

HOPE HAPPENINGS

NEWS FROM HOPE SERVICES

Seeing Potential ~ Inspiring Opportunities

March is
Developmental
Disabilities
Awareness
Month

March 2025

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

Each March, we celebrate Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month, recognizing the importance of inclusion, advocacy, and the contributions of individuals with disabilities in our community. This year's theme focuses on breaking down barriers and fostering connections to create a more inclusive world.

At HOPE Services, we are proud to support individuals with developmental disabilities by providing opportunities for growth, independence, and community involvement. Throughout the month, we encourage everyone to take part in raising awareness by sharing stories, supporting local advocacy efforts, and promoting inclusion in everyday life.

Here are a few ways you can participate:

- Engage on Social Media – Follow HOPE Services and share stories that highlight the achievements of individuals with disabilities.
- Wear Orange in March – Show your support by wearing orange, the official color of DD Awareness Month!
- Join Voices of HOPE – Our self-advocacy group empowers individuals to speak up and educate others about disability rights and inclusion.
- Support Inclusive Businesses – Shop at and promote businesses that employ individuals with disabilities.

By working together, we can create a community where everyone belongs and thrives. Stay tuned for upcoming events and spotlights throughout March!

For more information, visit www.henrydd.org

Cerebral Palsy History

According to www.cerebralpalsyguidance.com/cerebral-palsy/research/history, Dr. John Little is recognized as the first person to study cerebral palsy and define it in 1853. He was the first person who identified cerebral palsy. His work began in the 1830's when he gave lectures about how birth injuries can significantly impact children and was able to make a connection between oxygen loss and brain damage. In 1843, Dr. Little published lectures entitled, "On the Nature and Treatment of the Deformities of the Human Frame", which he delivered at England's Royal Orthopedic Hospital. Around 1861, Little presented research to the Obstetrical Society of London where he provided the first definition of cerebral palsy. He stated that children with the condition have an injured nervous system.

It wasn't until 1887 that the term cerebral palsy was applied to the condition that Dr. Little studied. Before this time, it was called "Little's Disease". A doctor by the name of Sigmund Freud was the first to divide cerebral palsy causes into those that occurred before, during and after birth. Before that, it was believed that cerebral palsy happened due to difficult labor. Dr. Freud stated that difficult childbirth might be a symptom of something that happened during birth that would result in a difficult childbirth experience. This theory was based on the fact that some children who were affected by oxygen loss, while others were not. Dr. Freud's theory was ignored until years later when extensive research showed that cerebral palsy was caused by oxygen deprivation only around 10% of the time.

-Submitted by Stephanie Jones

March is



Wear GREEN this month to show your support!

The next Board Meeting will be on
Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at
4:00 PM
HOPE Services Activity Center.





PROVIDER FAIR

Are you 16 to 21 years old and looking for a summer experience? Don't miss our upcoming Provider Fair, where a variety of agencies will be on hand to meet with you and explain what they have to offer. Pizza will be provided.

20th
MARCH
5:30 TO 7:00PM

135 E. Maumee Ave
Napoleon, Ohio

For More Information  419-599-2892

Welcome

TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



HOPE Services is excited to welcome Chris Buchhop and Samantha Andonian as the newest members of the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities!

We appreciate their dedication to our mission and look forward to the positive impact they will make in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

Join us in welcoming Chris and Samantha!

THE HENRY COUNTY ABILITIES
RESOURCE COUNCIL PRESENTS ITS
3rd ANNUAL



Talent SHOW FUNDRAISER

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER TO
PERFORM OR
email KBL777STAR@GMAIL.COM

SAVE THE DATE → MARCH 30TH, 2025

Filling Home Community Center
Napoleon, Ohio

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Learn with us about safely using Social Media and making Online Friendships. Training geared toward teens, adults and their caregivers.

Two Part Event

Session 1: March 6, 2025 5:00-7:00PM

Session 2: April 3, 2025 5:00-7:00PM

Presented by Tara Rex, Center for Child and Family Advocacy and in Partnership with NOWAC.

Dinner Provided:
We will provide subs, chips and water.



Location:
HOPE Services Activity Center
135 E Maumee Ave.
Napoleon

RSVP to Keri Bunke by the day prior to the event at kbunke@henrydd.org or 419-599-2892



Know someone who would make an awesome volunteer?

Share this opportunity with them and help us reach more individuals who are eager to make a difference!

Are you passionate about creating inclusive and empowering experiences for individuals with special needs? Do you want to make a positive impact in your community? If so, we invite you to volunteer with us for our upcoming Special Olympics and HARC recreational events!

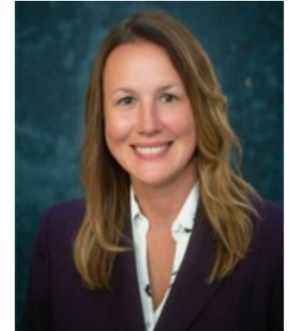
Contact Zach Meister for Special Olympics at 419-260-2176 or Randy Barnes for HARC Recreation at 419-591-6798.

KELLY'S COLUMN

MARCH 2025

Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

by Kelly Rieke
Superintendent



Every March, we shine a spotlight on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, emphasizing the importance of inclusiveness and understanding. This month serves as a reminder to celebrate the abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities, while also recognizing challenges they may face. Our community is encouraged to participate in events that promote awareness, acceptance, and empowerment. Join us in supporting families, advocating for others and participating in local events. Let's spread awareness, highlight the achievements of those with developmental disabilities,

and engage in meaningful conversations about equity and rights. Schools, organizations, and individuals can get involved by hosting workshops, sharing stories and advocating for better resources and support systems. Together, we can create a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization" – Mahatma Gandhi

CELEBRATING IN MARCH

March Birthdays

- Andrew Lause
- Heather Stoner
- Jean Cordes
- Sean Cushman
- Suzanne Dewese
- Christopher Buchhop
- Marco Delgado, Jr.
- Rockne Saunders
- Melinda Camp
- Rebecca Plummer
- Dalton Kidd
- Heather Obermyer
- Amber Falor
- Caleb Wiseman

Employment Anniversaries

- Caitlin McCafferty - is celebrating 4 years at Burger King
- Brandon Shank - is celebrating 1 year at Arby's
- Todd Rothenberger - is celebrating 37 years at McDonald's in Napoleon
- Kathy Bishop - is celebrating 35 years at HOPE Services

WELCOME



HOPE Services is excited to welcome our new intern, Kaci Hunt! Kaci brings enthusiasm and a passion for making a difference in the lives of others.

Kaci resides in Defiance with her spouse, Emilio, and their children, Noah and Emilio Jr. Alongside her internship, she serves as the Vice President of Active Minds at Northwest State Community College (NSCC), where she helps spread awareness about mental health both on campus and in the community. Her dedication to advocacy and support aligns perfectly with the mission of HOPE Services.

We are thrilled to have Kaci as part of our team and look forward to the contributions she will make during her time with us. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM JESSICA

In Season 5 of Criminal Minds, Dr. Spencer Reid: Isaac Asimov wrote, "In life, unlike chess, the game continues after checkmate."

We look forward to next month's quote!



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS NORTHWEST OHIO

In Ohio, all 3 to 5 year old children are required to complete an Early Childhood Screening prior to entering local public school preschool.

Join us for a **FREE** screening of your little one's growth & development to ensure all young children are equipped for learning, and families are aware of resources in our schools and community.



SCREENING DATES

Ages 0-5 years old

February 24, 2025

St. Peter's Nazarene Church
710 Locust Brown (SR 18)
Archbold, OH 43527



March 17, 2025

Napoleon Church of the Nazarene
630 Appian Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545



HOW TO REGISTER FOR A SCREENING

Step 1: Complete Ages & Stages questionnaire online:
<https://www.asqonline.com/family/f34be3>

Step 2: Wait for appointment reservation phone call from
area code 567, Archbold, OH, starting January 15

No online access? Call 567-444-4818



Children do not need to attend this event if they will be entering kindergarten or are currently enrolled in early intervention or preschool through your local school district or NwOESC. Screenings last about one hour, focusing on vision, hearing, speech and language, fine and gross motor and social emotional.

If a level 2 snow emergency is issued the day of your screening, the screening will be cancelled.

Sponsored by Northwest Ohio Regional Early Intervention serving Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties, school districts, NwOESC, NOCAC Head Start and collaborating agencies.

Follow Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest updates and information!



****Pediatric Physical Therapy for Early Intervention: A Path to Better Movement****

Welcome to our newsletter edition focused on Pediatric Physical Therapy for Early Intervention! We understand how crucial it is for children to reach their developmental milestones, and that's where physical therapy can play a significant role.

Early intervention is essentially a preventive measure that addresses developmental delays and physical impairments as soon as they are identified. Pediatric physical therapy specifically tailors treatment to the unique needs of children, promoting gross motor skills such as crawling, walking, and running.

The beautiful part about early intervention is that it's not only about addressing challenges but also about celebrating successes. Each little step—like standing unaided for a moment or taking those first few steps—can be monumental for a child's development and confidence. Our skilled therapists utilize play-based activities to engage children, ensuring that therapy feels less like a chore and more like fun!

Parents often wonder when to seek help. Signs to look out for may include delayed milestones, difficulty with balance, or challenges in coordinating movements. If you notice any of these signs, reaching out for a consultation can make a world of difference.

We invite parents and caregivers to stay informed and active in their child's development journey. Whether it's through our play groups, team based consultations, or one-on-one sessions, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Feel free to contact us for more tailored information about our services and how we can assist your child in reaching their full potential. Together, we can pave the way for healthier, happier childhoods!



MARCH EARLY INTERVENTION PLAYGROUP!

**Tuesday
3/11/25**

Join us at Crossroads Church
Playland for a fun indoor play
experience!

**Morning Time: 9:30am-11am
Afternoon Time: 5:30pm-7pm**

**Crossroads Church
601 Bonaparte Dr.
Napoleon, Oh 43545**

Siblings are welcome!
Come in through the side doors

See You There!



**Department of
Children & Youth**

Help Me Grow Early Intervention





March 2025 Newsletter

Spring is just around the corner. February was a busy month with basketball, swimming, and cheerleading winding down in preparation for the 2025 Special Olympics Ohio Indoor Winter Games. We will be headed to Columbus on the weekend of March 7-9.

The first weekend of February was packed with thrilling basketball action in Van Buren. Two men's teams battled it out for a chance to represent the Northwest Ohio region at the Indoor Winter Games. Congratulations to Men's Team 1 for their all-star performance! They played four intense games and emerged victorious in their D5 division, securing their spot to head to Columbus. Men's Team 2 gave it their all in a hard-fought game, demonstrating true determination and fierce spirit despite the loss.

Meanwhile, our own Lady Cougars, the only women's team in the Northwest Region, are set to represent us in Division 1 Women's basketball. We're incredibly proud of their achievements and wish all our teams the best of luck in the upcoming games!

Several members of the swimming team will be advancing to State competition. These include David Rose, Savannah Rose, Tracy Rose, Ryan Moore, Jaeson Donnett, Griffin Tanner, Job Knepper, and Phillip Brown.

Also representing Henry County at the State Competition is our Competitive Cheer Squad. This team works hard together throughout the year learning new routines. They are always there to cheer on the Cougars. The team heading to Columbus will include Linda Baser, Caitlin McCafferty, Jessica Clapp, TJ Stover, Caitlyn Kuehner, Dallas Cupp, Jenny Hartford, Adrienne Gerken, Jordyn Beilharz, Hannah Damman, and Bishop Nieto.

The adult basketball teams were able to enjoy some extra basketball games this month thanks to Bowling Green State University and Defiance College. They invited our players to come out and cheer on their teams.

We were proud to see one of our State Athlete Leader Council members, Lydia Knepper, be able to attend the 2025 Special Olympics Ohio Outdoor Winter Games in Mansfield. Lydia volunteered at the event by helping with the Game Changer videos and interviews. This program allows athletes to share their favorite memories and experiences with Special Olympics Ohio, creating a platform for personal stories and inspiration. The opening ceremonies were a unique and fun event to watch. The flags were skied down the mountain before the Oaths were taken, adding an exciting touch to the ceremony.

Signups are open for several Spring/Summer Sports. For Spring/Summer the options are Equestrian, Volleyball, Bocce, Esports, Track & Field, Cycling, Competition Cheer, Softball, Flag football, and Golf. If you have questions about sports, schedules, or to sign up, please reach out to Zach or Renita.

Wishing everyone an exciting month filled with new adventures and the occasional Leprechaun trick! Keep your eyes peeled and enjoy the magical moments.

Coach Zach and Coach Renita



Mark your calendars for some fun upcoming events....

Saturday, April 5 – Saturday, May 31st – Saturday mornings – Young Athletes 10-11 am at HOPE Services

Thursday, May 22 – Henry County Special Olympics Torch Run/Walk and HOPE Services Brats Bash – 10:30 am Downtown Napoleon and HOPE Services

Sunday, June 22 – Henry County Special Olympics Golf Scramble – Iron Wood Country Club, Wauseon 2-6 pm

Saturday, July 19 – Napoleon Cork & Keg Festival 5-9 pm, downtown Napoleon. All proceeds benefit our local athletes.





**HENRY COUNTY
SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

GOLF

- TOURNAMENT -

22
JUNE
2025



2-6
pm

LOTS OF GAMES & PRIZES



**IRON WOOD GOLF CLUB,
WAUSEON, OHIO**

REGISTER NOW

Registration also available on Eventbrite.com

ZACH MEISTER 419-260-2176
RENITA KUEHNER 419-601-2372

SPRING/SUMMER SPORTS SIGN-UPS OPEN


ESPORTS


BOCCE


CYCLING


**FLAG
FOOTBALL**


GOLF


**COMPETITION
CHEERLEADING**


VOLLEYBALL


EQUESTRIAN


**TRACK &
FIELD**


SOFTBALL

ZACH MEISTER 419-260-2176
RENITA KUEHNER 419-601-2372





Young Athletes

Sponsored by:

Henry County Special Olympics

Special Olympics Young Athletes is a sports based play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sports skills like running, kicking, and throwing. Young Athletes offers families, teachers, caregivers, and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with children.

Benefits of Young Athletes

- Motor skill Development
- Social, Emotional, and Learning skills
- Fun Learning environment
- Inclusive play builds acceptance
- Weekly Physical activity

When & Where

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

SATURDAY, MAY 3

SATURDAY, MAY 17

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Sessions are from

10 am - 11 am

HOPE SERVICES

**135 E. MAUMEE AVE,
NAPOLEON, OHIO**

Questions?? Call or Email:
Zach Meister 419-260-2176
zmeister@henrydd.org
Renita Kuehner 419-601-2372
rkuehner@henrydd.org





Run Or Walk....

Join us!
Thursday,
May 22

10:30-11:30 am

Line up at Pocket Park,
Napoleon, OH - starting at 10 am
To sign up or ask Questions:
Zach Meister 419-260-2176
Renita Kuehner 419-601-2372



Events for This Month



IN MARCH 2025

<p>SPEAK UP</p> 	<p>March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month</p>
<p>THUR 06</p>	<p>STAYING SAFE ONLINE</p> <p>HOPE Services Activity Center 5-7pm RSVP Required as dinner is provided.</p>
<p>WED 12</p>	<p>TECH HOUSE IN BG LIMITED SPOTS!</p> <p>4:30pm Tour. Meet at HOPE 3:30pm. Dinner after, bring money for food. RSVP Required</p>
<p>THUR 20</p>	<p>PEOPLE FIRST EVENT W/MICHELLE WARNKY BUURMA</p> <p>Putnam Co ESC. Meet at HOPE 4:15pm RSVP Required by March 7th</p>

RSVP To Keri Bunke at 419-599-2892 or kbunke@henrydd.org

THANK YOU, SELF-ADVOCATES & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT!

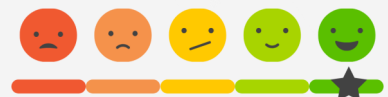
Voices of HOPE wants to give a big shoutout to the self-advocates from Defiance, Fulton, and Williams counties for joining us last night at HOPE Services for our Snowball Fight!

A special thank you to Emily Dearth and Nick Nye with Henry County Emergency Management for their wonderful presentation on emergency preparedness. Your knowledge and guidance help us stay informed and ready for any situation!

We had a fantastic time learning, enjoying pizza, cookies, and hot cocoa, and of course, battling it out in an epic snowball fight!

Your energy, enthusiasm, and advocacy inspire us all. We love coming together to learn, grow, and have fun! Looking forward to the next event!

LAST CALL



HELP US IMPROVE!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK



Voices of HOPE is a self-advocacy group in Henry County. We would like your feedback! We are looking to engage more individuals in advocacy!

Scan the code or visit the link to complete the short survey today! We HOPE to hear from you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8K8PTCM>



HARC Recreation Adult Calendar

April-June 2025

Contact Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or 419-599-2892 to sign up and pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION
Sunday, March 30, 2025	HARC Talent Show	2:00pm-6:00pm	\$15.00	Filling Home Community Center
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	Cook Night	5:00-7:00pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Saturday, April 12, 2025	Pro Football Hall of Fame	8:00am-6:00pm	\$45+ \$ to eat	Canton
Monday, April 21, 2025	Who's Line is It Show	5:00pm-11:00pm	\$55.00	Embassy in Fort Wayne
Wednesday, April 23, 2025	Dragons & Mythical Beasts	4:00pm-10:30pm	\$35.00	Findlay
Wednesday, April 30, 2025	BINGO	6:00-8:00pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Friday, May 9, 2025	CopperMoon glass art	4:30pm-9:00pm	\$22.00	Toledo
Sunday, May 11, 2025	Toledo Air Show	11:00am-4:30pm	\$35+ \$ to eat	Toledo Airport
Wednesday, May 14, 2025	Cook Night	5:00pm-7:00pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Saturday, May 17, 2025	Out to Eat and Movie	11:00am-6:30pm	\$35+	TBA
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	Cedar Point day	8:00am-10:00pm		Cedar Point
Sunday, May 25, 2025	Mud Hens	4:00pm-9:30pm	\$20+ money to eat	Fifth Third Field
Saturday, June 7, 2025	NASCAR Truck Race	9:30am-8:00pm	\$40+ \$ to eat	MIS
Wednesday, June 11, 2025	Cook Night	5:00pm-7:00pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Friday, June 20, 2025	Movie at HOPE	5:00pm-8:00pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday, June 25, 2025	BINGO	6:00pm-8:00pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Saturday, June 28, 2025	Wright Patterson Air Base	7:30am-8:30pm	\$ to eat	Dayton

HARC Recreation Events –Kids Calendar Ages 6-15

March 2025

Contact Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or 419-599-2892 to sign up (required) Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION
Saturday, March 29, 2025	Toledo Zoo	10am-4pm	\$26 + money to eat	Toledo (leave HOPE at 10am)

HARC SUMMER ADULT CAMP



Swimming **NATURE HIKES**
CAMP FIRES Canoeing
 Smores **ANIMAL STUDY**
SPORTS Tall Tales
 Games **ARTS & CRAFTS**



Dates: July 30 - August 2, 2025 (4 days/3 Nights)
 Who: Adults 16 & Up
 Where: Camp Palmer, Fayette, Ohio
 Cost: \$250 per person (scholarships available)
 Come for just the day \$60
 Sign up by calling: Randy Barnes: 419-591-6798



Sponsored By: HARC, INC.

HARC SUMMER School Age CAMP



Dates: August 3-6, 2025 (4 days/3 Nights)
 Who: School Age (ages 6-15)
 Where: Camp Palmer, Fayette, Ohio
 Cost: \$250 per person (scholarships available)
 Come for just the day \$60
 Sign up by calling: Randy Barnes: 419-591-6798

Swimming
 Camp Fires
 Singing
 Nature Hikes
 Crafts

Canoeing
 Animal Study
 Tall Tales
 Games



Sponsored By: HARC, INC.

Contact Us

Seeing Potential – Inspiring Opportunities

www.henrydd.org

HOPE Services Office	419-599-2892
Special Olympics	419-260-2176
HARC Recreation	419-591-6798



**Scan Code to sign up
for the newsletter!**



Our Mission

HOPE Services is committed to creatively working in partnership with eligible individuals and their families to discover, pursue and achieve what is important to them.

HOPE Services does not discriminate in provision of services or employment because of disability, race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age.