



STARLIGHT

NOVEMBER
2023

BVC Again Captures Best of Show in Annual Halloween Parade



Read about our Best of Show performance in the Findlay Halloween Parade in Kelli's column on page 2.

BVC Hosts Brunch for Disability Employment Awareness



Blanchard Valley Center hosted a brunch Oct. 30 to honor the individuals we support who work in the community.

The brunch was held in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The working individuals were encouraged to invite their employers, whether it was their direct supervisor or the CEO, to help recognize employers for embracing diversity in their workplaces.



More than 100 individuals with developmental disabilities are employed in our Hancock County community. About 50 people attended the brunch.

Nicole Gunka, director of community supports, and advocate Jennifer Dietrich thanked the attendees for their continued contributions toward diverse workplaces.

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

November 1 - 1pm
Provider Meeting

November 1 - 5pm
Cardio Drumming

November 10
**Veteran's Day Observed
BVC Closed**

November 23-24
**Thanksgiving
BVC Closed**

November 27 - 5:30pm
Board Meeting

Building Our Halloween Float is a Special Tradition



I'm proud and I'm humbled. And in all honesty, I'm giddy with delight.

Once again, Blanchard Valley Center

earned the Best of Show Award at the 2023 Cops & Kids Findlay Halloween Parade, presented Oct. 24 by Loan Depot and hosted by Fort Findlay F.O.P. Lodge No. 20.

To put a little extra icing on an already delicious cake, we also won the People's Choice Award. This was awarded by receiving the most "likes" on the photos from each parade entry on the FOP Facebook page.

As many of you know, participating in the annual Halloween parade has been an ongoing tradition at Blanchard Valley Center for years.

We have created such memorable floats as Alice in Wonderland, Under the Sea, and the Wizard of Oz. This year's float, Toy Story, was the fifth Best of Show Award that BVC has won in the parade.

We love bringing nostalgia to the adults, and the kids are overjoyed with the characters. Each member of our team was dressed as a Toy Story character. (Little Bo Peep was particularly fetching.) The talent that is poured into our floats, year after year, always impresses me. I've never worked with a more talented team.

It brings us so much joy to bring this excitement to the parade. Kids and adults look forward to seeing what theme we're going to come up with each year. Well, that and the candy.

If you missed our float, or would simply like to revisit the excitement, visit our Facebook page and check out the videos. It's amazing.

It's difficult to believe that we're heading into the holiday season. It's been another year of setting goals and meeting them. Our team has been ambitious with finding gaps in our service, both internally and externally, and finding the best solutions to address them.

We take pride in creating a safe and welcoming atmosphere as individuals and families find their way at Blanchard Valley Center. We understand how overwhelming the process and introduction to the field of developmental disabilities can be, and we try to alleviate that stress by coaching the people we encounter each step of the way.

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

CONTINUED "BRUNCH FOR DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS"

Business representatives included restaurant operator Paul Hadde of Chick fil A, Stephanie Parsons, CEO of the Findlay YMCA, and Mary Kay Dunne, manager of Kohls.

"We appreciate the time people took out of their busy schedules to enjoy brunch and network with others," said Blanchard Valley Center Superintendent Kelli Grisham. "We are fortunate to live in a community that is so supportive of people with developmental disabilities."

Hancock County Special Olympics

Is taking orders for **Live Christmas Wreaths!**

All orders **WITH PAYMENT** must be submitted by: **Wednesday, November 16th**.



All wreaths have an 18" outside diameter

Wreaths include Mixed Live Greens, Pinecones, and a Bow of your choice.

All Wreaths are **\$27.00 each**.

Thank you for your continued support of Hancock County Special Olympics!

Wreaths will be delivered to BVC on Friday December 1

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

