

Phil Andes Welcomed

The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities welcomed Philip J. Andes of Shadyside to the Board at its February 14th meeting. He was appointed by the Belmont County Commissioners to a four-year term that will run through December 31, 2016 and fills a vacancy left by the departure of Jay Rodak, whose term ended in December.

Andes is president of the Andes Insurance Agency in Shadyside. He served two
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Philip J. Andes

PT Students Provide Service and Gain Understanding

Tom smiles as he rises from his wheelchair and begins to walk, arm in arm, down the hall with Chelsey and Kelly, two students in the physical therapy program at Wheeling Jesuit University. What looks like a casual stroll for Tommy is a learning experience for the students.

This activity at Tomorrow's Corner occurs two or three times each month during the academic year as students are put in touch with people with disabilities through a partnership between the day service provider and the university.

The opportunity to work with people with disabilities is opening the students' minds to the needs of others and teaching them to develop and enhance their skills.

For Lisa Kazmirski, co-founder of Tomorrow's Corner, it's an opportunity to promote awareness and acceptance. It also benefits the provider's staff.



Baktosh and Chelsey walk together down the hall at Tomorrow's Corner.

2012 Community Report Online

Have you picked up the Belmont County Board of DD's "Report Card" yet?

This annual Report to the Community is published each year to let everyone know how we supported people with disabilities during the previous year. From early intervention and school-age supports to residential, vocational and transportation services, the Board helps people live, learn, work and become part of their community in every way. Log onto www.bcbdd.org and click on the News tab to read the 2012 Community Report.



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Stephen L. Williams

Relationships matter in life. They connect us to people and experiences and enable us to do more than we could alone. Think about your own life. How many times have you used your connections to get a job for yourself or someone you know? How many times do you pick up the phone to ask someone for advice, and how many times have you been the person who was called? It's this natural interaction with others that builds relationships and creates opportunities for you to be successful. It's the same for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

People with disabilities want what most of us take for granted. They want a life that has people, places and things in it that matter to them. The BHN Alliance

Opportunities Key to Success for People with Disabilities

*By Stephen L. Williams, Superintendent
BHN Alliance*

helps people create that life by connecting them to opportunities in the community where those things are found. We do this through the relationships we have with others and our community partners are helping us expand opportunities for people and preserve resources so we can serve more people in better ways.

One of the things people value the most is a job. Through our provider partners, we are supporting their efforts to create or locate employment and other meaningful experiences where adults with disabilities can work and learn alongside everyone else.

Childhood is the time when we form relationships and develop a sense of who we are in the world, so it's important that children with disabilities learn and play with children who do not have disabilities. We are enhancing our partnership with the public schools to ensure this opportunity. For infants and toddlers with disabilities, early

intervention is vitally important for their growth and development. We are enhancing our support and partnering with parents through the P.L.A.Y. (Play and Language for Autistic Youth) Project, a family-centered approach that respects parents and the home environment where most early learning is done.

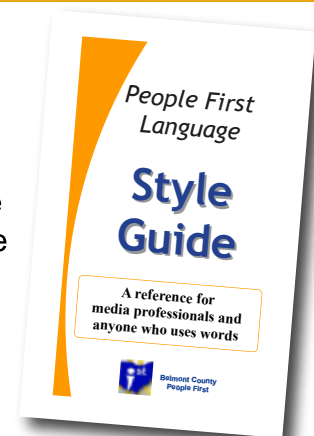
Our ultimate goal is to ensure that children and adults can achieve what is important to them. Even though the demands on the county board system increase day by day, we are able to do this because of our partnerships with families, providers, public schools, the business community and many others.

I want to thank all the citizens of our county who look beyond disability to see what each person has to offer. You are recognizing potential, forming relationships, and providing opportunities for people with disabilities to learn, work, live and contribute alongside everyone else in our community. And that means success for us all.

People First Language Style Guide Available

The words we use are a reflection of how we see each other. That's why it's important to choose respectful language. People First of Belmont County, in partnership with the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities, created a People First Language Style Guide that outlines words to use and not use when speaking about people with various disabilities. The guide was distributed during Developmental Disabilities

Awareness Month and can also be found on the Belmont County Board's website at www.bcbdd.org





People First Promotes Awareness Across the County



People First of Belmont County spearheaded activities promoting awareness during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. The Belmont County Commissioners issued a Proclamation in support of the 2013 theme of **Look Beyond**, which encourages the public to look beyond a person's disability to see what he or she is capable of achieving.

On hand for the presentation were, from left: Commissioner Ginny Favede; People First Advisor Mary Lou Kent; Commissioner Chuck Probst; People First Belmont president Pat Jobb; PF Chapter members Brian Kozak and Sally Smith; and Commissioner Matt Coffland.

People First partnered with the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities to distribute a People First Language Style Guide, outlining words to use and not use when speaking about people with various disabilities. They also created a church bulletin insert that encouraged the faith community to welcome people with disabilities into their congregations.

Andes *Continued from Page 1*

terms as president of the Independent Insurance Agents Association and has served as secretary/treasurer of the Association for 30 years. He has held various leadership positions within the Lions Club, where he served as president and treasurer as well as District Zone Chairman. He is a member of the Shadyside Masonic Lodge and serves as treasurer of the Ohio Valley Friends of NRA.

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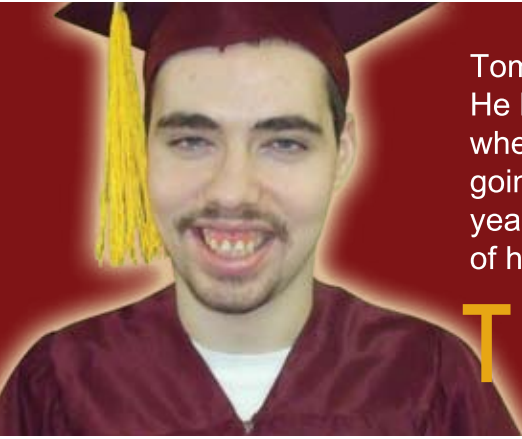


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You may send your name and email address to:
pmccort@bcbdd.org

Congratulations Tom, Nancy, Ricky and Tessa!

Thomas McCormick, Nancy Erickson, Richard Yakubisin and Tessa Comas received their certificates at the School of Hope Graduation Day held Friday, May 17th. Faculty, staff, family and friends gathered in the gymnasium for this happy occasion in their young lives. A brief profile of each graduate was written by their teacher, Larry Perkins.



Tom has a contagious smile and spreads joy to those all around him. He loves to listen to all types of music, but will choose country music whenever he can. He enjoys swimming, walking, being outdoors and going to the mall and restaurants. Tom has had a very successful final year in school and in his new home. Everyone who knows Tom is proud of his accomplishments.

Thomas McCormick

Nancy is the kind of person who can enter a room full of strangers and leave with new friends! Nancy enjoys being with friends and sharing her love of clothes and shoes. She likes to swim, too. Nancy looks for people who may need a helping hand and is always willing to give it. Nancy is one in a million and will be missed next year.



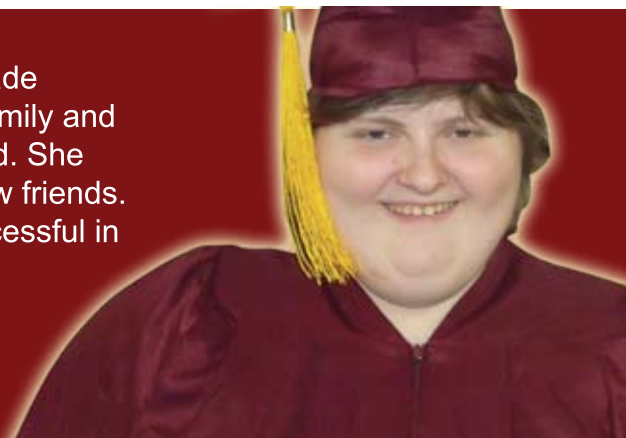
Nancy Erickson



Ricky is a handsome, gentle young man who is loved by everyone. His sense of peacefulness pulls people in and he is a joy to know. Ricky likes music and enjoys swimming, the outdoors, and being with friends. The future is bright for Ricky as he moves into adulthood.

Richard Yakubisin

Tessa has much to celebrate as she graduates. She has made great strides at the school over the last few years and her family and friends are proud of her progress. Tessa is also a loyal friend. She enjoys books, biking, traveling to the beach and meeting new friends. Tessa is excited about post high school and she will be successful in whatever she pursues.



4 Tessa Comas

Bridges to Transition Helping Youth Prepare for Work

From its start three years ago with just 10 students to the nearly 60 enrolled today, *Bridges to Transition* is providing a model of what success looks like for young adults with disabilities who want to work.

Bridges to Transition is an employment program for students, ages 14-22, that helps them learn the skills necessary to get a job after they graduate. It is a collaboration between the BHN Alliance (Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities), the Rehabilitation Services Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Association of County Boards.

Transition planning is essential for students with disabilities to prepare them for life after school. Bridges does that by providing opportunities for job sampling and skill development while they are still in school.

For many young adults, life after graduation does not always mean college or a job. For most, it has meant attending a sheltered workshop or spending months or years at home waiting for a job. Bridges was designed to change that by giving them clear direction and necessary supports that result in successful employment in the community.

"The question 'what do you want to be when you grow up' is not often asked by parents who have children with disabilities, but it should be," said Adam "Nick" Nicholoff, Transition Specialist. "We help the student and their parents think differently about the future and lay the groundwork for higher expectations and success."

Nicholoff and Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator Kara Shutler are on the team that helps students identify their interests and then provides opportunities for them to try them out.

One young graduate who obtained a competitive-wage job became a valued employee, even though the expectation for him all through his school years was a sheltered workshop after graduation.

According to Nicholoff, every successful story provides a new perspective for parents of what the future could look like for their child.

"Bridges helps parents find a vision for their child and the successes of other young people with disabilities is a model for them to aspire to for their child," Nicholoff said.

To learn more about *Bridges to Transition*, contact Nicholoff at 740-695-0407 ext. 352, or Shutler at ext. 353.



Elks Grant for Music Therapy

A grant awarded by the Ohio River Valley Elks Lodge #231 will enhance music therapy for children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities at the School of Hope, the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities' school program. Exalted Ruler Larry Jarrell (pictured above) presented the \$1500 check to BCBDD Children's Services Director Everett Mace and student Duane Costello, who is pictured at the keyboard. Raising funds to benefit people with cerebral palsy is the Elks State Project.

Across the County Board

There are some new faces in and around the Belmont County Board and the BHN Alliance this spring.



Meredith Craig
Stefan

Meredith Craig Stefan came on board as a Service and Support Administrator for the BHN Alliance in January. Meredith completed her Master's of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Kent State University. As a graduate student she fulfilled her internship with the Cuyahoga County Board of DD where she worked with people with dual-diagnosis disorders. She also has six years of experience working as a Personal Care Provider with the Portage County Board of DD.

Julie Ackerman joined the BHN Alliance Early Intervention Team in February. Julie has 11 years of experience working with families. She holds a bachelor's degree in Health Information and Social Work from the University of Dayton. She worked with the Noble County Health

Department as an Advisor and Health Educator; was a Service Coordinator in the Help Me Grow program; and previously worked as a Public Health Educator with Montgomery County.



Julie Ackerman

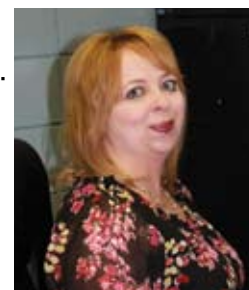
Jennie Vera has been hired as a part-time Children's Services Clerk at the Belmont County Board. Jennie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from the University of Toledo. She has held various positions in public relations and career services with the University of Northwestern Ohio and most recently worked as Office Manager for Vera Scholastic Services, Jostens, a company that she and her husband operate.



Jennie Vera

Lavonne Meyer, the former Administrative Assistant in Children's Services, has assumed the role of Administrative Services Coordinator. Under the direction of Holly Weatherson, Lavonne will be responsible for many personnel related functions, training, employee certification,

records management, Family Support Services, and coordinating provider development and support activities. Lavonne holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership and Development from Wheeling Jesuit University and has held various positions during her 17 years with the Board.



Lavonne Meyer

Special Olympics Events

The Belmont Invitational Track meet, hosted by Special Olympics-Belmont County, will be held Saturday, June 22nd at Nelson Field in Bellaire. Competing will be teams from Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, Muskingum, ResCare, and Belmont. Team recognition will take place at 9:30 a.m. followed by the flag raising at 10 a.m. Events begin at 10:30.

The State Summer Games will be held June 28-30 at Columbus. Belmont athletes qualifying for state competition are:

Bowling - Chris Cramer, Erik Keylor, Ron Donley, Mark Peacock

Bocce - Pam Fabry, Stacy Blake, Chris Ramsey, Mike Levi

Track - Junior Gummer, Greg Hocking, Sommer Donda, Nikki Duncan

Special Olympics – Belmont County is a non-profit organization that supports athletes with intellectual and physical disabilities in year round sports programs. The organization exists entirely on sponsorships and donations. Contact Belmont County Coordinator Tom King at 740.359.7432 for more information.





Exceptional Student for 2013

Nancy Erickson, pictured at left with her teacher, Larry Perkins, and mother, Tricia, was honored as the School of Hope's 2013 Exceptional Student. Nancy received the award at the Belmont County Exceptional Student Awards Banquet held May 9 at the Belmont Career Center. Nancy was one of 11 students from across Belmont County whose achievements were recognized in the areas of Citizenship, Academics, Community Service, Employment and Inspiration.

The Exceptional Student Awards are presented each year by the Belmont County Special Education Advisory Committee.

From the Office of Provider Development and Support

Self-Determination, Positive Culture Trainings Offered

Three new trainings are now offered by the Belmont County Board to help providers meet the new certification requirements.

Self-Determination was offered June 6, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This two-hour class is designed to assist providers in understanding the principle of self-determination. Providers are trained on how to help people acquire skills that lead to more independent, productive lives within the community. Self-determination will be offered again on October 24th.

Positive Culture training will be offered again on August 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Positive Culture is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities. It focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that we all possess. Positive Culture is a two-hour class that will help providers understand how to develop and support a positive culture.

Positive Behavior Support is a two-hour class that will help providers understand the use of Positive Behavior Supports. PBS promotes the growth, development and independence of people with disabilities and promotes their choices in daily decision-making, emphasizing self-determination and self-management. This class will be offered again on September 19th, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

All trainings are held at the Belmont CBDD offices, 330 Fox-Shannon Place, St. Clairsville. Reservations are required. Please contact Lavonne Meyer, Office of Provider Development and Support, at 740-695-0460, ext. 331, or email lmeyer@bcbdd.org

All provider trainings can be found on the board's website, www.bcbdd.org. Click on the Provider tab. Check there often for information on upcoming trainings for Provider Certification Renewal.

Encouraging, Supporting
and Respecting People on
their Journey through Life

CHRONICLE

Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

It is published to inform and educate people served and their families, staff, providers, and others in the community.

To submit an article or subscribe, please call or write to:

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PT Students *Continued from Page 1*

"This partnership teaches us new things to try with people to help them retain or gain skills and it teaches the future physical therapists that people are people, regardless of any label given them," Kazmirski said.

The students deliver physical therapy under the watchful eye of Mark V. Drnach, Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at WJU.

Drnach said therapists must understand how to touch people and the hands-on experience lets them practice what they have learned in the classroom. The students get to know the people they are serving so they can help them become as capable as possible.

"This service learning experience helps students identify the other needs of the patient that aren't being addressed," Drnach said.

Lisa Kazmirski noted that the students gain a sense of understanding that decreases their fears and apprehensions.

"We hope that this experience will travel with them through their careers and help them better serve people living with disabilities," she said.

For student Chelsey Keylor, she is more aware of all the ways people communicate.

"This experience has taught me how to talk with and about people with disabilities," Chelsey said. "They can teach, too."

The WJU students also provide physical therapy screens at a local free clinic, home visits to shut-ins, and caregiver assistance for those working with children and adults with developmental disabilities.

To learn more about the Physical Therapy Program at Wheeling Jesuit University, contact Drnach at 304-243-2470.



Physical therapy students Kelly and Lauray assist Tom as he walks down the hall at Tomorrow's Corner. A partnership between Wheeling Jesuit University and Tomorrow's Corner helps the students gain experience and understanding.