



Cheryl Ann Programs News Review

WINTER 2018

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We Can Too Provides Work Opportunities

More than 100 people come to work each day at We Can Too (WCT) in St. Marys, where supervisors work with the employees to find the best fit for their employment.



Among the employees at We Can Too in St. Marys is April Meyer of Maria Stein (third from left). More than 100 people work at WCT's opportunity center, including several Mercer County residents.

Most employees work at the WCT facility placing customized labels on water bottles, sorting or inspecting parts for local manufacturers, or washing trays where wax worms are

raised to be sold for bait.

Others find their best fit at an offsite location, where WCT staff provide continued training.

"A lot of the people who come here have not had a lot of success vocationally," said Cyndi Huff-

man, Employee and Supervisor Leader at WCT. "We provide a fostering environment. We start almost everybody here at our center, where we work on soft skills like attendance, staying on task, and understanding the chain of command at a workplace. As that progresses, we identify people we think are ready to work at a job that's *(Continued on page three)*

Family Care Options Helps Out at Home

Family Care Options (FCO) provides services that help individuals stay in their own homes. It also provides respite care for caregivers who need some time away.

"We try to help our clients maintain a normal life as much as possible," said Leslie Humbert, FCO's office coordinator and program manager. Tracy Gray is also a program manager, and Krissy Lim serves as the CEO.

FCO was founded in 2004 *(Continued on page three)*

Provider Profiles • 2018

Cheryl Ann Programs works with many providers of services for people with developmental disabilities, to help them step into the life they want to lead. These providers help out with day-to-day life, finding suitable employment, and taking advantage of recreation and leisure opportunities. Throughout the year we'll be highlighting these providers and their services, beginning with two in this issue. We hope this will help our readers learn more about the network of care that's available for people with developmental disabilities.

Network of Agency, Independent Providers Covers the County

Providers Help Individuals Reach Goals

Connecting all of the dots to create a happy and fulfilling life is tough to do. There are many complicated parts to our lives that need to be managed differently—a home



Cheryl Ann
Superintendent
Shawn Thieman

life, a work life, and a social life. When any one of those facets of our lives is not going well we are quick to feel overwhelmed and stressed. As you might expect, these

same principles apply to individuals with disabilities.

We take our role of assisting individuals and families very seriously and we use an approach termed as person-centered planning. Our practice involves developing a plan that addresses the home, work and social lives of individuals with disabilities. We use that plan to connect individuals to providers that will help them reach their potential and experience a fulfilling life. Providers can be large businesses, small businesses, and even individuals (independent providers).

Some agency providers that we contract with in Mercer County are statewide providers and are present in nearly all 88 counties. Others are very small and may only serve individuals in a two- or three-county radius. Independent providers operate a practice much like a local plumber or electrician. They work for themselves and not for a business.

The Board of DD is going to spend a lot of time in 2018 promoting the providers that serve individuals with disabilities in Mercer County. It is our hope that we can highlight each provider and better explain the types of services that it offers. In this issue of our newsletter, we are highlighting Family Care Options and Capabilities/We Can Too. Family Care Options is a local business that concentrates primarily on developing and serving the home life and social life of individuals in a three-county area. Capabilities is an employment provider and is present in over 60 counties while its “sister” company, We Can Too, is a provider that concentrates primarily on the work life of individuals and is serving a four-county area here in West Central Ohio.

Mercer County is fortunate to have agency and independent providers who support people with developmental disabilities. These partners provide direct support so that people with developmental disabilities can achieve their best life. One of the biggest challenges facing our provider agencies at this time is the recruitment and retention of staff. If you know of anyone who would be willing to work in our field as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) please contact us or one of our providers. Thank you.

County Boards Working on a Fix For Waivers Waiting List System

People with developmental disabilities and their families have repeatedly said that Ohio’s waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers is overly complex and in need of simplification. The current waiting list confuses people with developmental disabilities and their families, misleads advocates, and hinders efforts by policymakers to direct resources to where they are needed most.

To better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities, many statewide organizations have been collaborating to modernize Ohio’s failed Medicaid waiver waiting list.

There are roughly 49,000 people with developmental disabilities on Ohio’s waiting list for HCBS waivers. However, that number is misleading. Many people on the list receive some type of services because county boards have a variety of ways to meet people’s needs—a waiver is just one of them. Those who are eligible for county board services can have their needs met through local funds as well as other resources.

To address these and other flaws, many organizations are collaborating to develop a waiting list for HCBS waiver services that allow the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and local county boards of developmental disabilities to more effectively plan to meet current and future needs.

We’ll explore this issue further in future issues. In the meantime, feel free to contact the Mercer County Board of DD or go to www.fixthelist.info for more information.

We Can Too

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off-site and community based. We are a training site; the ultimate goal for many of our employees is to go out into the community and find a good spot to work and be involved. But it's not a cookie-cutter thing. We look at what's the best that a person might have the capabilities to do, and where's the best place for him or her to do it?"

WCT has employees from Allen, Auglaize, Mercer and Shelby Counties. WCT is on Park Drive, south of St. Marys and west of Ohio 66.

WCT provides transportation for its employees, who earn minimum wage when they are working to learn job skills.

There is a wide variety of work available. "We have a lot of partner businesses, including factories, schools and businesses," Huffman said. "Our biggest client is Murotech (MTO) in St. Marys. Sixty of our employees inspect parts for them."

We Can Too has grown a lot in recent years, Huffman said. "We pay minimum wage for their work while we teach them job skills," she said. "We can't be everything to everybody, but we try to give employees as many choices as possible."

Learn more at wecantoo.biz.



Above, brothers Zack (left) and Brent Schlater of St. Henry at work at We Can Too. Below, Greg Schmitmeyer of Coldwater sorts parts for client MTO.

Family Care Options



Leslie Humbert, Krissy Lim and Tracy Gray in Family Care Option's respite care space.

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by local families and professionals who saw a need in the community for services in and outside of the home. Respite care was one of the first services it provided, and continues to provide today, in FCO's sunny, comfortable space on Ohio 29 west of Celina.

Families can schedule respite care for a day, a week, or anything in between. FCO staff members stay with the individual and work to provide an atmosphere that feels like home.

FCO employees also go to the homes of individuals with developmental disabilities to provide services that include meals, cleaning, and help with bathing and other personal needs. They serve people of all ages and families with various needs.

"We have homes where we're providing services 24/7, or sometimes we provide services for just a couple of hours at a time," Lim said.

FCO also provides services outside the home, transporting clients to medical appointments, grocery shopping or purely social outings like the movies. FCO has 24 staffers who help meet the needs of families in Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert Counties.

Learn more at fcoinc.com.

Caring People Needed

Some of our providers could use more helping hands to join their organizations. If you're a caring, competent person looking for fulfilling work, you might consider working in the field as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) with an agency or business that provides support to people with developmental disabilities. Contact Cheryl Ann at 419-586-2369 and we can give you more information.

SPOTLIGHT ON:
MATT JUTTE

Featuring the
amazing people
at Cheryl Ann

Matt Jutte of Fort Recovery is a huge fan of LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers, but his all-time favorite basketball team is a lot closer to home.

Matt, 32, who works on weekdays at CA Group in Celina, spends a lot of time on winter weekends with the Grand Lake Christian Eagles, a high school team that plays in the Independent Christian Schools of Ohio's athletic league. Matt is one of the Eagles' assistant coaches and he and his mom, Kathy, follow the team wherever

it plays. It's Matt's role, among other responsibilities, to shake the hands of opposing team members when they are introduced before tip-off.

Matt and the Eagles, who play home games in Wapakoneta, were recently featured in an article in the *Celina Daily Standard*.

Matt, who is the son of the late Omer Jutte, enjoys the family's cat, Soxey, and spending time with his sister, Joy, brother-in-law, Patrick, and his niece and nephew, Phoebe and Phoenix.



Matt Jutte of Fort Recovery serves as an assistant coach with the Grand Lake Christian Eagles high school basketball team.

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