



# Advocates in Action

*Medina County Board of DD's  
self advocacy newsletter*

**February 2021 | Volume 8**

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Due to COVID-19, meetings take place every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom where we share news, ideas and resources. All are welcome to join.**

**If you are interested in joining, please email Michelle Fortney, MCBDD Community Resource Coordinator at [mfortney@mcbdd.org](mailto:mfortney@mcbdd.org)**

## **IN THE WORKS**

### **Advocates Have Chosen to Take on Accessibility in Medina County**

Advocates are working with Main Street Medina with the goal of shining a spotlight on local businesses who have made their buildings accessible to all members of the community. Advocates will be visiting each business to interview the owners on changes they have made to enhance accessibility to all individuals they serve, and to recognize the inclusive acts they have carried out.

Stay tuned for these upcoming special edition spotlights!

## **FROM THE STATE**

### **Plain Language: Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan**

A ton of information is pushed out every day regarding COVID-19 vaccines, and while it is all important, it can be a little overwhelming. In order to eliminate the confusion, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities put together a "Plan Language: Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan" document to help all individuals better understand vaccine-related topics. Get the answers you may be looking for by [clicking here](#), or by heading to [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov).



**Individual Support. Community Achievement.**



# EMPLOYMENT FEATURE

## JOE D.



Joe has worked at Planet Fitness in Wadsworth for the past two years. His duty there is to sanitize the gym equipment so people working out can remain safe, which is a big undertaking these days. Joe loves his job at Planet Fitness and the Planet Fitness staff and customers love Joe. In fact, he has earned the nickname “Mayor of Wadsworth” because he knows everyone who comes in and loves talking sports stats with the customers.

Joe’s manager, Carl, says Joe is an excellent worker who is always focused on his tasks and friendly to everyone. He is so pleased with the work Joe does that he added an extra day to Joe’s schedule.

Joe Steiner, MCBDD Community Support Specialist, says Joe is one of the kindest, friendliest people he knows. He stated early into the pandemic that Joe had a difficult time wearing his mask. “Joe has adapted well to the mask wearing and following all safety protocol.”

Joe is an avid sports fan, so when he is not working, he is usually cheering on his Cavs, Browns and all Wadsworth sports teams. You can also catch Joe enjoying chicken wings with his good buddy, John Kelly.

## JAMES

James started his career path at the MCBDD in both the Transition Department and Community Employment Department learning employment skills to reach his goal of someday holding a community job. That goal came true in 2017, when James was hired at Arby’s on Route 18 in Medina. He was first hired for cleaning purposes, but was determined to learn every aspect of the job so that he could move up to other positions. James’s tenacity paid off. Today, he takes orders and runs the register, and you can sometimes even catch him cooking and preparing food. James loves his job at Arby’s. He likes the people he works with because they are good to him.



Diane Gearing, MCBDD Community Support Specialist, says James is a hardworking and goal oriented young man. Everything he puts his mind to he has succeeded in, including earning his driver’s license. James has set new goals of buying a car and moving into a manager’s position at Arby’s. Diane has no doubt he will accomplish these goals as well.

James’s manager, Jane, said James is a pleasure to work with. He has learned so much very quickly and is a great fit with the Arby’s family. Her motto is “When you give opportunity, it’s amazing how one can thrive.”

When not working, James is quite the movie buff. He loves catching all the new releases and sharing insight with other movie lovers. James also spends his time writing poetry, playing video games and drawing. James wants to learn how to draw Superman. “It has to look like Christopher Reeves, though, because he was the best Superman!”

# WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

## A Little Kindness Can Go a Long Way

Self advocates here at MCBDD are participating in the Kindness Project. This project encourages individuals to make positive differences within the community through random acts of kindness! Check out Missy's act of kindness:

Missy spent a weekend donating her time at her church's food drive. The church collected food items, which Missy helped sort and pack in boxes. The boxes will be delivered to local senior citizens and families in need. Missy says she loves doing kind things for others.

"It makes me happy when I can be part of something good."



**All are encouraged to participate in the Kindness Project and make a positive difference in our community through a random act of kindness. Whatever you can do, remember that no act is too small.**

## CREATIVE CORNER

### It's a Good Day for Good News

"I feel there is too much information being spread about the Coronavirus, and although it's important to keep up with the latest news, it can bring us down. Frankly, it's depressing".

Self Advocate Bill created his YouTube Channel as an outlet to combat the coronavirus news. While he may touch on the topic of COVID-19 briefly, his channel tries to keep up with positive news in sports, current events and local happenings.



Are you interested in watching his videos? You can find them by clicking [here](#) or by typing "Bill P Talk Show" into the YouTube search bar!

### Jokes by Jeremy



"More than ever, people are struggling with the news of this virus. We can't be with friends and family, some of us can't go to work, and we all miss doing the things we love. I consider myself a jokester and I want to use my talent to bring a smiles to people's faces. Check out a few of my favorite jokes."

Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the *iceberg*, tomorrow *romaines* to be seen!

What do you get when you cross a cheetah with a burger?  
**FAST FOOD!**

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?  
**SUPPLIES!!**

# QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

chosen by self advocate Cameron

*"There needs to be a lot more emphasis on what a child can do instead of what he cannot do"*

- Dr. Temple Grandin

## GET INVOLVED

### Ohio DD Council Seeks Public Comment on 2022-2026 Five Year State Plan

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (Ohio DD Council) is seeking public comment on its Five Year State Plan that will take effect from 2022-2026. The Council's Five-Year State Plan is a strategic plan that will drive the Council's mission to create change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life.

Based on survey results collected about the problems or needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities, the Ohio DD Council drafted the 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan. The State Plan lists the projects that the Council plans to fund to address the needs identified by people with disabilities, families and stakeholders across the state.

The DD Council is seeking public comment on proposed in the following areas:

- Children and Health
- Community Living
- Employment
- Leadership Development
- Outreach
- Public Awareness
- Public Policy

Read more and get involved by [clicking here](#), or by going to <https://ddc.ohio.gov/state-plan-comments>.

**The comment period will end on February 28, 2021.**



## Download an E-Newsletter!

Did you know that you can download a digital copy of the Advocates in Action newsletter? Visit [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org) and click on "Self Advocacy" under the "Resources" tab.

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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.