

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

The Tollgate Home is open!



On Sept. 21, 2021 LCBDD celebrated the completion of The Tollgate Home – a home specifically built to provide a local residential option for children and teens with disabilities who need out-of-home support.

The ribbon cutting marked the end of a long journey for the Board, which included months of searching for the right property and challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jason Umstot dedicated the home to Lyle Good and his parents Lois and Charles of Etna Township. Lyle was supported by LCBDD for many years. Upon his death in 2018, LCBDD was named the beneficiary of the Good Family Trust, which allowed for the construction of the home. Thank you to County Commissioner Rick Black, Jeremiah Wagner, Legislative Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and Dr. Patrick Maynard, President/CEO of IAmBoundless, for giving remarks.



Photos from the event continue on page 4!

A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



In Licking County, DSP staffing shortages have continued and they are affecting every local provider in some capacity.

Service Coordinators are continuing to meet with people and their support teams to come up with as many options as possible to make sure their needs continue to be met.

One of the opportunities that will continue to be discussed is assistive technology and remote supports. These options have been gaining popularity in Ohio since 2017, when Ohio became a Technology First state.

While there will always be a need for face-to-face interaction and direct care, we've seen many instances where technology has allowed people to live on their own and follow their daily routines with more independence and less staffing.

We understand that the cost of technology and internet access can be barriers, but there is funding available to help. Your SC is the best person to provide that information. People can

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Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Nov. 17, Dec. 19 and Jan. 19:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio.
- **10 a.m. Dec. 7 on the LCBDD Facebook page:** Please join us on our Facebook page (@lcountydd) to find out the winners of our 2021 DSP awards!
- **SAVE THE DATE for Cooking Matters, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 10, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14 and 28 via Zoom:** Participants must attend all six sessions. Register with Michelle Duffy at 740-618-6329 or duffy.383@osu.edu.
- **SAVE THE DATE for April 15:** LCBDD and SoCOG will be hosting an assistive tech event! More info to come in the winter 2022 newsletter!

LCBDD News

Cheer on our #DSPheroes online

On Dec. 7, LCBDD's DSP Employment Connections program will present ten local Direct Support Professionals with prestigious awards. In its third year, our annual awards ceremony will kick off at 10 a.m. Anyone is welcome to visit our Facebook page to watch a live stream of the event. The rest of the event will focus on providing DSPs with resources to improve their self care, so that they can feel refreshed and re-energized as they provide critical care to the people we support.

Cooking Matters coming soon!

The Ohio State University Extension and the Tall Timbers Food Hub are partnering together to pilot an exciting online class that will help people we support learn to cook healthy, affordable meals. Cooking Matters is a six week class offered on Zoom. The course is free but participants must attend all six classes. Each registered person will receive grocery gift cards to make meals and a free cookbook. Class sizes are limited and registration is required. Participants must be 18 or older and have access to Zoom and email.

Contact Michelle Duffy at 740-618-6329 or duffy.383@osu.edu to register.

Save the date: April 15 tech event

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is partnering with the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SoCOG) to organize an event to help people we support, providers and families try assistive technology. The event will be held on April 15 at the LCBDD office, 116 N. 22nd St. in Newark. Be on the look out for more information on our Facebook page, website and future newsletters.



Thank you to Anna Huggins, of Johnstown, and DSP Alyssa Pittman, of Heath, for willing to be featured on our October billboards!



Shout Outs!

To Diamond Hill Farm:

For donating pumpkins to the PAWS Pet Club.

To Heart of a Warrior Farm:

For letting us visit and take a tour.

To the Newark City School's Wildcat Network:

For helping us create a video to inform our community.

To Reece Thompson of Flicker-Lit Productions:

For making a beautiful video to honor the Good family for their contribution to the Tollgate Home.

To Joe VanHorn from DODD:

For creating a great video about the Tollgate Home and its mission.

To BellTree, IAmBoundless, Wicked Sister Cakes and Universal Events:

For all you did to make our ribbon cutting a success!

To the Family Church of Pickerington:

For offering your parking lot to our staff during the ribbon cutting.

To Dei Dill from the Tall Timbers Food Hub and Michelle Duffy from the OSU-Extension:

For all your work on the upcoming Cooking Matters classes.

We can't do our job without the support of the community! LCBDD staff members are using this space to express our gratitude to providers and members of the community who have gone above and beyond.

To the Columbus Dispatch and the Newark Advocate:

For your coverage of our Tollgate opening.

To all the parents, providers and community members who submitted nominations for our 2021 DSP awards:

Thank you for taking the time. We had more than 130 DSPs nominated!

—Anna Jeffries

Public Information Officer

To Jim and Robin Hoekstra:

Jim and Robin are landlords in the community who go above and beyond to help the people we support. It is clear they care about their tenants and want them to succeed and live independently. We are very thankful for their partnership.

—Kristen Morris

Adult Team Lead

Assistant Director of Service Coordination

To Gloria and Josephine of Trust Care Health Services:

For their unwavering support to a kiddo on my caseload throughout the pandemic. Having HPC services in the home once a week was something new for this family, but they now wonder how they ever got along without it! They are patient, kind and loving and the child asks about them when they are not there. It's been such a positive experience!

—Kim Burke

Service Coordinator

To Mike, Cassandra and Valerie at CSS:

For continuing to provide care for individuals at a 24/7 home. There have been many times where they work over their scheduled hours and they are motivated to ensure that the people within the home are safe and cared for. I am truly thankful to all of them!

Shout out to Alexa who works with CSS at the Donna Jean Center:

She is a full time employee at the Donna Jean Center and volunteers some of her evenings to work at a home that is staffed by CSS. She is constantly scanning the area to ensure others are safe and is quick to react when a situation occurs. Alexa has worked for CSS for many years and knows the people that she helps. It is obvious that she truly cares about the people that are served by CSS and she is invaluable to the families of the people she cares for.

—Danielle Yost

Service Coordinator

Guest Shout Out:**A huge shout out to Alice and the NRH staff:**

For helping a tenant of CDS and her family, clean and declutter their home so that they could live in a safe and clean environment. Thank you!

—Regan Eveland

Chief Executive Officer
Center for Disability Services



Find out more about this home and the Good family by watching our short, documentary-style video created by Flicker-Lit Productions. The link can be found on our Youtube channel: [Youtube.com/user/LickingCountyDD](https://www.youtube.com/user/LickingCountyDD).

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contact them at any time to start that discussion, they don't need to wait for their next ISP meeting.

Technology will not single-handedly solve the DSP workforce shortage and we know that it isn't the right fit for everyone. But we know that for many, technology can bring confidence, independence and stability during this challenging time and we appreciate your willingness to consider it with an open mind. We look forward to exploring some of the positive ways it can impact the people we support.

Contact Superintendent/CEO Jason L. Umstot by calling 740-349-6588 or send him an email at: Jason.Umstot@lcountydd.org.

As a person-centered organization, we know that everybody's needs and comfort with technology are different. Here are some resources to explore, to determine if there's a tech option that is right for you:

- Our website offers a significant amount of information and videos about assistive technology and remote supports. You can find that information here: <https://lcountydd.org/assistive-technology>.
- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities also offers resources for families about technology: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/waivers-and-services/services/Assistive-Technology>.
- Assistive Technology of Ohio is another resource for Ohio families: <https://atohio.org>.

You can also reach out to your Service Coordinator for more information!

Momentum is created and edited by LCBDD Public Information Officer Anna Jeffries.

If you have ideas for future publications, or would like to get on our mailing list and receive this electronically, contact Anna at 740-322-6911 or anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org.

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) has been proudly funding services and supporting people with developmental disabilities for more than 50 years.

LCBDD can be reached by calling 740-349-6588 or by visiting our website, lcountydd.org.

Follow us on social media using @LCOUNTYDD. If you are a family member of someone we support, don't hesitate to visit our family support page by searching "LCOUNTYDD Families" on Facebook.