



# STARLIGHT

DECEMBER  
2023

## Our Ambassadors Deliver 24-7 on Behalf of BVC



The Ambassadors, from left: Russ Teegardin, Cari Taylor and Cory St. Myers; Back, from left: Shane Fredritz, Cheryl Strohm, Nathan Wonsetler and Alicia Parker

As expected, 2023 was a year of change. But more importantly, it was a year of progress.

Much of that progress was a direct result of the tireless efforts of our Blanchard Valley Center Ambassadors. Blanchard Valley Center welcomed new faces to the Ambassadors group in 2023 – Russ Teegardin and Alicia Parker. With that, they took on new projects, including helping with the Halloween parade float. The Ambassadors took on the role of preparing the annual all-staff in-service and initiated a mentoring role for new employees.

BVC wouldn't be the amazing agency it is without the continued efforts of the Ambassadors. Thank you for all you do.

"I'm appreciative of all of our employees and their hard work day in and day out," said BVC Superintendent Kelli Grisham. "Another year has come and gone, and we're ready to take on the challenges of 2024."



## Wreath Fundraiser an Amazing Success

We sold an amazing 235 wreaths for the annual Special Olympics fundraiser.

The money earned from the fundraiser will be used to purchase new uniforms for the basketball teams.

And, as long as we're talking about basketball...Did you know that all Hancock County Special Olympics basketball games are admission free and open to the public?

To see the schedule of home games for our Special Olympics basketball teams, visit our website and click on the "BVC Happenings" tab.

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

December 2 – 10am  
**Coffee & Games**

December 5 – 6pm  
**Special Olympics Basketball  
Game vs. Allen County**

December 6 – 1pm  
**Provider Meeting**

December 6 – 5pm  
**Cardio Drumming**

December 11 – 6pm  
**Special Olympics Basketball  
Game vs. Hardin County**

December 14 – 5:30pm  
**Sensory Santa**

## Burgoon, Christmas and Wreaths! I Love My Job at Blanchard Valley



First things first. Is this not the most adorable child in the long and storied history of adorable children? Every Christmas I post a photo of me with my granddaughter, Collins – but who I call Burgoon. She’s in preschool and I can’t believe she’s already four-years-old. Slow down, little girl. I’ll be looking at Burgoon’s Christmas list and getting started shopping. It’ll take a while, because I’m getting her everything she wants. Everything! No matter how many times my daughter tells me to tap the brakes, my only granddaughter shall not be denied.

We had another successful wreath sale as a fundraiser for Hancock County Special Olympics. This year, we sold 235 wreaths, eclipsing last year’s mark of 206. I am constantly amazed at the support the individuals we support receive in this amazing community.

We’re looking forward to 2024. We have new initiatives and events being planned, and we can’t wait to share them with everyone. There is more we want to accomplish, but the key areas of focus include increasing remote and assistive technology supports, community employment, and provider recruitment.

Our mission is to provide resources and supports that empower people with developmental disabilities to live lives with meaning and purpose. We take pride in going above and beyond that call of duty. Our team always looks for new and innovative ways to ensure a high level of support, even if it means getting creative in the delivery.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who helped make 2023 a great year at Blanchard Valley Center. I am blessed to have this job. I work with incredible people in an incredible community. Thanks for all you do to make my job the best on the planet, and for helping to support people with developmental disabilities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

*Kelli Grisham*

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent



### Our Bell Ringers

Our Salvation Army bell ringers will be at the Findlay Hobby Lobby on Dec. 4 and 5, from 10am to 8pm. Stop by and say hello while our Blanchard Valley Center volunteers ring bells for a very worthy organization.

Blanchard Valley Center  
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Coffee & GAMES

328 S. Main St. Findlay, Ohio 45840

**MEET AT COFFEE AMICI!**  
**COME WARM UP WITH A HOT BEVERAGE AND A BOARD GAME!**  
**BRING YOUR OWN GAME OR ENJOY ONE THAT IS AVAILABLE.**

Saturday  
December 2nd  
10am-11:30am

Questions?  
Danielle Fisher  
419-422-6387  
ext.1010

**JOIN THE FUN!**

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

1700 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH 45840  
blanchardvalley.org | 419-422-6387

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

