us, accepting the trophy! He is posing with both Lyn Justis and Carl Johnston, who help Jayce manage the program.

Thanks to everyone who works so hard to help us achieve this goal. We are proud of you all!





# Employment Options

&



**PersonnelPlus**  
Employment Services

*Still the one in Athens County after 30 years!*

## PersonnelPlus welcomes IHOP to the Athens community

Before the doors were open and training started, General Manager Robert Horner met with Angela Carter, our PersonnelPlus Job Developer, and a new partnership was formed.

When the doors opened late last year, Mr. Horner had hired five individuals through PersonnelPlus.

PersonnelPlus staff took an opportunity to check out the new location and reported the food and service was excellent. Welcome Mr. Horner and IHOP to the Athens community.



## Please welcome our organization's recent hires!



**Sue Orth**

**Training Coordinator**

Sue has joined the team at Employment Options. She will be sharing job duties as a Training Coordinator along with Heather Clemons. Sue worked at ATCO for 17 years, starting her career as an Adult Service Aide and then as a Community Inclusion Specialist.



**Lisa Fierce**

**Administrative Assistant**

We are excited to announce Lisa Fierce has accepted our offer to become the Administrative Assistant for the SSA Department. We are so excited to have her on board.

**Welcome, everyone! We are glad to have you.**

## ACBDD says farewell to longtime MUI Coordinator

Congratulations, Beth Atherton!

Beth has accepted a position as Regional Investigator with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Beth has served as our MUI (major unusual incident) coordinator for many years. In that time, she has worked tirelessly to protect the health/safety and to advance the rights of people with disabilities. She is a true professional in every sense of the word.

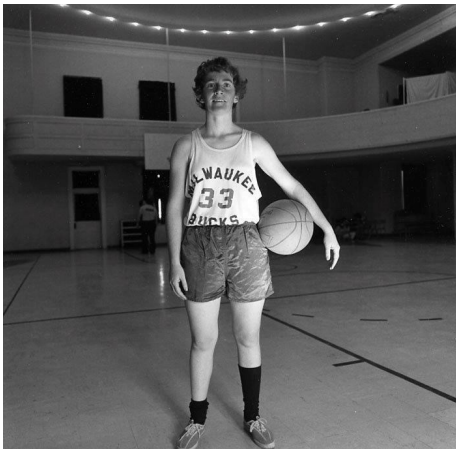
Beth, we are sad to see you go, but we all are also very proud of you. You will be missed!



# Special Photo Feature

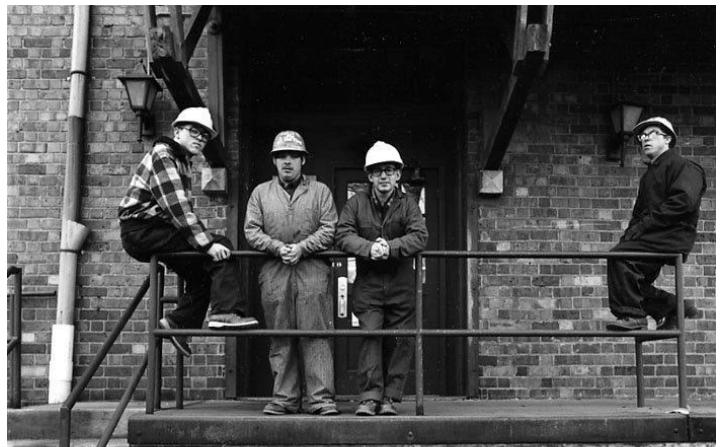
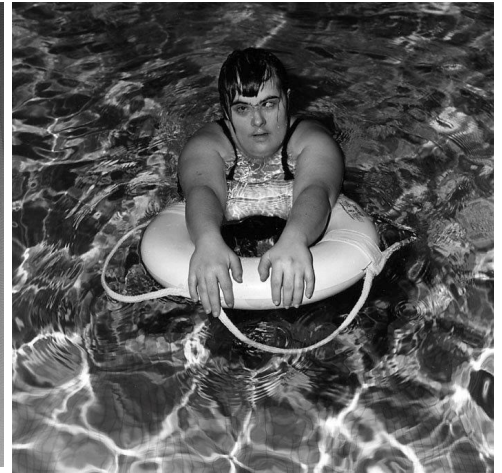
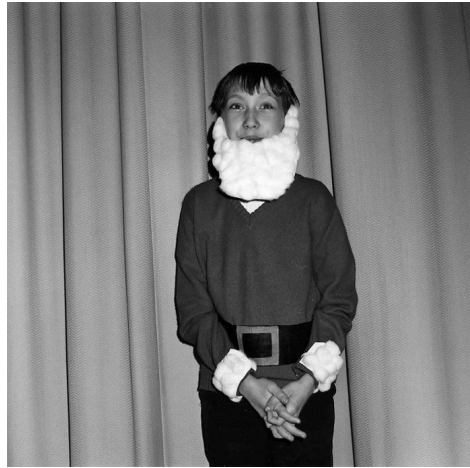
## Former staff member shares photos from the 1970s

Check out these amazing photos from the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities during the 1970s. These photos were taken by Steve Goff, who was a bus driver for Beacon School and ATCO in the mid 70s while he attended Ohio University studying photography. Steve is currently a professor at Odessa College. Thanks to help from our friends, we have been able to identify everyone photographed.





# Special Photo Feature



Do you have historical photographs of individuals or staff connected to the ACBDD? If so, we would love to feature them in a future edition of our agency's newsletter. Please just email Assistant Supt. Arian Smedley at [asmedley@athenscbdd.org](mailto:asmedley@athenscbdd.org).



## March Work Anniversaries:

Amy Goldsberry — 1 year



## ACBDD in the news

'Polar Plunge' charity returns to Lake Snowden

The Athens Messenger—Jan. 9, 2019

Frigid swimmers take the 'Plunge' for charity

The Athens Messenger — Jan. 29, 2019



## Save the Date

### ATCO Idol set for May 23 at Stuart's Opera House

Mark your calendar the next ATCO Idol, the most popular talent show in the county. This will be an evening of entertainment that you will not want to miss!

For more information, contact Leslie Perry or Chris Biester at (740) 541-9600.

