



STARLIGHT

MARCH
2024

BVC Hosting a Full Slate for DD Awareness Month

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and at Blanchard Valley Center, we are hosting a number of activities so that everyone in our Hancock County community can help us celebrate.

“March is our gateway month,” said Blanchard Valley Center Superintendent Kelli Grisham. “It’s the gateway to spring, and the gateway to providing people with developmental disabilities the recognition they deserve. We are fortunate that we have an inclusive society in Hancock County. I’m grateful for the acceptance and the opportunities that are provided to the people we support. March is the month when we recognize the greater DD community, which includes my staff, our dedicated providers and the businesses that employ people with DD.”

The Hancock County activities in March include:

- March 5 – Findlay City Council will issue a proclamation at 6 p.m. at city hall.
- March 7 – The Hancock County Commissioners will issue a proclamation at 9:30 a.m. at the county building.
- March 7 – Aktion Club is hosting a hot

dog drive-thru fundraiser. Orders are due March 1. See the ad on page 2.

- March 11 – Advocacy Day at the Ohio State House. Hancock County advocates will visit with legislators to discuss important issues impacting the DD community.
- March 11-15 – Spirit Week. We hope businesses and schools join us to show their support for inclusion. Spirit Week events are: Neon Monday, Y2K Tuesday, Celebrity Wednesday, Rock & Roll Thursday, and Disney Friday.
- March 26 – Celebrity Basketball Game. Our Special Olympic basketball players will take on local celebrities at 7 p.m. at Findlay High School. The halftime show will feature an escape artist act.
- The people we support will be reading in elementary schools throughout the county. Our guest readers will visit more than 20 K-2 classes in Hancock County to read *Who’s New at Lou’s Zoo* by JoAnn Dickinson.
- Pop-up popcorn stands are scheduled with local businesses around Findlay for their staff and guests to enjoy. A display board will be up at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library from March 1-15.



Celebrity Basketball Game

Community Event to Celebrate Inclusion in Hancock County

March 26, 2024 - 7pm
Findlay High School



March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

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

March 6 – 1pm
Provider Meeting
March 25 – 5:30pm
Board Meeting

March 26 – 7pm
Celebrity Basketball Game at Findlay High School

March 29
Program Closing BVC Closed

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

BVC is on the Ballot with a Renewal Levy



Election day is March 19. I encourage you to read up on your candidates and issues before casting your ballot.

The Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Blanchard Valley Center is on the ballot with the renewal of a 5-year, 2.5 mill levy that generates approximately \$4.4 million annually. Because it is a renewal, it will not increase taxes. This is one of two levies that make up roughly 75-percent of our revenue.

Because of the great support BVC receives from the community, we have not had to ask for new money since 2005 – nearly two decades. In 2023, about \$6.8 million in local taxes were spent on children and adults with developmental disabilities in Hancock County.

Congratulations to Nicole Bowen, the director of Service & Support at BVC, on being named to the inaugural Great Lakes Guardianship Board. This new board was formed to appoint guardians to individuals deemed incompetent by the court to handle their own affairs in Hancock, Ottawa and Wood counties. This board will help meet a great need. As of September, there were 400 ongoing guardianship cases in Hancock County.



It's DD Awareness Month. We're looking forward to a full slate of activities in March. I hope everyone can attend the Celebrity Basketball Game, as it is one of my favorite events. Everyone has a good time and it exemplifies what inclusion looks like – people integrated and supporting one another. I'd like to thank our sponsors – The Keller Team of Key Realty, Premier Bank, Reg & Barb Routson, and State Bank.

Kelli Grisham

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent



Hancock County Wins State Championship

Hancock County Special Olympics Division V Black Team recently won the state championship at the Ohio Indoor Winter Games. Hancock County rolled to a 17-2 halftime lead and coasted to a 32-19 victory. Hancock County swimmers also captured four state titles, led by Trevor Mahler, who won the 50 butterfly and the 100 backstroke. Darren Holleger captured a first in the 25 backstroke and a second in the 25 freestyle. Alex Beasley took gold in the 25 breaststroke and a fifth in the 25 freestyle. Logan Beasley captured third in the 25 freestyle and sixth in the 50 freestyle. Liz Sopher took second in the 25 backstroke.



Aktion Club HOT DOG DRIVE-THRU



March 7th, 11am-1pm
at Blanchard Valley Center
1700 E. Sandusky St. Findlay, Ohio 45840

Aktion Club is a Kiwanis Service Leadership Program that provides adults with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their community.

Accepting Monetary Donations

Meal includes:
Grilled Hotdog,
Chips, Cookie, and
Drink



Pre-order by texting Danielle at 419-722-6818 by March 1st or drive through while supplies last!

All proceeds benefit Aktion Club

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

