

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT

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Safety First!

MCBDD's Safety Town +PLUS Program Receives Award

Medina, Ohio, October 4, 2017 – The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities' (MCBDD) Safety Town +PLUS program received an Exceptional Safety Award at the annual Medina County Safe Communities Awards Breakfast on Thursday, September 28, 2017 held at Williams on the Lake in Medina.

Safety Town +PLUS is a specially-designed program that teaches Medina County students in grades K-3, who have developmental disabilities, about traffic, fire, gun, bus and animal safety. It is one of just a handful of Safety Towns across the nation that caters specifically to children with developmental disabilities. The MCBDD has been providing the program since its creation seven years ago by working in close partnership with Sgt. Bev Fraser, from the Medina County Sheriff's Office, who runs many tradition school Safety Town programs throughout Medina County.

Dr. Kaye Stanley-Bryson, MCBDD Director of Children's Services, was on hand to present the award to Sgt. Fraser and Sharon Horn, MCBDD Safety Town +PLUS Coordinator. "Bev has been the little angel on our shoulder for the past seven years," said Ms. Bryson at the awards breakfast. She noted that although Sgt. Fraser did not initially have much experience with children with developmental disabilities, "she was more than willing to learn and work with the MCBDD to develop the program". Ms. Bryson also thanked Ms. Horn for her hard work with Safety Town +PLUS, both in helping to create the curriculum and in coordinating and growing the program in past years.

The original idea for Safety Town +PLUS came from local parents of children with disabilities, some of whom attended the MCBDD's Windfall School. "What all parents really want is safety for their children," said Ms. Bryson. "Parents said they had tried local Safety Towns, but none of them seemed to work for their children's needs." The parents found that typical Safety Towns could be too overwhelming for their children, specifically those on the autism spectrum or with other significant disabilities, which led the MCBDD to consider the need for the development of Safety Town +PLUS for Medina County.

The MCBDD is proud to help recognize Sgt. Fraser and Ms. Horn with this Exceptional Safety Award and to provide important safety programs such as this which help children with developmental disabilities stay safe and find success in our community

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Photo: Dr. Kaye Stanley-Bryson (l), MCBDD Director of Children's Services, was on hand to present a Safe Communities Award to Sgt. Bev Fraser (c), Medina County Sheriff Office, and Sharon Horn (r), MCBDD Safety Town +PLUS Coordinator.

About MCBDD

The MCBDD provides individual support and educational opportunities to help individuals with developmental disabilities achieve success in our community. MCBDD is the lifeline which connects individuals 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 promote and empower over 1250

individuals with developmental disabilities, from birth to death, to live, learn work and socialize as citizens in their communities.