



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to promote and empower individuals with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and socialize as citizens in the community.



4691 Windfall Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
www.mcbdd.org

For more information,
please call 330-725-7751 ext. 232
or visit our website at www.mcbdd.org.

SELF ADVOCATES
helping others understand disabilities

about self-advocacy

Self-advocacy is the belief that all individuals with disabilities have the right to take control of their lives, speak up for themselves, and make their own life decisions, just like other citizens.

Self advocates teach other individuals with disabilities how to advocate for themselves and provide the resources necessary to make it possible. They are also committed to teaching people without disabilities and getting important conversations started.

let's talk!

The MCBDD self advocates have experience speaking to a wide variety of groups:

- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Universities (especially Special Education majors)
- Local Businesses
- Specialty Groups (such as Boy Scouts of America)
- Church Groups
- Civic Organizations/Clubs
- And More!

Self advocates are available and would love the opportunity to speak with your group.

contact:

If you are interested in having self advocates speak with your group, please contact:

Self Advocacy Advisor
330-725-7751 ext. 232 or
mfortney@mcbdd.org.



what will you learn?

During our talks, we discuss what a developmental disability is as well as briefly explaining what the Medina County Board does and who we serve. Our main focus is to show that people with disabilities are very much like anyone else. We always open it up for questions at the end. There are no bad questions; the self advocates want to help you understand the facts.

With a **younger audience (elementary schools)**, we teach disability awareness, talk about bullying, and teach people-first language. We use humor in hopes of taking away any fears. We talk about the self advocates' hobbies, likes and dislikes to point out the similarities.

With an **older audience (middle/high schools)**, much of the discussion is the same as with the younger students, but we educate more about community inclusion and people-first language. We also inform about interesting local volunteer opportunities.

With **local businesses**, our main focus is to show our capabilities and the fact that people with developmental disabilities are just like anyone else in wanting to access their community. People with developmental disabilities have the right to live, learn and socialize in their community, but hold the responsibility as well, just like you or me.