

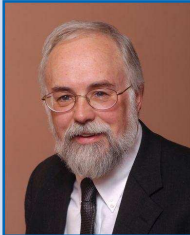
# Pipeline Quarterly

A publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities\*  
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## Director's Corner

### Toward a Positive Culture

by John Martin  
Director,  
ODMRDD  
(614) 466-5214  
John.Martin@  
dmr.state.oh.us



Ohio's journey, as we move forward with the Positive Culture Initiative, is rooted in non-aversive approaches to behavioral issues. This fascinating journey is unfolding in ways that we could not have imagined when we took our first steps toward a positive culture shift last year.

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting *all* people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships. It is about shifting away from using power, control, and coercion in language and actions, and toward affirmation, unconditional acceptance, and encouragement.

We began by inviting the field to join a conversation about changing the way we see people whose lives have been affected by developmental disabilities – and thereby changing our approach to services. Our hope was to refocus, and set priorities emphasizing positive relationships and assisting people to live meaningful lives.

Some interesting developments are occurring along our path, new partners have joined our  
(cont. on p. 11)

"This story didn't need any 'spin'  
– it just told itself."

p. 3

## The 'Name Change' Bill

### Historic Signing of Senate Bill 79



**Historic Signature** – Governor Ted Strickland signs Senate Bill 79 in a ceremony involving several self advocates and other members of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community on August 28. The ceremonial bill signing commemorated the July 7 official signing of the bill that changes the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities\*, as well as the names of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

On August 28, the Cabinet Room at the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 40 representatives of the statewide developmental disabilities community, including several of the self-advocates from Athens County who spurred the adoption and eventual passage of Senate Bill 79.

Prior to the ceremonial signing, as attendees gathered for a group photograph, Governor Strickland took a moment to recognize and thank the members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate who sponsored and supported the legislation, including Senator Jimmy Stewart, who introduced Senate Bill 79, Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Debbie Phillips, who jointly introduced House Bill 118 supporting the same efforts, and Senator Fred Strahorn, a long-time proponent of the bill who introduced similar legislation last year.

(cont. on p. 2)

\*The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) after October 5, 2009.

## In this Issue of PQ

p. 3 Keith Peterson Illustrates How to 'Be All you Can Be'

p. 4 Clark County Gets Behind Martin-Funded Waivers

p. 6 Alpha Group Makes a Greener Grill

p. 7 Ohio's Partners in Policy Making

p. 8-9 They Wrote the Book On It -- Next Chapter Book Club; Medina's Resource Library

p. 10 Recognition for Ohio's Direct Support Professionals

p. 11-12 Mount Vernon Developmental Center Celebrates 100 Years; Knight to Head Council

The Next Chapter?  
p. 8

## Historic Signing, SB79 (cont. from cover)

The Governor stated, reiterating his support of the bi-partisan legislation,

**"I applaud the legislature for working to pass this inclusive and respectful legislation, and I am especially pleased to see the strong participation by Ohio's self advocates in this process."**

### About The Bill

There were many steps along the way to SB 79 becoming law -- among them a September 2008 press conference in Columbus, presenting the legislation later introduced by then-Representatives, and now Senators Jimmy Stewart and Fred Strahorn. There, Rep. Stewart noted, "The legislation is constituent-driven, and we believe it will better reflect the wishes of the individuals served."

Rep. Strahorn then added that the bi-partisan legislation would serve as a way to, "... help to preserve and acknowledge the dignity of every person."

And, on April 1, 2009, the Statehouse hosted more than 200 individuals with autism and other disabilities, families, and state legislators, rallying to support the legislation that would strike the words 'mental retardation' from the name of the state and county entities overseeing services to people with developmental disabilities, as well

**Congratulations to all who worked to pass this important legislation!**



**September, 2008** – Self Advocate, Andy Leinbaugh, (Athens County) encourages attendees at the Ohio Self Determination Assn. annual meeting to ask their legislators to remove the words 'mental retardation' from entities that serve people with developmental disabilities. Andy's presentation was viewable on-screen (assistance from Steve Koch, center). At right, then-Representative Fred Strahorn.



**Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent, Jody Harris, shares a Pipeline Quarterly with Governor Strickland.** Later on the day of the ceremonial signing, the Governor was headed to Athens County to address a group at Diagnostic Hybrids, an employer highlighted in PQ, who's hired many individuals with disabilities through Athens' PersonnelPlus.

as to support House Bill 8, introduced on the same day as the rally, mandating that health insurance policies providing basic health care coverage include coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.



**April 1, 2009** – On the Way to Becoming Law Self Advocate, Michael Groleau, (Pickaway County) reinforces the call to action, encouraging Statehouse event attendees to talk with their legislators about issues that are important to them.



## Keith Peterson Illustrates How To 'Be All You Can Be'

He hasn't robbed a bank, won the lottery, or done anything outlandish to gain such notoriety -- but Keith Peterson of Greene County has been the subject of a series of four articles in *The Greene County Dailies*, titled, 'Be All you Can Be'.\* The articles were written simply with the intent of telling Keith's very interesting story, and encouraging understanding as to how much can be accomplished in one's life given the proper supports and encouragement.

Writer for the series, Gery Deer, says that when asked to prepare the series, he initially expected it to be focused more on the agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities, but quickly saw a more person-centered approach. He remarked,



**Equal People** – Home care provider, Todd Flesch (left) with Keith Peterson. Todd works for the aptly named provider, "Equal People", a home care provider serving Greene, Warren, and Clark Counties. - photo courtesy, Gery Deer

illness, it changed his life forever. Along with brain and neuromuscular damage, he also lost the majority of his eyesight. The good news is, some 50 years later, Keith has a job, an apartment, friends, and ambitions.

Last year, he hosted a Christmas party in his home for his caregivers and he is looking forward to "a big cookout" for his caregivers in the summer. He would also like to take a vacation. "I want to go to Niagara Falls," he said. "I want to see what the weather is like there."

As noted in Part Four of the newspaper series, Keith has achieved quite a bit on his own, and with the encouragement and support of his

**"I wondered what kind of spin the series would need, but then when I met with Keith and we had our first good chat, well, I knew the story didn't need any 'spin'. It would be about Keith, and it just told itself."**

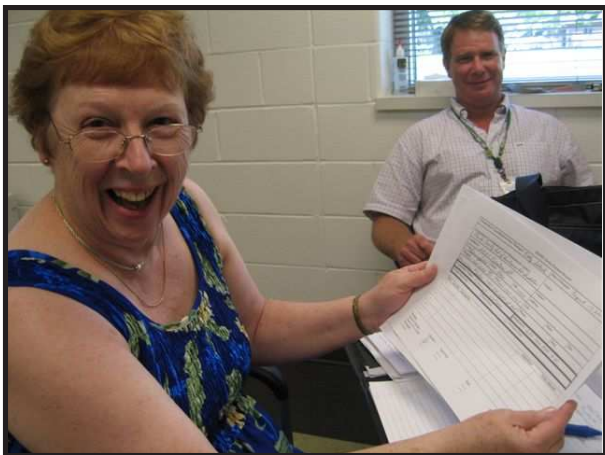
The four-part series ran in June and began, "After contracting spinal meningitis as a toddler, 50-year-old Keith Peterson has managed to make his way from illness to independence, but the journey was not an easy one. It took the help of his family and countless professionals for him to achieve as independent a life as possible." Although Keith recovered from the

family, and services from providers such as the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Greene Inc., Equal People and others, it's likely that he will have no trouble accomplishing whatever he sets his mind to. Look out Niagara Falls!

*Excerpts used with permission by the author, Gery Deer, with special thanks and acknowledgements to the Greene County Dailies. \*To read the complete four-part series go to [http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1838655/keith\\_peterson\\_be\\_all\\_you\\_can\\_be\\_part.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1838655/keith_peterson_be_all_you_can_be_part.html)*

Editor's Note: The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are a part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out in ODMRDD publications wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.

## 'Martin Waivers' Move 32 Into Clark County Community



**In Clark County they're plenty excited about HOME Choice and 'Martin waivers' –** Mary Lou Rhodes displays HOME Choice paperwork, with Mike Halpin. HOME Choice funding allows County Boards to be reimbursed for funds spent on certain 'start up' items needed to transition individuals out of institutional settings and into the community. "Martin waivers" – the term generally used for waivers funded by the *Martin v. Strickland* settlement – allow eligible individuals with developmental disabilities to live in the community with appropriate supports.

The Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently completed the transitioning of 32 individuals from institutional settings at the Mueller Residential Center (County Board ICFMR), to community residential settings around the Springfield, Ohio area, with the help of ... more people than Mike Halpin can begin to name!



"Truly, it has been an amazingly coordinated effort," says Mike, Director of Community Living Services, as he gives credit to partners in the process such as Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), several residential service providers, County Board staff, and the 32 individuals and their families involved in the moves.

**"In just about a year, we transitioned 32 individuals, and you know what made it really work? The personal connections that our staff have had – and maintained – throughout the process. The individuals felt comfortable because they knew the staff was taking them into consideration every step of the way."**

Speaking with several Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) who were involved in the moves, one statement stood out as especially descriptive of Mike's comment. Melanie Bender and Kathy Sakach spoke of calming the fears of individuals who were moving from familiar to unfamiliar surroundings by letting them know,

"I'm not leaving you – just going to be helping you in a different way."

**"I'm not leaving you – just going to be helping you in a different way."**

Moving from the Mueller Center to a community residential setting with more choices and (often) different roommates brought Darren, Roy, and

**They're also enthusiastic about organized closets and fire suppression systems –** Above: Melanie Bender (left) and Robin Short display the living space on Buxton Avenue, a modular-construction new home, with several features designed to improve accessibility and safety.

**Left:** Robin notes that a separate line was installed for the fire suppression system, and adds that the home was 'delivered to its foundation' on June 4, and the residents moved in on June 26. She explains, "We were really excited about getting everyone settled in."





## Clark County Community (cont. from p. 4)

Dana to a home on Buxton Avenue. Roy had lived at Mueller Center since he was four years old, and according to Melanie, "He literally runs into the house when he comes home from work every day. Just runs in and tells everyone he's happy to be home."

**"Home - the place your story begins."**

- stencil on wall at Buxton Avenue home

Each of the three gentlemen was very excited about the new opportunities offered by the move -- and found there were lots of positive things about it, including being able to walk right across the street to attend church. Having more choices about what's served at mealtime is also appealing, with Roy asking for pineapple and finding it's a possibility. A look around the modular home (p. 4) illustrates other features that make this house a comfortable and safe home for the men on Buxton Avenue.

Visiting four ladies on Sunset Street, it's clear that they are branching out as well. Becky's an artist, Serena plays music, Ellie works at TAC Industries, and Annette and her roommates all actually like to keep their bedrooms clean and neat. When asked what she likes to do when she's not at work, Becky responds,

**"Go to McDonalds, eat a double cheese." Then adds, "Clean my room."**

Julie Amos and Kathy Sakach explain that the ladies on Sunset Street are "The Red Hatters" -- mature ladies with style. They're treated as such. Becky was on the Residential Advisory Board when she lived at Mueller Center and said she missed being active in that, but ... "I don't miss the long meetings."

Talking with Clark County staff about the "Martin Waiver" moves, staff shared that some individuals went from living with 18 people at the ICFMR to living with three people, noting, "At the Delcourt Street house we call them *The Three Amigos*, and they like that. They've matured so much -- we see the sense of responsibility they have learned in just a few months, and the pride."

After helping 32 individuals transition in about one year - the Clark County staff are 'tired, happy, and grateful to all our community partners for their help in the process.' Contact: Mike Halpin, CCBDD, mhalpin@clarkmrrd.org, 937-328-2683.



**Clark Countians showing their considerable community style! Top:** Becky Compton and her colorful abstract artwork; **Center:** Chris Harrelson in firefighter's headgear; **Directly Above:** Chris with SSA Kathy Sakach, discussing his next baseball game and, again, sporting the appropriate headgear. Chris says, **"The Springfield Fire Chief gave me this hat. It's from Station #12. I'd like to be a firefighter like my step-dad. Other stuff I like to do is sing - like George Strait- eat mac and cheese with hot sauce, and find a good job."**

**"Time changes everything, except something within us which is always surprised by change."**  
- Thomas Hardy

## Alpha Group Makes A Greener Grill, Marketed Exclusively via Local Corporate Partnership

The outdoor grilling season is a busy time for employees at The Alpha Group of Delaware Inc., as they assemble, distribute, and market an innovative and environmentally-friendly new product for the charcoal grill user ... the Greener Grill Charcoal Buddy. A self-consuming single-usage 'charcoal chimney', the die-cut 'linerboard' (paper) construction leaves no material behind and is clean-burning. Here's the story behind the product and the people:

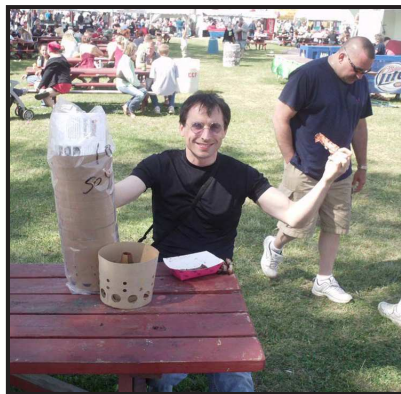
Alpha Group, a provider of services to adults with developmental disabilities since 1970, has forged a unique partnership with Greif Industrial Packaging. Greif developed this product and then, through some conversations with Alpha Group's CEO Joe Leonard and others, made the product available exclusively through Alpha Group. Not only that, they re-configured the assembly process to incorporate hand assembly by the Alpha employees instead of via machine, as was originally designed. Joe Leonard explains,

**"What is great about this story and this product is that it has come together as a partnership effort including a private company and other community partners that believe in the people we serve, and the work they do. For example, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has been exceptionally helpful in assisting us with a business plan and research – it's just been a great start-up experience."**

According to Joe, Kevin Hammond at the Delaware Chamber helped define the product's market, and through research, determined that if they targeted just a small percentage of the overall charcoal grill market (roughly six million sold in the U.S. in 2008), they soon would be making 1.5 million Charcoal Buddies! A big 'plus', notes Alpha Group's Operations Manager, Jim Cornett, was that the product passed the necessary federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tests in June, sending them on their way this summer to the unique marketing venues their business plan called for -- outdoor festivals and special events.

(cont. on p. 7)

**A satisfied customer at the Berea Rib Festival >**



**It's the core that counts!** Peter Apostoluk, of Greif Packaging, displays the soy wax dipped core that is the workhorse of the Charcoal Buddy. The core is environmentally friendly and burns safely, eliminating the need for lighter fuel.



**Intent on the Process –** Donald Chambers works with an improved assembly process using a glue roller to assemble the Charcoal Buddy basket. He explains, **"It minimizes the mess, and I can get more done in a day now."**

**A Unique Product ... Uniquely Marketed**



## Alpha Group *(cont. from p. 6)*

Sales venues such as the Columbus Jazz and Ribs Fest, Berea National Rib Cook-Off, and others, are augmented by internet sales on *eBay* and retail efforts through Delaware Goodwill Industries and the Clintonville Co-op. "We're also looking into working with KOA Campsites, and we definitely see consumer education as a big part of the sales curve," says Joe. Peter Apostoluk, Technical Director at Greif adds,

**"I see the employees at Alpha Group working on various stages of production and assembly, and it makes me glad we converted what was once designed as an industrial product to a consumer/commercial product. Alpha Group has the potential to be at the forefront of a very successful niche market."**

And, indeed, they're already considering a companion barbeque sauce and other products that would make them busier yet, come next grilling season.

*For information about Greener Grill products or The Alpha Group of Delaware, Inc., call 740-368-5810, or visit [www.alphagroup.net](http://www.alphagroup.net)*



**Marketers, all – Jim Cornett, Joe Scherler, and Peter Apostoluk (l. to r.) are ready with their sales pitch, and quick to mention, "We sold out at the Columbus Jazz and Rib Fest even though it rained!"**

## My Story About Ohio's *Partners in Policymaking* – by Diana Lynn Mairose



**In 2008, Diana met and spoke with Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown.**

**"My personal mission statement is to leave the world a better place by sharing my story, and to earn the appreciation of those who don't understand my disability."**

My name is Diana Lynn Mairose, and I am a 2006 graduate of an exciting advocacy group named *Ohio Partners in Policymaking* (PIP). PIP has allowed me to meet other people who wish to teach others about advocacy, using hands-on experiences. My favorite experience was writing the mission statement for our PIP class with Derrick Dufresne. A mission statement reminds us about our journey, and what is important to us. My personal mission statement is shown below the picture here on this page. I also see myself as being a mentor to professionals, parents, and other people with developmental disabilities.

I was selected to represent Ohio PIP at the 2008 National Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Attending this seminar impacted my life in many ways. One of them was meeting Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. This opportunity allowed me to tell him that even though I have a disability, I can work, live in the community, and serve on boards to make a difference in the community where I live. I have worked hard and volunteered -- I have made friends and become a part of my community. In fact, I was recently elected to my Neighborhood General Assembly.

It is my goal to increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to live, work, and play in my neighborhood by increasing accessible and affordable housing, reliable transportation, and access for everyone. Without PIP, I would have not known the impact I could have in my community. Also, I have had the confidence to testify in front of the Ohio Department of MRDD Futures Committee, the Hamilton County Commissioners', and others.

**The main thing that brings our PIP group together is the power of advocacy!**

## Book-Signing Celebrates A New Chapter for Next Chapter Book Clubs

*A model community literacy program for people with intellectual disabilities, the Next Chapter Book Club has published its own book, aptly titled, The Next Chapter Book Club. Authors Tom Fish and Paula Rabidoux, with Jillian Ober and Vicki Graff, hosted a book-signing event on September 12 at Columbus' Easton Towne Center, celebrating a new chapter in the life of this exciting program.*

Learning is a lifelong experience for all people, including people with developmental disabilities, and it is one of the key objectives of the *Next Chapter Book Club* (NCBC). NCBC is a nationwide network of more than 130 clubs offering adolescents and adults who have disabilities the opportunity to read, discuss books, and socialize. Club members represent varying levels of reading ability.

Benefits to book club members include improved literacy and social skills, as well as community inclusion, as the Clubs meet in natural community settings such as coffee shops and libraries. The recently-published book explains how to form and sponsor a club, find and train facilitators, select books, and virtually everything needed to get a new club up and running. The NCBC book is now available at Barnes & Noble stores.

For more information contact Jillian Ober, Program Manager, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, 614.247.6392, [Jillian.Ober@osumc.edu](mailto:Jillian.Ober@osumc.edu).



**The Book Signing Event** – At the table are NCBC 'gurus' Paula Rabidoux (far right), Tom Fish, and Vicki Graff.



**Getting on the same page–** Jillian Ober and Vicki Graff get down to some heavy-duty book signing at Barnes & Noble. The two received numerous requests from enthusiastic NCBC readers for personalized notes.

**Several years ago my daughter joined her first Next Chapter Book Club. Her self-confidence, as well as her sight reading skills, immediately improved. She considers the members to be her friends and looks forward to each meeting where they read, they talk, and they laugh together. Members are enriched by the experience, as is the community around them. May this book make it easier for new next Chapter Book Clubs to form across the country."** - Kathy Bachmann, parent advocate



**Not shy any more about her reading skills –** Sonya Massey-Julien reads at the microphone, her voice strong and clear, as her NCBC friends listened. Sonya also is quoted on the back cover of the book, saying ...

**" As a member of a Next Chapter Book Club I never thought I'd end up gaining a whole new family, but that's how much my Club means to me. This book will help people organize new Clubs and give others a chance to read great books and enjoy the fun and friendships that make the Clubs so special."**



## Medina County Boasts Unique Resource Library

**" Information is the currency of democracy. " -Thomas Jefferson**

A resource library dedicated to providing information about developmental disabilities issues opened in August in Medina County, and is unique due to its funding source and local partnerships. *The John Hanuscak Resource Library*, located within the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities' *Achievement Center* at 4691 Windfall Road in Medina Township, is the result of a generous donation by the John Hanuscak estate.

Mr. Hanuscak, a native of Czechoslovakia, was a farmer who lived in Medina County with his wife and three children. He outlived his family and died in 2003 at the age of 92. The donation was earmarked for 'the children of Medina County Board of MRDD'. Interestingly, as far as could be determined, none of Mr. Hanuscak's family members had ever received services from the agency.

According to Medina County Board spokesperson Lynee Bixler, while the donation from the estate was made more than four years ago, the Board had waited to do something with it that would be unique, and benefit the most people. The idea for the library actually grew out of an annual agency survey. She explains,

**" We started planning for the library about a year and a half ago, after receiving a tremendous number of requests for information, such as how to toilet train a child with certain disabilities, or how to better communicate with them, or how to teach specific life skills. "**

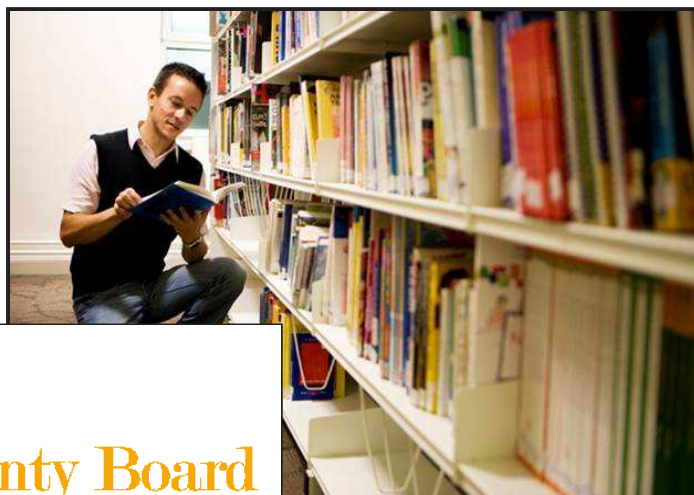
Library resources include information on topics such as autism, Asperger's, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, parenting issues, and social and recreational opportunities available through books, magazines and other resources such as DVDs and games.

"The library will offer hands-on tools for children and parents as well as educate our staff on how to overcome barriers associated with disabilities," Bixler said.

The agency has partnered with the area's Wadsworth Public Library to process, catalog and distribute the resource collection, which can be accessed on-site at the Achievement Center, or online at:

<http://www.mcbmrdd.org> or  
<http://www.wadsworthlibrary.com/mcbmrdd>.

For more information:  
[lyneeb@mcbmrdd.org](mailto:lyneeb@mcbmrdd.org)



## Direct Support Professionals Honored in Ohio and Across the Nation

The week of September 14 was *National Direct Support Professionals Week* — recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in communities throughout the nation. The designation also provides an opportunity to spotlight the role Direct Support Professionals play, every day, in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, as well as the challenges faced in recruiting, training, and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

Examples from around the state illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community were highlighted in the September 16, 2009 issue of *Pipeline*\*, including DSP's who have integrally and uniquely included the individuals they serve in their lives (see photo, right); DSP's who have helped an individual obtain a kidney transplant and maintain an appropriate dietary regimen following surgery; and DSP's who provide employment support for individuals with special needs to work in the community.

Access Pipeline at \* <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>



**In Guernsey County** – On August 12, when Guernsey Residential, Inc. staff member, Rob May, decided to “pop the question” to his girlfriend, Morgan Neuhart, he enlisted the help of his friends – Vaughn (WILL), Randy (YOU), David (MARRY) and Charlie (ME). Said Rob, “I wanted to include ‘my family’ in this. I spend so much time with the guys that it was important to me they be involved.” Note the open engagement ring box skillfully displayed. And ... Morgan said “Yes!”

## ODMRDD Salutes Direct Support Professionals Throughout Ohio

### Athens County

### Inlow Tops Program's Employment Longevity List with 24 Years on the Job



**Elaine Inlow ...**

**A pioneering self advocate in Athens County. Looking at all her achievements, 24 years on the job is just the tip of the iceberg.**

Elaine Inlow has been recognized by the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities' *PersonnelPlus* community employment group for a variety of honors, including her employment at Ambassador Laundry & Dry Cleaning for more than 24 years. This places Elaine at the top of the agency's list for longevity among all *PersonnelPlus*' community placements. According to Doug Mitchell, Director of *PersonnelPlus*, “It is probably conservative to say that there have been more than a couple of hundred placements in the 25 years *PersonnelPlus* has been in business, so this is quite an accomplishment.”

Elaine is a pioneer for individuals with disabilities and a true self advocate. She is a member of the *PersonnelPlus* Advisory and Advocacy Council, and a member of the Developmental Disability Council Center on Public Policy. Recently, Elaine was a part of the group of self advocates who worked to support passage of SB 79, legislation removing the words ‘mental retardation’ from the names of state and local agencies serving the developmental disabilities community. Elaine also was one of the first individuals receiving Athens County Board services to be married ... was one of the first individuals, along with her husband, to purchase a home ... and, she advocated for herself to learn to drive and then purchased a car. *Way to go, Elaine!*

**Congratulations to Elaine, and thanks to Athens County employers, who continue to support *PersonnelPlus*.**



## Mount Vernon Developmental Center Celebrates 100 Years



**The Great Room at Mount Vernon Developmental Center juts out, majestically, from the Administration Building.**

*Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) is located in Knox County on 310 acres of land. The majority of individuals who reside at MVDC need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The residential setting serves 'Region 5' in Ohio, which includes the following counties: Knox, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.*

The large and many-windowed Great Room in the Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) Administration Building was pleasantly packed with well-wishers on August 19, gathered to commemorate the facility's 100 years of service to the community, and to launch the facility into its second century. According to MVDC Superintendent, Ernie Fischer,

**" We are very proud of our 100 years of service to the Knox County community and to the State of Ohio. At Mount Vernon Developmental Center we have a dedicated and caring staff that focuses on the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and will continue our mission ... to 'Provide each person opportunities to grow, gain independence, and enjoy life.' "**

Visitors ranged from local and state officials to a guest who was a patient at the facility during its days as a tuberculosis sanitarium in the 1930s. Guests applauded a program that included some reminiscing, both formal and informal, followed by a general reception.

### A Brief History

During its 100-year history, the facility has served four distinct purposes and had four different names. In 1909, the facility was opened as the 'The Ohio State Sanitarium' for people who had tuberculosis, and, in 1945 it would become the 'Mount Vernon State Hospital' (1945-1969), as care for the disease improved and the patient base broadened. In 1969 it became, 'Mount Vernon State Institute' (1969-1979), adding to the facility people with mental retardation and other conditions, and, in 1979 the facility was named 'Mount Vernon Developmental Center.' (cont. on p. 12)

### Director's Corner

#### Toward a Positive Culture

(cont. from cover)

efforts, and a unique process for community transformation is emerging.

In September 2008, the 'Positive Intervention Culture Initiative' was introduced to the developmental disabilities field through an Information Notice that:

- Challenged the field to eliminate the use of aversive interventions except where there is imminent risk to health and safety;

- Recommended best practices regarding positive behavioral supports; and,

- Provided guidance and outlined core strategies for developing a positive intervention culture.

More recently, the path of this initiative shifted away from a primary focus on behavior support and has promoted the broader concept of *developing a positive approach to all interactions among people who receive support through our system.*

This work, an intentional shift away from focusing on outward behavior and toward developing relationships, is now referenced as the *Positive Culture Initiative (PCI)* and seeks to effect system change throughout every aspect of service delivery.

For more about this initiative, visit our website under the *Futures & More\** tab. You will see that the PCI initiative is another way that the 2008 MRDD Futures Committee recommendations are affecting the Department's approach to system support and change.

-Respectfully, John Martin

\*<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm>

## Carolyn Knight to Head Ohio DD Council



Accepting the Executive Director position, Carolyn commented, "My hope is to give people with disabilities and their families a strong and unified voice on the myriad of issues that affect their lives. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve in this way with the DD Council."

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ("DD Council") has named Carolyn Knight Executive Director. She has been serving the organization as Acting Executive Director since late 2008, upon the retirement of Dave Zwyrer.

Prior to her appointment as the agency's Acting Director, Carolyn was Executive Director of Ohio Legal Rights Service, and was a DD Council member participating actively on various Council committees, including the Outreach Committee.

As Executive Director, Carolyn will oversee the DD Council's many grant programs and the interactions between staff and grantees, including a focus on assuring that underserved and previously unserved populations receive the information and support they need.

## Mount Vernon Developmental Center (cont. from p. 11)

Ginnie Whisman, ODMRDD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers, addressed the centennial celebration group adding that modernization of the state system has allowed the mission to change from one of 'custodial care' to one of community integration and habilitation. She saluted former and current MVDC employees, noting that although rarely acknowledged as such, they are a part of the civil rights movement by serving as advocates for the rights of people with developmental disabilities.

For more information about MVDC: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/residential/mvdc.htm>

## The Next Issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* will publish in December.

Ideas for future issues of *Pipeline Quarterly* may be submitted to Sherry Steinman at [sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us](mailto:sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us), phone (614)644-0262. Past issues of *Pipeline Quarterly* and the regular twice-monthly *Pipeline* are archived at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

## Pipeline Quarterly

Published four times annually, (fall, winter, spring, summer), by the ODMRDD Office of Policy & Constituent Support, *Pipeline Quarterly* (PQ) highlights topics of interest to the developmental disabilities community, focuses on people served, and reinforces the core concepts and general philosophy of the ODMRDD.

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Reader comments, ideas, and feedback are always welcomed!

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