

woodlane news

December, 2010

Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

CES Celebrates Twenty-Fifth Anniversary



The Honorable Randy Gardner attended the celebration. His father, the late Dallas Gardner, was a member of the Board in 1985 and made the motion to create the CES program.

The Sentinel-Tribune described the June 25, 1985 Board meeting as “one of the most innovative” as the Board unanimously approved the establishment of Community Employment Services. Then Superintendent Doug McVey explained to members the staff would locate job sites for both students at Wood Lane School and adults who worked at Wood Lane Industries. Bill Clifford was named the first coordinator of CES and was challenged and succeeded to place 10 individuals during the first year of the program. Twenty-five years later, 211 employment sites/employers were recognized for hiring over 250 workers in 2010.

On September 30, individuals who receive services, families, business representatives, board members, and friends attended a reception in Perrysburg at the Funny Bone Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre. Ohio Representative Randy Gardner presented a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives. Wood County Commissioners James Carter and Tim Brown joined the celebration and presented a proclamation from the Commissioners’ office.

See CES, page 5



Jim Wittenmyer has worked at the BG Recycling Center for over 20 years. His success is due in part to the CES program.

(Photo courtesy of the Sentinel-Tribune)

A Historical Glance Employment Options

Before 1969

The school program and “pre-vocational classes” were located at the BG City Schools’ Administration Building.

1969

Contract entered into with the Wood County Fair Board to rent “the skating rink” at the Fairgrounds. It was named the “Wood County Sheltered Workshop”

1974

Wood Lane Industries Opens

1985

Community Employment Services Established

1993

Cartridge King Opens (now known as **Laser Cartridge Express**)

2002

Business Supports Associates Opens

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*Our Opportunity to
Honor Nancy*

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunity in the provision of services and employment. No differentiation will be made based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, or the presence of a disability.



Respite Home Update



A new respite home will open for operation in December. The 1,600 square foot home will provide short-term stays for both children and adults. "We are excited as the finishing touches are completed," stated Donna Beam, Director of Operations.

Respite care is an essential part of the overall support for families and their loved one.

Wood Lane opened its first respite home in 2004. While the home is extensively used, the Board approved the construction of the new home to meet the increased number of requests for respite care.

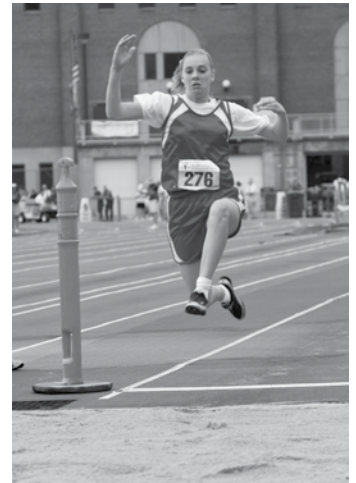
Visit us at:
www.woodlane.us
woodlaneworks.blogspot.com

Athlete to Compete at the Site of the First Olympic Games

"I'm In!" That's the theme for the 2011 Special Olympics World Games that will be held next year from June 25 to July 4.

I'm In! is also the message that Wood County athlete Amanda Gump can share. She has earned a spot on the United States Special Olympics Team to compete at the World Games in Athens, Greece!

The games will be host to 7,500 athletes from 185 nations. The athletes will compete in one of 22 Olympic-type sports. Gump has been selected to compete in track and field events.



According to Special Olympics Coordinator Mary Sehmman, Wood County is in the process of raising the \$6,000 necessary for Gump's trip. An account has been established and contributions can be made in her honor at any Huntington Bank office.

We will post updates as we receive them at www.woodlane.us and www.woodso.org.



New Technology is a Beneficial Teaching Tool

Technology has expanded the ways we communicate, share information, access games, etc. The iPad has become an extremely popular device for business, personal, and educational uses. The wide range of capabilities of this piece of technology has also caught the attention of Wood Lane School staff to teach students a variety of skills.

According to Chris McDonald, Speech/Language Pathologist, the use of an iPad is giving students an additional avenue to expand their abilities to learn and communicate. Children now read stories by having the story pictured and spoken through the iPad. Students learn to identify signs, learn vocabulary, and express feelings. One program even repeats the sound, phrase or sentence expressed. This has encouraged students to increase their communication skills. The iPad can also serve as a student's communication board with standard words and phrases they would use in everyday activities at school and home. And, just like any kid, they can connect to the internet and access things like YouTube, e-mail, and other "fun" digital media on the web.



Board The Driving Force for Services

Readers may not know the extensive commitment and expertise that members of the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities give to our program. Members of the Board are volunteers that collectively give over 700 hours. They attend monthly Board meetings and serve on at least one subcommittee. They also attend in service presentations to keep up to date on services provided and issues that may affect services based upon funding and legislative changes. Since Wood Lane's inception, Board members have been the driving force to our program's success.

Ohio law requires that five individuals are appointed by the County Commissioners and two individuals are appointed by the Probate Judge. At least two individuals appointed by the Commissioners and one by the Judge must be an immediate family member of an individual served. "Family members are key to help to ensure that decisions are prioritized and based upon the needs of individuals we serve. Their involvement is a core value in all of our decisions and critical to carry out our mission," stated Wood Lane Superintendent Melanie Stretchbery.

Wood Lane's spectrum of services includes early intervention, education, employment, daily living skills, and older adult options. Stretchbery emphasized, "We receive great direction from the Board, including financial, education, human service, manufacturing, and public policy guidance. Wood Lane is quite fortunate to have a diverse group of individual members who really make a difference."



Board members' recent in service topic was transportation.

Team Effort Supports United Way Campaign

WCBDD and WLRS, Inc. staff were once again very generous to Wood County's annual United Way Campaign. According to Staff Development Specialist and UW Chair Heather Wensink, staff pledged \$7,343.53 for this year's campaign. Staff also had the opportunity to enter the annual Chili Cook Off and Baking Competition.

Staff challenged each other and entered their favorite recipes for the "tasty" competition. Co-workers made a donation to taste all entries and then voted on their favorite. We appreciate the generosity of staff and their support of United Way!



Wood County People First In Full Gear

New Members Welcome

People First is a national organization dedicated to self-advocates. It teaches people with disabilities how to speak for themselves. The Wood County People First group wrote the following mission statement:

We know that being an advocate means we must first learn about different topics. We are working with staff to help present them at meetings. Here are some topics we want to talk about:

The importance of voting and learning how to register to vote;

Sexuality-Is parenting right for you?

Private time in your group home;

How does Wood Lane Industries find work or jobs?

How are work sites found for community employment?

How does work attitude affect your job?

Public speaking-learning how to talk to large or small groups;

Ways to be safe at home and in the community;

How can we make and stick to a budget?

We have written presentations that officers can give to other groups about People First. On October 21, we had a party to get new members to come to the meetings. There were 22 people at the meeting. Gene Stokes told the 22 people at the meeting about People First.

We would like to have more people join People First. If you are interested in joining, please come to our meetings. We will meet on the third Thursday of every month at 705 West Newton Road in Bowling Green (the Day Habilitation building.) Our meetings will be from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! *(Thanks to President Heather Mulford and Vice President Becky Thomas for submitting information about People First.)*

“We make our own decisions.

We are advocates and leaders for ourselves and others.

We teach others to be their own advocate.”

CES in 1985



Tim Bomeli was a student at Wood Lane School when he obtained a custodial position at the former Uhlman's Department Store. He was one of the ten individuals who obtained employment through CES in 1985.



CES moved into its own office in December, 1985. Pictured (L to R) Joan Gordon (who was the Executive Director of the BG Chamber of Commerce in 1985 and later a Wood Lane Board member), Joanie Hale, Mark Armstrong, and the late Bruce Bellard (BG Mayor in 1985). Ms. Hale was one of the first individuals placed in a community-based position.

Did You Know?

On August 24, 1970 Board members discussed the name for the new school being built.

A contest was held and names submitted included: “Serendipity”, “Wood County Community Training Center”, “Wood County Vocational Rehabilitation”, “Wood-Co School”, “School for Understanding and Training” and “Wood Cares”. According to Board minutes, **“none of these names were satisfactory.”**

The minutes then note that Mrs. Bernadine Restle suggested naming the school “Wood Lane.” She explained that the new school would serve children in **Wood** County and the building would

be located on East Gypsy **Lane** Road. Board members unanimously approved her suggestion.

Mrs. Restle and her husband, the late Chuck Restle, were part of the first group of parents that established the school program (known then as the *Retarded Children's School*) in 1955. Their daughter Mary was a student in the first class and continues to receive services through Wood Lane. Mary's sister, Judy Tabor continues to be very involved with our program and serves on the Wood Lane Foundation, Inc. Board.

Construction for the school at 11160 (now 1921) East Gypsy Lane Road began on May 11, 1971.

Apartments Will Honor Nancy Ullum's Commitment to Open Doors in the Community



A new 14 bedroom apartment building will open its doors in 2011. The apartment construction was made possible through a HUD grant. Wood Lane Residential Properties Board will manage the apartment building.

The apartments will have a special meaning for many of us who have been affiliated

with Wood Lane services over the years. They will be named the Nancy Ullum Garden apartments. Nancy passed away in 2005 but the impact she had and still has on Wood Lane services is significant.

Nancy had a positive outlook on life. Her career at Wood Lane began in 1976. For over 29 years, her passion and respect for individuals with developmental disabilities inspired countless staff to provide nothing but the best for individuals.

A Landscaped Courtyard Needs Your Help to Grow!

We want to honor Nancy's legacy in a way that reminds us of the growth that she fostered in the lives of residents, families, staff, and friends.

A courtyard is being built as a tribute to Nancy. We need your help to complete the landscaping in the spring.

A number of fund raising projects are underway. One includes an opportunity for donors to designate their gift and sponsor an item in the courtyard or item in the garden. Information on these projects are posted at www.wlrs.org.

For more information, contact Debbie Leibig at (419) 353-9577 or dleibig@wlrs.org

Community Employment, *cont'd from page 1*

The evening's festivities also included comedian Josh Blue who entertained the crowd. Blue is a nationally known comedian who happens to have a disability.

In 2006, he was a winner of the popular "Last Comic Standing" competition.

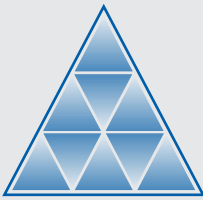


Wood Lane Industries Board President John Fawcett accepts a proclamation from Wood County Commissioners James Carter and Tim Brown.

Wood County Board of DD
1921 East Gypsy Lane Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Melanie Stretchbery
Superintendent

Board Members

*Tim Harris, Joe Catalano,
Hugh Caumartin, Cindy Herman,
Shirley McFee, David Miller,
and Pamela VanMooy*
www.woodlane.us



WOOD LANE

*Providing A Spectrum of
Services to
Individuals and Families*

Our Mission

*Ensure the availability of
programs, services and supports
that assist in the choice and
achievement of a life of
increased capability;*

*Ensure the absolute right to live,
work and participate in the
community through programs
and services that facilitate and
maximize development;*

Assist and support families;

*Participate in community
activities that will help educate
and foster understanding and
acceptance of persons with
developmental disabilities.*

We invite you to attend a **Public Forum** on **December 9** to provide comments and feedback on the proposed 2011 Annual Action Plan. The annual meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Wood Lane School Gymnasium.

Melanie Stretchbery, Superintendent will share highlights of the plan. She will also discuss her plans to hold forums for families and care providers in 2011.

Staff have spent a great deal of time to identify goals and welcome feedback and suggestions.

Respite care will be available.

Anyone who would like to review the document before December 9 can contact Donna Beam, Director of Operations at (419) 352-5115 or (800) 356-3218.

2010

December 23

Winter Break - EI and WLS

CLOSED

December 24 – 31

Winter Break - EI, WLS, and WLI

CLOSED

2011

January 3 - EI, WLS, and WLI Open

January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

EI, WLS, and WLI **CLOSED**

February 21

Presidents' Day

EI, WLS, and WLI **CLOSED**