

## ATCO Idol celebrates 10th year with passion, energy



Participants in this year's ATCO Idol stand on the stage at Stuart's Opera House for their finale.

This year's ATCO Idol, the county's most popular talent show, was a huge success. The crowd was so big, for the first time ever, they had to open the balcony for more seating. It is hard to describe how special this night is. To put it simply, it is an evening filled with passion, energy, and love.

The early days of ATCO Idol featured karaoke-style musical performances done exclusively by individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The event has grown and evolved over the years. Today, it is a community event that highlights the collaborative work of musicians with and without disabilities.

By performing hits from KIZZ, Elton John, Michael Jackson, and others, the nearly 30 performers transformed into superstars once on stage.

Last year was the first time local musicians without disabilities were invited to participate. This has changed the dynamics of the event, making it a more inclusive experience.



Supt. Davis poses with Emily backstage before the start of the show.

## ATCO Idol, continued

“This evening is about giving people a space to share their talents and passions with others,” said Supt. Kevin Davis. “By broadening participation to others in the community, we’re creating opportunities for lasting friendships across abilities to be established. We are proud of that.”



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– Supt. Kevin Davis

By performing hits from KIZZ, Elton John, Michael Jackson, and others, the nearly 30 performers transformed into superstars once on stage. Performers included Emily, John, and Dar.



## Spring 2019 ATCO Legacy Fund winners announced

We are happy to announce the first awards from our ATCO Legacy Fund! They include:

- Athens County Coffee, Tea and Autism (a program of the Autism Society Central Ohio) to support inclusive family events
- Hocking Athens Perry Community Action to support Athens on Demand Transit
- Sech-Kar to build a “little free library” in Nelsonville
- Echoing Hills of Southeast Ohio to create a health and wellness program
- Passion Works Studio to support an inclusive art program



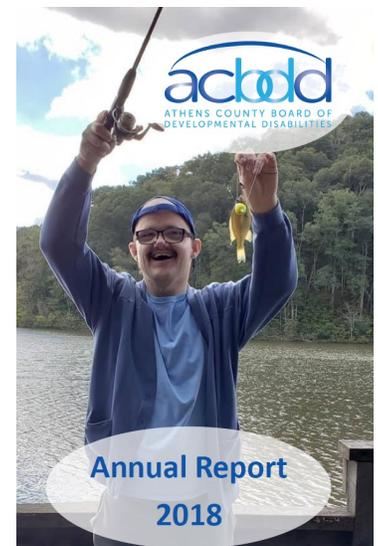
Congratulations to all of the awardees. All of these projects will work to promote inclusion and integration for people in Athens County. The selection committee was very impressed with all the applicants, and we look forward to another grant cycle in the fall.

## ACBDD releases its 2018 Annual Report

During 2018, the ACBDD continued to help nearly 640 individuals stay safe, achieve their dreams, and live the fullest life possible.

This year’s report provides an overview of the agency, highlights from 2018, a special tribute to the ATCO transition, important statistics, and a section on 2019 and beyond.

We are proud to present some of last year’s accomplishments in our 2018 Annual Report. To view the full report, visit our website at [athenscbdd.org](http://athenscbdd.org).



## ACBDD at Kidfest 2019

We had such a fun time at Kidfest 2019! It was a huge turnout and the activities were a hit! We had representation from administration, the SSA Division, Employment Options/PersonnelPlus, and Beacon School. We have fun sensory activities, games, coloring, and more!





### **Welcome back Katie Evans!**

We are excited to announce Katie Evans has returned to the ACBDD to serve as our Medicaid Services Manager. Katie has over 20 years of experience in the field of developmental disabilities and previously worked in this role for us. She started June 3. Welcome back, Katie!



### **Scott Zielinski hired as ACBDD MUI Coordinator**

Scott Zielinski, who was been serving as the Medicaid Services Manager and Interim MUI Coordinator, has officially been hired to fill the role of MUI Coordinator. Scott started out with the ACBDD as the Medicaid Services Manager and agreed to temporarily fill the MUI Coordinator role until a replacement was found. Congratulations, Scott!



### **Mackenzie Lowe hired as Summer Camp Director**

For the first time this year, the ACBDD will be directly managing its own Summer Camp at Beacon School. We are excited to announce that Mackenzie Lowe, who has extensive experience managing camps through 4-H, has been hired as our 2019 Camp Director. She is already working hard developing the summer schedule. Welcome, Mackenzie!



### **ACBDD purchases new bus for Beacon School**

We are grateful that the ACBDD’s Board of Directors approved the purchase of our new bus. It will serve the students at Beacon School well for years to come! Special thanks goes to our transportation staff: Director Butch Withem, and mechanics Wes Kline and Jeff Dolman. Thank you all for getting it ready and safe for the road.

## “I believe in you” profile—Billy Peacock

In an effort to improve our services, the ACBDD’s management team discussed the importance of telling people, “I believe in you.”

This simple phrase lets a person know they matter and that they are valued. We even took a pledge to agree to share this message more often.

For this edition, our “I believe in you” profile features William (Billy) Peacock. Billy has spent his life involved in self-advocacy. He says, “I am a self-advocate; I help people with what they need in life.” He has spoken to the legislators in both the Ohio House and Senate on a variety of topics, like how transportation is a barrier for those with disabilities. Most recently, he presented testimony at the Ohio Statehouse in favor of HB 166.

Billy serves as the leader for “People First,” a HAVAR advocacy group that discusses current issues. His advocacy experiences continue with Billy being a member of SOCOG (Southern Ohio Council of Governments), Integrate Athens – Advocacy Empower Hour, The Plains Lions Club, Expand Your Horizons, and he assisted with Goodworks’ “Friday Night Life” dinner earlier this year. Billy says he is thankful to be involved in these groups.

We believe in the power of self-advocates, and **we believe in you, Billy**. Thank you for your continued work for your own benefit and for the benefit of others. Athens County is honored to have your voice.



Above: Billy testifies before the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services in favor of HB 166. Below: Billy sits in front of the Ohio Statehouse with fellow self-advocate Dara Walburn.

**“I am a self-advocate; I help people with what they need in life.”**

— Billy Peacock, Athens County Self-Advocate





## Preschool graduation and awards

This year's Preschool Graduation and Awards Ceremony at Beacon School included a performance from the Beacon Singers and a visit State Rep. Jay Edwards. It was such a special day. Congratulations to all our students.



## New landscaping, decorative rocks liven up entryway

For this year's Earth Day celebration, students painted rocks and placed them along the entryway of Beacon School as part of a beautification project. Also, thanks to the Beacon School PTA, new landscaping was installed and the school letters repainted. These projects have livened up the entryway of our school, ensuring everyone comes in feeling welcomed and joyous. Thanks to all who made these projects happen.





## Despite weather, Special Olympians enjoy an action-packed day

The foul weather did not stop Beacon School from celebrating its Special Olympics athletes. Once the formal Area 8 event was canceled, our Beacon staff quickly adjusted to host our own informal event indoors. We began with a parade through the inside of the school. They also sang the National Anthem and recited the Special Olympics Creed: “Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” Then came the real excitement: competing in numerous track and field events, as well as a few miscellaneous events. Supt. Kevin Davis said that the cancellation was disappointing, but noted that his staff were able to quickly bounce back from the change in plans.

“As we always do at Beacon, we turned a little adversity into a positive and held our own events here at the school,” he said.

Students participated in numerous wheelchair-driven events: the shot put, 50-meter dash and 100-meter dash and walk, softball throw, assisted and unassisted walks of varying lengths, running long jump, and various other events.

“The joy, laughter, and smiles from the athletes during the friendly competition filled our gymnasium,” Davis said. “We can’t say enough about our staff at Beacon School. The teamwork and cooperative nature they display all in support of our students is amazing. On a moment’s notice, they were able to put together a very special day, which our students thoroughly enjoyed and will remember it for a long time.”





## At Beacon prom, students danced away in an “Enchanted Forest”

Attendees of the 2019 prom at Beacon School took to the dance floor to dance away. The theme this year was “Enchanted Forest.” This was the third year in a row that Beacon has hosted its own prom, which is open to students from all of the county’s public school districts. This year, students from the Athens High Schools’ Teenagers Interacting & Learning Together (TILT) Club joined in the fun.



## Students spend Service Learning Day at Beacon School

We recently had the pleasure of hosting at Beacon School several Athens High School and Ohio University students for Service Learning Day. What a great group of students! We are grateful for their work and for being a part of their service learning experience.





## ACBDD/Beacon shows appreciation

We recently took the time to recognize the hard work of our dedicated transportation team, our Beacon School paraprofessionals (also known as educational aides), teachers, and nursing team. What a great crew! Athens County is so fortunate. Thank

you all for what you do! **You are appreciated!**





## Summer camp kicks off June 17

We are excited to announce that for the third summer in a row, we will be offering a free summer camp to eligible students. We are confident this will be the best summer yet!

# Summer Camp

 at

### Sessions

- Session 1: June 17-28
- Session 2: July 8-19



## “Athens Connects” promotes community involvement

The first-ever Athens Connects event showcased various opportunities to get involved in the community. Agencies, civic groups, clubs, businesses, nonprofits, community groups, and other entities from around the county set up informational tables at The Market on State from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The event was hosted jointly by the Office of Integrate Athens and PersonnelPlus. It was designed to connect people (of all abilities) with engaging activities in the community, like volunteering, working, socializing, physical activities, trainings, and more.

Integrate Athens is a new division of the ACBDD. Its goal is to promote integration and inclusion efforts throughout the county. Thank you to everyone who came out!



## Integrate Athens Open House a success

Community members, stakeholders, public officials, and agency representatives from all over the county took advantage of our recent

Open House for Integrate Athens. This new division of the ACBDD is focused on promoting integration and inclusion efforts in the county. Thanks to everyone who came out to help us celebrate this new, innovative division.



## “Transit Hop” helps community learn to use public transit

The Office of Integrate Athens hosted the first-ever “Athens County Transit Hop.” During a two-week period, the ACBDD paid for transit passes for any person with a disability who is also eligible for our services. We placed special “cards” at certain locations along the transit loop. Participants collected these cards and brought them in to the Office of Integrate Athens to be entered into a drawing. The purpose of the “Hop” was to encourage people to try out the public transit system.



## Employment Opportunities with ACBDD / Beacon School

### Adapted Physical Education Instructor, PreK-12

**Some qualifications:**

- Ohio Department of Education Licensure K-12 with Adapted Physical Ed endorsement.
- Lifeguard certification or willingness to obtain certification.
- Knowledge of physical education & health; child development; characteristics & needs of children with DD; operation and maintenance of equipment and teaching methods for children with DD.



**Job duties include, but are not limited to:**

- Assesses developmental levels of students, plans and implements physical education, athletics, swimming, recreation/leisure and other adaptive physical fitness activities.
- Maintains an environment that is conducive to learning and is free of health and safety hazards. Keeps daily lesson plans prepared well in advance. Provides direction, guidance and training to assigned assistants and volunteers.

### Instructor, Intervention Specialist, PreK-3

**Some qualifications:**

- OH Dept. of Education Licensure, Early Childhood Intervention Specialist Pre-K-3 or ability to obtain by start date.
- Knowledge of multiple disabilities, child development, community-based resources, educational and adaptive equipment and devices.



**Job duties include, but are not limited to:**

- Manage the development and implementation of a comprehensive academic and life skills-based Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for each student. Prepare and deliver educational curriculum as well as social and recreational experiences in accordance with student IEP's. Provide direction, training and leadership to assigned classroom instructor assistants and educational aides.
- Conduct weekly student evaluations; maintain documentation, reports and records. Prepare progress reports detailing student IEP progress.

**To see full job descriptions, visit [athenscbdd.org](http://athenscbdd.org).**

## Employment Opportunities with ACBDD / Beacon School

### Instructor Assistant

**Some qualifications:**

- Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Educational Aide Permit, with Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) endorsement, or ability to obtain permit by start date
- Ability to lift a minimum of 30 pounds; physical ability to effectively sustain and endure physical demands to meet the needs of small, active children



**Job duties include, but are not limited to:**

- Assists certified instructors in teaching in one or more of the following areas: social, physical, language, communication, hearing and/or speech development, personal care, vocational skills and/or academic and leisure time activities. Assists in maintaining classroom environment conducive to learning and free of health and safety hazards. Assists in preparing and presenting daily lesson plans consistent with instructor’s goals for students’ Individual Educational Plans. Assists students with mobility, physical and clothing needs such as positioning, feeding, toileting and getting on and off transportation vehicles.
- Attends meetings, conferences and/or home visits with parents; attends staff meetings, training sessions, open houses, and school-wide events. Supports instructor by communicating classroom needs, educational aide needs or issues, and parent concerns. Ensures that parental communication is under the direction of the instructor. Ensures that classroom Unusual Incident Reports are completed according to agency timelines.

**To see full job descriptions, visit [athenscbdd.org](http://athenscbdd.org).**

## ACBDD Wears Blue for Child Abuse Awareness/Prevention Month



Our leadership team proudly wore blue on April 10, Athens County’s Wear Blue Day, in recognition of April being child abuse prevention month.

# Community News

## THAS hosts first race of the season

Team Heart and Sole kicked off its 2019 running season under beautiful blue skies during the annual Race for a Reason. The lovely weather and the reconnecting with friends gave us all kinds of reasons to celebrate. THAS is always looking for more community members to join the team. If you would like more information about THAS, contact team coordinator Paul Richard at paulrichard@columbus.rr.com.



## New 'co-op shop' offers space for local goods

A new artisan cooperative has settled on Columbus Road, thanks to the inspiration of Dan Schoonover and help from the ACBDD's Office Integrate Athens and HAVAR.

The new business, called the Athens Artisan Co-op Shop, is located at 227 Columbus Road. The main goal for the shop is to become a successful artisan cooperative that is inclusive of people both with and without disabilities.



Autumn Brown, director of Integrate Athens, said the idea for the shop started with Dan, owner of Shady Dan's Sunglasses. He had a dream of opening his own storefront to sell his products, which are mainly sunglasses and T-shirts. However, obtaining the funds to start such a shop proved difficult. She worked with Dan to create something that worked for him and others.

The shop is also located in the same building as HAVAR's Building Bridges Adult Center, which offers recreation and leisure activities to individuals with disabilities.

Ande Hardy, a participating artisan, said she is glad to be a part of something that integrates people with and without disabilities into the community at-large.

## Work Anniversaries

### May

**Becky West** — 36 years

**Susan Weaver** — 21 years

**Rex Maccombs** — 15 years

**Jerry Swackhamer** — 4 years

**Ronald Kelley** — 3 years

### June

**Tami Harter** — 18 years

**Jennie Booth** — 15 years

**Jeffrey Dolman** — 14 years

**Andres Muniz** — 3 years

**David McKee** — 3 years

**James Marcus** — 2 years

**Arian Smedley** — 2 years

**Scott Zielinski** — 1 year

## ACBDD in the news

### **New community garden to offer space for all**

The Athens Messenger—April 11 , 2019

### **Dancing the night away in an Enchanted Forest**

The Athens Messenger—April 16, 2019

### **Local Special Olympians enjoy action-packed day**

The Athens Messenger — April 28, 2019

### **Athens Connects seeks to increase involvement in local community**

The Athens NEWS — May 5, 2019

### **New ‘co-op shop’ offers space for local goods**

The Athens Messenger — May 12, 2019

### **ATCO Idol celebrates 10th year**

The Athens Messenger — May 14, 2019

### **Popular ‘ATCO Idol’ celebrates 10 years of local talent**

The Athens NEWS — May 23, 2019



## More photographs from Beacon Prom 2019

