

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Summer
2015

Right on Par!

The Board and Homecroft, Inc. celebrated 22 years of golf outings

Homecroft, Inc.'s 22nd Annual Benefit Golf Outing seemed to be another successful one, proceeding many others.

Hosted in part by The Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities, this year's outing drew 126 golfers -- some new to the outing and others faithful veterans. The weather was good with sunny skies, an 87-degree temperature, and a slight breeze.

Although an exact amount drawn in by the benefit outing has yet to be determined, the golf committee feels this year's outing is to be financially stable and will allow those in Greene County to receive the services and supports they need in the next year.

The winning team was a foursome consisting of Mark Dever, Scott Cooper, Bill Vorst, and Jeff Cook. The second place team was a

Pictured: Golfers in their carts, waiting for the shotgun start.

foursome consisting of Charlotte O'Meara, Tim O'Meara, Sue Eakle, and Alan Eakle.

Homecroft, Inc. is one of The Board's non-profit enterprises that was established in 1991. The entity owns 32 homes within the county and allows individuals with dis-

abilities to live as independent as possible with the proper supports. This golf outing raises money to provide maintenance to these homes, as the state cannot provide all the money needed to do so.

The 23rd Annual Benefit Golf Outing will be Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

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CARF Grants The Board Another Three-Year Accreditation

The Board awarded highest accreditation from the international agency

The Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently received a three-year accreditation -- the highest obtainable -- from The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation (CARF) earlier this year.

Three CARF surveyors reviewed the Board's policies, procedures, documents, and programs during their three-day survey, from Jan. 14 through Jan. 16.

Based upon the feedback received from the surveyors, the Board was found to be in substantial compliance and received a three-year certificate, which will extend through October 2017.

Out of an extensive num-

ber of applicable standards, the surveyors cited the Board with only one recommendation.

The surveyors had high praise for the Board's staff; fiscal stability; its facilities; programs; and Strategic Plan. The Board was specifically surveyed for its Child and Youth Services; Community Employment Services: Employment Supports; Community Integration; Respite Services; and Transition Services.

"This clearly was a team effort," said John LaRock, superintendent of The Board. "I'd like to thank the families, staff, the community that supports us, and most of all, the individuals

we serve for assisting us in maintaining this prestigious accreditation for the past 27 years."

CARF is an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits service providers in the areas of aging services, behavioral health, child and youth services, DMEPOS, employment and community services, medical rehabilitation, and opioid treatment programs.

CARF currently accredits more than 5,000 providers in more than 18,000 locations in the United States, Canada, Western Europe, and South America.

CARF will next visit the Board's facilities sometime in 2018.

Community Employment is Increasing Rapidly

The Board's Employment Services has been rapidly growing, due to increased demand for high-functioning individuals with disabilities in the county wanting to work in non-sheltered workshop settings, as well as the state's urgency to place as many individuals as possible in the community for employment.

This year, the Employment First Initiative has already placed eight individuals in the community, exceeding its goal to place four individuals in the workforce.

Part of this endeavor is Project SEARCH, which matches students from The Greene County Career Center to internships at which they feel they can succeed. After one year, their internship may be turned into full-time employment.

Many individuals have already completed their internships and are succeeding at and enjoying their full-time jobs.

Project SEARCH has met its goal of placing 10 individuals in the county,

but it expects to place more by the end of the year.

Community Employment Services includes community-based work assessments; job placement and development; transition services; and job coaching services.

These programs have been successful due to the individuals working, job coaches, and the leadership of Carmen Royer, who oversees the program. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this program, please call 937-562-6500.

Consumers Welcome Summer With Annual Picnic

Consumers again this summer gathered under a huge tent to welcome summer with a catered picnic, music, and dancing.

In late June, Greene, Inc. employees and Atrium consumers joined together to eat, dance, mingle, and enjoy the company of their pfriends, parents, and staff during the annual picnic.

Bill Ford, who oversees the Cloud Nine Room for individuals with autism at the Atrium, played DJ as the consumers enjoyed the lucheon, savoring hamburgers; hotdogs; chips; baked beans; potato salad; desserts; various beverages; and desserts. Atrium staff was on hand to serve the food, catered by a local Jamestown business, Christian Brothers Catering.

This was the third annual summer picnic for those who attend The Atrium or who are employed by Greene, Inc.

The picnic is always a fun, lively, and successful event for all of those involved.

It's also always looked forward to by those who work at Greene, Inc. and those served by The Atrium.

They were able to eat, dance, socialize, and enjoy an afternoon filled with tasty summer food, great music, and the friendship of their peers. We are sure they are already looking forward to next year!

Pictured: Two friends dance to the music, thoroughly enjoying the event.

Pictured: A staff member and a client share a laugh during the picnic.

Parents and Kids Love "Daddy and Me at the Carnival"

Early this summer, the Early Intervention employees again hosted its annual "Daddy and Me at the Carnival," which featured face painting, stickers, bubbles, and much more.

This ongoing event drew about 200 fathers, mothers, and daughters and/or sons this year. It was a lively, fun group who were looking to relax and have some fun at the Four Oaks Xenia Center.

Many of the children, amused not only by what the employees of Early Intervention had in store, but also the appearance of a service dog, which the children were allowed to pet and hug.

Superintendent John LaRock was also on hand to give out free books to each child in attendance.

Good times were had by all, as it should be in 2016.

Pictured: Richard Combs, and his son, Jackson Combs.

Pictured: Jenny Weiss and daughters Ariana, Bella, and Eyla.

Board Consumers Attend A Fun Annual Awards Ceremony

This year, consumers "took flight" at the Erin Ritchey Memorial Awards, held at the Mandalay Banquet Center, in Dayton.

The annual event honors not only Ritchey, who was born with developmental disabilities and was killed at 7-years-old in an auto accident in 1981, but individuals with developmental disabilities and those who serve them in Montgomery and Greene counties.

The "Take Flight" theme this year encouraged those in attendance to be their best self and aim to achieve the goals they have in their lives.

The awards ceremony began with a dancing duo, Michael and Cody Heyne, followed by a three-course luncheon, and then the presentation of awards.

While no one -- staff nor the individuals with disabilities The Board serves -- won an award this year, The

Board has had many winners in the past, including last year's recipient, Gene Jackson.

The decades-old ceremony is funded by the Erin Ritchey Memorial Fund. This event serves as a living tribute to not only one child, but to others who have a disability/disabilities, their families, and those who serve them may know and educate others for a future of acceptance and understanding.