



STARLIGHT

FEBRUARY
2023

Devin Gallegos' Print Selected for Statewide Art Exhibit



Artist Devin Gallegos recently had a piece of artwork selected for the annual Art & Soul Ohio exhibit at the Dayton Metropolitan Library. His art is one of 45 pieces selected.

The Art & Soul Ohio art show features work by artists with disabilities from around the state.

Devin, who receives supports from the Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities/ Blanchard Valley Center, is an accomplished artist. The image he created for the show is titled, "Vintage Locomotive." It was created with a pen, marker and sketching pencils.

The exhibit is on display at the library April 1-30. The awards show is set for April 22, 1-3 p.m., in the Eichelberger Forum at the library. A total of 15 awards will be given to winners chosen by the panel of judges.

Should he win one of the cash prizes, Devin said he plans to save some of the money and use the rest to buy additional art supplies.

The awards ceremony is free to the public. Reserve your spot by visiting the Art & Soul website at: Art & Soul | Celebrating Artists with Developmental Disabilities (artandsoulohio.com)

Congratulations and good luck, Devin.

DATES TO REMEMBER | VISIT WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

February 4-5
**S.O. Basketball Northwest
Regional Tournament
@ Van Buren**

February 8 - 10am
Provider Council

February 12
**S.O. Basketball Northwest
Regional Tournament
@ BGSU**

February 20
President's Day - BVC Closed

February 27 - 4:30pm
Game Night @ Stevi B's
February 27 - 5:30pm
Board Meeting

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Blanchard Valley Center Rocks it 365 Days a Year



At Blanchard Valley Center, we are kicking off 2023 with a comprehensive review of our strategic plan goals and working hard to bring our mission to life every day. Not just when it's convenient for us or when we feel like it, but for all 365 days of this year.

Let me ask you this: What do you think of when you hear this phrase?

Providing resources and supports that empower people with developmental disabilities to live lives with meaning and purpose.

That is our mission. And to me, those words mean working with the people we support to know and understand their needs and goals, which enable them to live a fulfilling life. By identifying the goals of the individuals we support, our team is able to break down any barriers that stand in the way. In turn, people with disabilities can live a life with purpose.

And, after all, isn't that what we all want out of life?

I am often asked, "What does a county board of developmental disabilities do, exactly?" I usually want to

answer them with another question: "How much time do you have to listen to the answer?"

When you're an agency providing supports from birth through the end of life, you pretty much do it all. Within our organization, we:

- Determine eligibility for services and supports;
- Coordinate services to help people gain independence;
- Empower people to reach their potential;
- Advocate for people's rights to live, learn, work and play in their community;
- Provide support for providers and families; and
- Everything in between.

While our work never ends, it is absolutely a mission of love. We feel privileged to have a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Not just when it's convenient for us or when we feel like it, but for all 365 days in a year.

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent



Special Olympics Cheerleaders Team Up with Local High Schools

The Hancock County Special Olympics competitive cheer squad recently teamed up with the Findlay High School cheer squad to learn a few new routines and hone their skills. The Special Olympics squad built their confidence by performing with the Trojan cheerleaders before a large crowd at a basketball game. The Carey High School cheerleaders also invited the Special Olympics cheer squad to join them at a halftime performance for another confidence boosting opportunity.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Hudson Schetter

BVC provides resources and supports that empower people with DD to live lives with meaning and purpose.



Blanchard Valley Center
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Emergency Number**
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