



Blanchard Valley Center

Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

2021 Annual Report



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT



Kelli Grisham

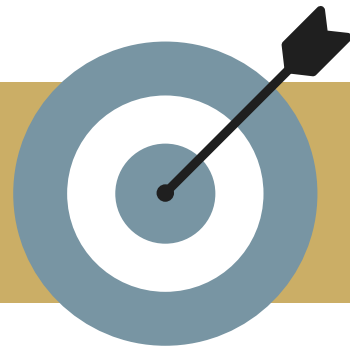
Wow, what a year! **2021 was a year for dedication, determination, and resiliency on all fronts here at Blanchard Valley Center** - from our providers who have endured staff shortages while working on the front lines to the people and the families we support who have faced struggles of their own.

But, as usual, the staff at BVC worked tirelessly to ensure people's needs were met. Each day we were faced with tribulations, but each and every time we rose to the occasion with a spirit and compassion second to none. **Why? Because that's who we are.**

Despite the fact that our community and our nation is worn down and weary from the pandemic and its aftermath, that didn't stop BVC from having one of our best years yet.

These are just a few of our accomplishments from 2021:

- We received our accreditation review from the Ohio Department of Development Disabilities and obtained our second consecutive three-year accreditation – the highest award given to county boards of developmental disabilities.
- BVC launched Project Life at our school. Project Life is a program that prepares transition-age students for life after graduation.
- BVC won "Best of Show" in the annual Findlay Halloween Parade for the fourth consecutive year.
- Chris Clapper was selected to represent the state of Ohio in the Special Olympics USA Games in Florida.
- Dustin Sullivan and Nick Longo have created a podcast called "Hello Hancock!" which has over 40 episodes.
- Governor DeWine appointed Molly Dible and Matthew LaFontaine to serve on the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.



OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

Blanchard Valley Center provides resources and supports that empower people with developmental disabilities to live lives with meaning and purpose.

The Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities, locally known as Blanchard Valley Center, is the first point of contact for providing cradle-to-grave supports to people with developmental disabilities in Hancock County.

BLANCHARD VALLEY CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

780

TOTAL NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
SUPPORTED BY BVC

492

TOTAL NUMBER
OF CALLS FOR
ON-CALL

183

TOTAL NUMBER
OF MAJOR
UNUSUAL INCIDENT
INVESTIGATIONS

62

NUMBER OF STAFF

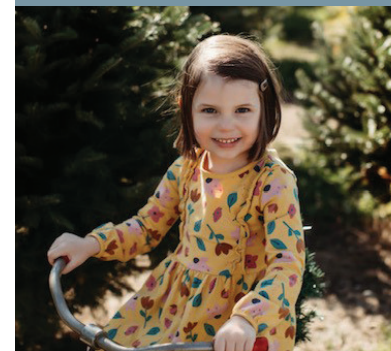
15

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Organizations benefited includes Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Help Me Grow Home Visiting, Flag City Balloonfest, City Mission, and Coats for Christmas

PROUD PARTNERS

Kiwanis, Morning Rotary, Exchange Club, Findlay Service League, Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Altrusa, Findlay Town & Campus



SPOTLIGHT: HOPE SMITH

Hope Smith was introduced to Early Intervention at an absolute pivotal point in her development. Hope was delayed in speech and other fine and gross motor skills. Her family was new to Ohio and struggled finding help and resources. Once they were connected with Early Intervention, their lives changed for the better. Hope learned not only so many skills in a variety of areas but the family was given tools and resources to help Hope thrive. Hope continues to make amazing progress and strides as she finished her second year in preschool. The family is grateful for the Early Intervention team and all they have done to set Hope up to be the absolute best she can be.

Your Hancock DD Roadmap to Services



Early Intervention

- Helps children from birth through age 2 meet developmental milestones.
- 178 families currently receive services.



Blanchard Valley School

- Meets the developmental needs of children, ages 3-5, with a creative curriculum in our Step Up to Quality, 5-Star pre-school.
- Offers specially designed instruction based on the individual learning needs for students, ages 6-22.
- Provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy for students. Most receive more than one service.



Services & Support Administration (SSA)

- Provides person-centered supports to people, age 3 and older, by identifying goals, needs, and resources.
- Over 650 people in Hancock County have an SSA.



Transition Services

- Works with students, ages 14-22.
- Connects them with resources to prepare for life after graduation, including employment and independent living.



Special Olympics

- Offers 11 sports to 180 athletes, ages 8 and older even if they do not receive BVC services.



Community Recreation

- Helps people 18 and older participate in community activities.
- Operating on local dollars, Community Recreation provides more than 110 activities each year.



Providers

- More than 80 agency and independent providers support people in both the home and at work.
- Blanchard Valley Center supports these local providers with \$2.5 million annually for these services.

Approximately \$6.2 million in local taxes are spent on children and adults with developmental disabilities in your community.

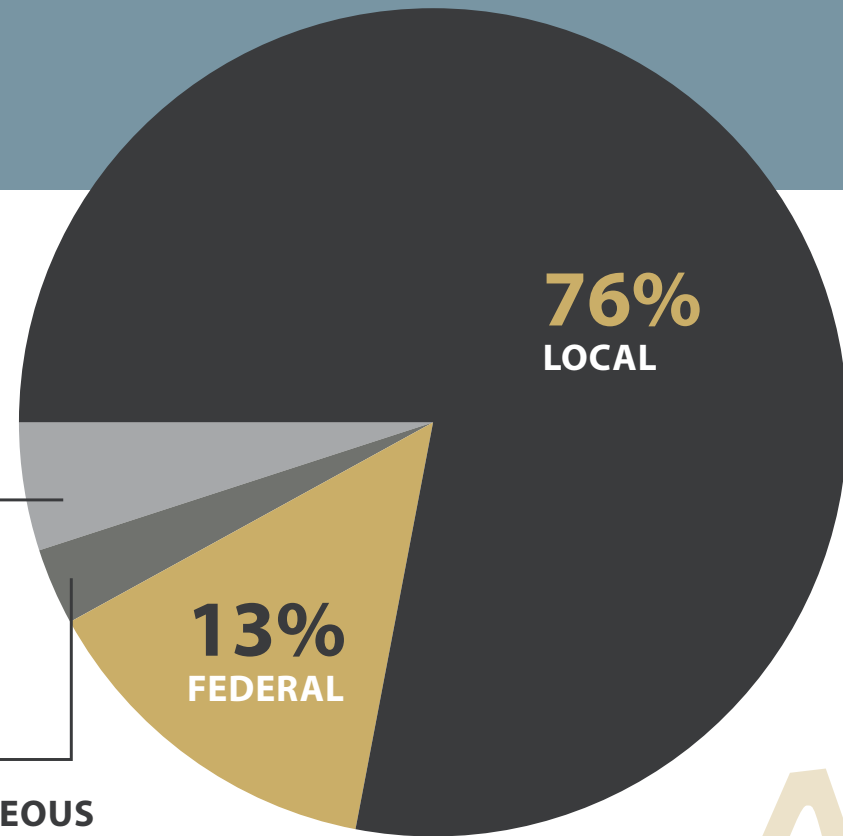


2021 REVENUE

In 2021, \$2.5 million was paid to providers working directly with people in Hancock County with developmental disabilities.

In addition, \$6.2 million was spent on children and adults in Hancock County with developmental disabilities.

8%
STATE
3%
MISCELLANEOUS



2022 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

ENSURE THE **SUSTAINABILITY** OF THE **COUNTY BOARD**

- Staff Retention
- Increase Technology Use
- Capital Improvements
- Budget
- Quality Assurance

STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Provider Support & Engagement
- Evaluate Current Programs for Gaps & Necessity
- Expand & Develop Transition Services
- Self-Advocacy
- Increase Number of Working Age Individuals Community Employed
- Expand connections with law enforcement and training for investigations

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- Ensure stakeholders are knowledgeable and engaged
- Increase community presence

SPOTLIGHT: **KEEGAN BAER**

Keegan Baer is a student in Blanchard Valley School's transition classroom. In the four years he has been a student at BVS, Keegan's parents and the school staff have seen him blossom and grow - physically, emotionally and intellectually. When he first came to school, Keegan preferred to spend his time alone. Through building a trusting relationship with his teacher and other staff members, Keegan chooses to spend most of his day in the company of his peers. He actively participates in classroom lessons and activities. He has formed friendships with his peers and can be found participating in group activities with them in the gym and in the classroom. He particularly enjoys the cooking activities that are designed to increase his independence and self-help skills. We are proud of Keegan and his accomplishments!



SPOTLIGHT: **CATHERINE TRIPP**

Catherine Tripp has goals for her life and works hard to achieve them. She has worked her way up in her employment at Walmart and is now working full-time. She offers to pick up extra hours and moves her schedule around when possible, to assist in the understaffing. Catherine is a strong advocate for herself and has some great supports to back her up with tough decisions. Her support system presents all sides of the decision to her but ultimately, Catherine advocates for herself and makes the best choice for her life. Catherine realized she was not happy in her living situation and after looking at several places to live, Catherine took it upon herself to purchase her own home. She saved money for a down payment and worked closely with her dad to find the perfect place for herself that would not need a lot of work. Catherine has furnished the home and made it her own. Watching Catherine grow over the last year and feel confident in her independence has been amazing!





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Findlay, OH 45840

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dennis Doolittle,
President



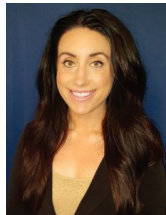
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"Buzz" Dyer**



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Laura Matusoff



Becky Greeno