



# STARLIGHT

MARCH  
2023

## Blanchard Valley Center Set to Rock National DD Awareness Month

Blanchard Valley Center is hosting a variety of events in March to celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

“This is the month that we host and toast the individuals we support,” said BVC Superintendent Kelli Grisham.

“Of course, we take great pride in supporting people with disabilities 12 months a year, but March is a time when we highlight their accomplishments and tip our hats to our BVC staff for the amazing work they do every day.”

The activities surrounding National DD Awareness Month include:

- March 2 – The Hancock County Commissioners will issue a proclamation at 9:30 a.m. at the county building.
- March 7 – The City of Findlay will issue a proclamation at 6 p.m. at city hall.
- March 13-17 has been designated as Spirit Week. It's wear Red, White and Blue Monday; Pajama Tuesday, Positive Message Wednesday; Support

Special Olympics Thursday; and St. Patrick's Day Green Friday.

- March 28 – Celebrity Basketball Game at Findlay High School. 7 p.m. tipoff. Performance Dogs of Ohio will entertain the crowd with athletic tricks during a halftime show.
- March 29 – An accessibility webinar is scheduled for 1 p.m. at BVC. We are partnering with four other county boards of DD for the event.
- More than 25 Hancock County school classes have scheduled individuals receiving supports from BVC as guest readers.
- BVC has provided several Hancock County coffee shops with heat sleeves that feature our logo and promote inclusion.
- Pop-up popcorn stands are scheduled at local businesses and organizations. This is a way to connect with the community, answer questions and share information on the various supports and programs that BVC offers.

### SPIRIT WEEK

**MONDAY 3/13/23**  
**USA Day**  
 Wear Red, White, & Blue

**TUESDAY 3/14/23**  
**Make Everyone Comfortable Day**  
 Wear Pajamas

**WEDNESDAY 3/15/23**  
**Send a Positive Message Day**  
 Wear Clothes with a Positive Message or Bright Colors

**THURSDAY 3/16/23**  
**Support Special Olympics Day**  
 Wear Athletic Gear

**FRIDAY 3/17/23**  
**Lucky to Have a Friend Like You Day**  
 Wear Green

**Inclusion Starts with ME!**

Blanchard Valley Center  
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**Pop-up popcorn stand**  
We bring the snack to you for your team & customers to enjoy. Schedule today! nweininger@blanchardvalley.org

Blanchard Valley Center  
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Celebrity Basketball Game

LOCAL CELEBRITIES & SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES TEAM UP TO PROMOTE INCLUSION IN HANCOCK COUNTY

FINDLAY HIGH SCHOOL      FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

MARCH 28, 2023  
7 PM

DATES TO REMEMBER | VISIT [WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG](http://WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS

March 4-5  
**State Games at BGSU**

March 27 – 5:30pm  
**Board Meeting**

March 28 – 7pm  
**Celebrity Basketball Game at Findlay High School**

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

## Time to Say Goodbye to Winter and Welcome in DD Awareness Month



I love March because you can see daffodils popping up and there's finally light at the end of the winter tunnel.

This March is the 37th annual National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, having been designated as such in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. I often think of the changes that have been made in the ways we provide support to people with disabilities over that time.

They are far too numerous to mention in this column, but the most obvious change is the way we now value and include people with disabilities into our society.

The traditional sheltered workshop model is becoming a thing of the past. Today, we look for ways to employ people with disabilities in our community and not segregate them in cloistered pods. Group homes are going away in favor of independent living.

It's important to remember that people with disabilities want the same things in life as the rest of us – relationships, money in their pockets, steady employment and a secure place to live. March is the month we designate to reinforce that with all of us.

Along that line, remember to come out to Findlay High School on March 28 for the annual Celebrity Basketball Game. It's a great way to show your support for an inclusive community.

Check out our recently redesigned website at [www.blanchardvalley.org](http://www.blanchardvalley.org). Many thanks to AR Marketing of Findlay for its great work in making this happen.

Best of luck to our Hancock County Special Olympics basketball team and swimmers as they head to the state championships at Bowling Green State University. We're so proud of you and will be rooting you on!

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH



James Woods

University of Findlay

WILLIAM G. '67, BETTE, & MARK  
HEIDLEBAUGH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

## Scholarship Opportunity

For students who are seeking an Intervention Specialist Licensure in the College of Education, or majoring in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, or Social Work in the College of Health Professions.

Interested students should contact the University of Findlay Financial Aid office for additional criteria and steps for applying.

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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**Service & Support  
Emergency Number**  
419-722-9262

