



# STARLIGHT

SEPT. 2018  
ISSUE

## BVC Earns 3-Year Accreditation

The Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities, known locally as Blanchard Valley Center, has received a three-year accreditation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, recognizing excellence in service to people with disabilities. The three-year accreditation represents the maximum term state officials can grant to a county board.

"The Board appreciates the efforts of everyone involved in this accreditation," said Board President Charles Hirschy. "However, this is not an end, but a confirmation that we are headed in the right direction. We will use this experience to continue raising the bar of quality care to those we serve."

Reviewers praised BVC's leadership and the organization's overall commitment to improvement and high expectations. They also noted the strength of the county's advocacy program that helps people with disabilities develop leadership skills and the ability to speak out for themselves. As part of the review team's entrance conference, three individuals supported by BVC spoke about what the county board services mean to them.

"I feel blessed to be the leader of an organization with many dedicated people," said Kelli Grisham, who completed her first review as superintendent.

## BVS Preschool Gets Five-Star Rating

Blanchard Valley Preschool has received a Five-Star Step Up to Quality Award from the state of Ohio in recognition of its commitment to quality and an ongoing dedication to the learning and development of children.

Step Up to Quality is Ohio's rating system for learning and development programs. Five stars is the highest rating possible.

"Blanchard Valley Preschool is proud to be a five-star program," said Linda Schurch,



Director of Educational Services with the Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "We offer creative and engaging approaches to learning through exploration and play for children with and without educational disabilities."

Currently, 40 children are enrolled at Blanchard Valley Preschool. They attend either a morning or an afternoon session, Monday through Thursday.

To learn more about Blanchard Valley Preschool, call 419-422-6387 or go to [www.blanchardvalley.org](http://www.blanchardvalley.org). To learn more about Ohio's Step Up to Quality program, visit [www.earlychildhoodohio.org](http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org).

## Softballers Heading to State



Hancock County recently captured the Special Olympics Softball West Sectionals championship in a double-header at The Cube. Hancock County defeated Crawford County 12-2 and Ashland County 16-12 to advance to the state tournament. The state tournament begins Sept. 15 at Coontz Recreational Complex in Oregon, Ohio. Congratulations and good luck!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

September 15 - 9am  
**S.O. State Softball Tournament**

September 15 - 1-4pm  
**FallFest**

September 19 - 11am-1pm  
**Provider Luncheon**

September 21 - time TBD  
**Grandparents Breakfast**

September 24 - 5:30pm  
**Board Meeting**

September 26 - 4pm  
**Project STIR Reunion**

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

### Meet Kim Darnell



IT Coordinator Kim Darnell recently earned recognition as Employee of the Quarter for her efforts in keeping BVC connected. She has been instrumental in configuring technology for the new offices as well as at Center 322. In addition to her invaluable role at BVC, she also helped an individual fulfill his dream of being a DJ. Thanks for everything you do, Kim!

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

### Meet Domonique Tiell



Student of the Month Domonique Tiell has been part of the Early Intervention program since shortly after his birth in 2016. During that time, he has increased his mobility and communication. This fun little charmer loves traveling with his family. Congratulations, Domonique!

## Notes from the Superintendent...



A busy August is behind us without much hope of slowing down in September.

We wrapped up a review by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and received the maximum three-year accreditation. This is a huge accomplishment, and we couldn't have done it without

the help of the folks we support, their families, their providers and our staff. I am certainly proud of the hard work and dedication by everyone at BVC.

Finally, I want to offer a huge thanks to everyone that worked and supported our booth at the Hancock County Fair. Fairgoers look forward to our free popcorn every year, and it takes a lot of effort to hand out more than 6,000 bags of deliciousness.

Kelli Grisham  
Superintendent

## BVC Moves to New HQ

The former BVI workshop has become the new administration building for Blanchard Valley Center. The location will house all administrative offices, including operations, quality services, and service and support administration. SSAs will have more private office space to meet with individuals. It also has training facilities and conference rooms.

## Cramer Joins Board

Tasha Cramer recently joined the board of the Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She was appointed by the Hancock County commissioners. Cramer, a native of Hancock County, is a human resources manager at Lowe's



Distribution Center, where she has worked with an initiative to hire persons with disabilities. "Tasha's knowledge and experience increases the board's perspective on competitive employment for people with disabilities," said Superintendent Kelli Grisham.

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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