



STARLIGHT

JANUARY
2023

S.O. Cheerleaders Teaming with FHS Squad



Our Special Olympics cheerleaders will be cheering alongside Findlay High School cheerleaders Jan. 17 during halftime at the Trojans boys' basketball game against St. John's Jesuit High School.

The two cheering squads have been practicing together for several weeks and forming friendships along the way.

The game starts at 7:30 pm. Come out to support the Trojans basketball team and all the cheerleaders.

He's a "Matt" About Town

It's been a busy month for Matthew LaFontaine. Matthew recently spoke with a Cub Scout troop. He discussed invisible disabilities and what it is like to have a disability. Matthew also served as the ball boy for a University of Findlay basketball game, doing a great job. Congratulations, Matthew.



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

January 2
New Year's Day Observed
BVC Closed

January 12 - 6pm
Home S.O. Basketball
vs. Seneca Co. BVC Gym

January 16
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
BVC Closed

January 18 - 10am
Provider Training

January 26 - 6pm
Home S.O. Basketball
vs. Wood Co. @ BVC Gym

January 30 - 4:30pm
Game Night @ Stevi B's

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Ambassadors Bring Positive Change to BVC



The Blanchard Valley Center Ambassadors is a group that meets monthly to discuss our operations and how we can continually evolve and change for the positive. Staff are encouraged to bring problems or suggestions to an Ambassador for the team to discuss and create a positive culture within the organization.

This is one way we promote input from our staff.

Over the past few years, the Ambassadors have facilitated positive changes at BVC. Those changes include decisions regarding preferred parking, issues in the break room, onboarding, communication with supervisors, refining work-from-home logistics, updates to BVC Bucks, and of course, the plethora of challenges regarding daily work life.

The influence of the Ambassadors has helped improve and clarify the way BVC operates. As with any year at BVC, we expect 2023 to bring more changes and opportunities for progress. We are committed to doing our best and keeping BVC an agency that makes Hancock County proud.

In closing, happy New Year to all of our excellent staff at Blanchard Valley Center, the individuals we support, and our extremely supportive community. I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2023.

Kelli Grisham

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent



Shown in the photo our Ambassadors are, from left, Nathan Wonsetler, Cheryl Strohm, Cari Taylor, Kelli Grisham, Cory St. Myers and Leatrice Depp. Not pictured: Shane Fredritz.

Celebrity Basketball Game Slated for March

While we've all been busy preparing for the holidays, March is just around the corner and here at Blanchard Valley Center we've been preparing for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and our annual Celebrity Basketball Game.

I know March seems far off, but it will be here before you know it. That's why we're preparing now. If you are a local celebrity – Come on, don't be modest! - or know a celebrity who may be interested in playing in the 2023 Celebrity Basketball Game, please reach out to Nadine Weinger at nweinger@blanchardvalley.org or call 419-422-6387.

This is a great opportunity to get out in the community and play a little hoops with our Special Olympians.

The game is scheduled for March 28. Like last year, the game will be placed at Findlay High School.

Mark your calendars and save the date.

BVC Volunteers Ring the Bell

Representatives from Blanchard Valley Center rang the bell for the Salvation Army in December, and with outstanding results. Over two-day period, Blanchard Valley rang the bell for 20 hours and collected \$1,242.63. This annual tradition is one of our favorites. We enjoy contributing back to the community and seeing so many smiling faces.



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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blanchardvalley.org | 419-422-6387

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

