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## **MCBDD's Assistive Technology Fair Works to Break Down Barriers**

**Medina, Ohio, November 6, 2017** – On Friday, November 3, the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) hosted its first community Assistive Technology Fair.

Held at the Medina Library, the Assistive Technology Fair was an opportunity for the public to view some of the newest cutting edge technologies which help people with disabilities become more engaged in their community. Everything from assistive robots and eye movement tracking devices to enhanced video displays and voice recognition software. The newest and most impactful ways to use technology to make everyday activities easier were on display for public viewing and hands-on exploration.

“We are thrilled to be able to host this event,” stated Connie Hartman, MCBDD Assistive Technology Coordinator. “Our agency is proud to support a program that enables people with disabilities to use technology to connect in more meaningful ways to their family, friends and especially their communities.”

The goal of the MCBDD's Assistive Technology program is to help individuals with disabilities become more interactive with the community around them. Assistive technology is vital for people with developmental disabilities in finding independence. It opens up opportunities for success by breaking down barriers in communication and physical environments. The MCBDD provides assistive technology resources, such as iPads, interactive communication software, and other electronic communication devices, to help people with disabilities increase their communication, self-reliance and employment skills. The Assistive Technology Fair was put together to show the public the wide range of resources available to help people with disabilities.

“We know Assistive Technology helps people with disabilities become more fully involved in community life, and we are constantly looking for new ways to use technology to break down barriers for people with disabilities,” stated Hartman. “This Fair helps us spread the word about the importance of making sure technology is available to those who can benefit from it the most.”

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### ***About MCBDD***

MCBDD is the lifeline which connects individuals with developmental disabilities to the resources in the county, everything from residential services and employment, to funding sources and medical services. The mission of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to provide quality programs, services and supports that assist over 1250 individuals with developmental disabilities, from birth to death, to live, learn work and socialize in their communities.