



**Blanchard
Valley Center**
*Hancock County Board of
Developmental Disabilities*

2020 Annual Report



Kelli Grisham

A Message from Our Superintendent...

Yes, we can all agree that 2020 was a rough year. With that said, we still have a lot to be grateful for at Blanchard Valley Center. *We are fortunate to live in a community that cares deeply about individuals with developmental disabilities.* We have a business community that welcomes the individuals we support as employees. Those same individuals return the goodwill with community service projects and being active contributors to Hancock County. We also are blessed with loving parents and dedicated caregivers.

At Blanchard Valley Center, I am surrounded by incredibly devoted employees whose first concern is always the people they support. If you want proof, let me tell you that despite the pandemic, despite the restrictions, and despite lockdowns all around us, Blanchard Valley Center provided services to the individuals we support all 365 days of 2020. *We did not miss a day of service. And, we did so without complaint and with a steadfast dedication to our profession.*

I have worked in the developmental disabilities field for many years, and I have never seen a more dedicated group of employees than those at Blanchard Valley Center. I am proud to be their superintendent and proud of all the work they do, day in and day out, to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Here's hoping for a better 2021.

Blanchard Valley Center by the Numbers



757

Total Number of People Supported by BVC



370

Total Number of Calls for On-Call



63

Number of Staff



173

Total Number of Major Unusual Incident Investigations



13

Number of Volunteer Opportunities

Organizations benefited included Hope House, FCFC Summer Lunch Program, HHWP CAC, City Mission, Chopin Hall, Hancock County Veteran's Services, and Center for Safe & Healthy Children



PROUD PARTNERS

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



SKYLER SCHROEN

Skyler Schroen graduated from Blanchard Valley School in 2020. As she entered adulthood, Skyler began attending Not an Ordinary Place, a provider agency, to gain skills to lead a life of independence. By attending this day program, she is able to engage socially, increasing her communication with family and friends. She enjoys group activities and being a leader. Skyler has volunteered with many projects and enjoys helping others. A healthy lifestyle is important for all of us but Skyler is taking her health seriously and has increased her distance and stamina in walking. The pandemic wore on many people but staying socially and physically active has been a focal point for Skyler to remain successful.



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.

Your Hancock DD Roadmap to Services



Early Intervention

- Helps children from birth through age 2 meet developmental milestones.
- 115 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.
- More than 600 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 10 sports to 175 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 131 activities each year.



Providers

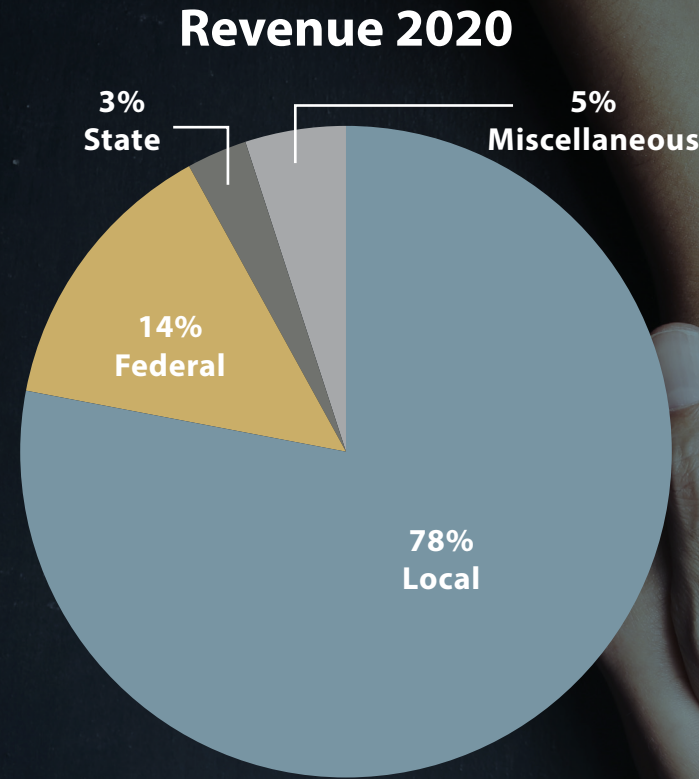
- More than 60 agency and independent providers support people in both the home and at work.
- Blanchard Valley Center supports these local providers with \$2.3 million annually for these services.

Approximately \$5.4 million in local taxes are spent on children and adults with developmental disabilities in your community.



CLARA RIDER

Clara Rider's parents suspected there were concerns with their baby girl at the young age of 5 months. They had concerns about her vision and gross motor skills. She wasn't focusing, and seemed to lack muscle tone. The parents instincts were good. Soon after being enrolled in the Blanchard Valley Center Early Intervention program, Clara was diagnosed with MEF2C haploinsufficiency syndrome, a rare, chromosomal disorder. There have been only 60 such diagnosed cases in the United States. As Clara neared her first birthday, Blanchard Valley Center Early Intervention Specialist Keely Wymer said the little girl has made significant strides, in large part because of her supportive family. "When we had our first meeting, it was with Clara's parents and both sets of grandparents," Keely said. "Everyone in the family is on board with what we need to do for Clara. The family has been such a huge support for Clara."



- **In 2020, \$2.3 million was paid to providers working directly with people in Hancock County with developmental disabilities.**
- **In addition, \$5.4 million was spent on children and adults in Hancock County with developmental disabilities.**

2020 Strategic Plan Goals:

Strengthen and Develop Programs & Services

- **Provider Support & Engagement**
- **Evaluate Current Programs for Gaps & Necessity**
- **Expand & Develop Transition Services**
- **Self-Advocacy**

Ensure the Sustainability of the County Board

- **Continue to Balance the Budget**
- **Staff Retention**

Strengthen Collaboration of all Stakeholders

- **Ensure Stakeholders are Knowledgeable & Engaged**
- **Increase Community Presence**



MATTHEW LAFONTAINE

Matthew LaFontaine has grown so much in 2020. He joined Toastmasters in January 2020 to improve his speaking skills. He was admittedly timid at first. However, he has since developed both skills and confidence and grown into a fine speaker and leader when participating in group sessions. He presented a speech called 'I am Able' as an icebreaker. He spoke about his life, his family and his disability. After his speech, he felt so confident that he signed up to complete another speech, and another. He also presented to University of Findlay's S.T.R.I.D.E. group (Students Teaching Respect for Individuals with Disabilities Everyday). Matthew shared what it was like to have a disability, how his disability affects him, but also how he is able to get past that and excel in what he does. Matthew is employed at Kroger and is an avid advocate for people with DD.



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2020 Board of Directors



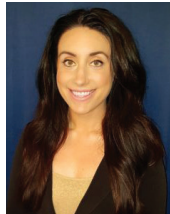
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