



STARLIGHT

JANUARY
2019 ISSUE

BVC Board Recognizes Mary Walsh

The Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities honored one of its own during the November board meeting. Board member Mary Walsh will be leaving the board at the end of December, having served the maximum number of terms permitted by Ohio law.

In recognizing Mary, Board president Chuck Hirschy noted, "She has a warm heart and is willing to do anything to help those in need. We will miss Mary terribly and wish her well."

Mary has been a Board member since 2005 and is a past secretary. She has served on several committees over the years including, capital improvements & technology committee, personnel committee, programs committee, finance committee, and human rights committee.

A huge supporter of Blanchard Valley Center, Mary can be seen at many BVC events and activities. She also has been

a staunch advocate for those supported by BVC.

Mary has been employed at the First Presbyterian Church nursery school since 2010. She previously worked at the Family Resource Center. Mary lives in Findlay with her husband, John. They have three children.



January Dinner & Dialogue covers new technology

Technology today allows people with disabilities to experience more independence, both at home and in the community. As a Technology First state, Ohio looks to increase the number of people with disabilities using adaptive equipment and technology for daily tasks and provider care.

People with disabilities, their families, guardians, and providers can learn more about this initiative at Blanchard Valley Center's Dinner & Dialogue, set for Wednesday, Jan. 10. The evening begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed

by a discussion about remote supports and assistive technology. Vendors that currently provide this technology will be on hand for demonstrations and to answer questions.

There's still time to reserve your place for this informative Dinner & Dialogue. To learn more about the use of technology to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, contact Cindy Maag at cmaag@blanchardvalley.org for reservations.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 10 - 5:30PM
Dinner & Dialogue

Jan. 11 - 6PM
Sensory Friendly Movie

Jan. 16 - 10AM
Provider/SSA Training

Jan. 21
BVC Closed - MLK Day

Jan. 26 - 12-3PM
WinterFest

Jan. 28 - 5:30PM
Board Meeting

EI program seeks parent mentors

When a child is born with a developmental disability, the parents naturally wonder, "What do we do now?"

One of the first answers is the Early Intervention Program at Blanchard Valley Center. EI increases opportunities for parents of children, birth to age three, by providing supports and resources to help both the child and the family.

Now EI expands those supports with an upcoming parent panel discussion and plans for a parent mentors program. The program kicks off with the panel discussion and networking event in April. EI then hopes to link up parents

of young children with a parent mentor to help them in their journey.

"We are looking for people who would be comfortable sharing your struggles, your joys, and your insights into life with a child with a disability," Tanya Weising-Pike, EI Supervisor, explains. "We need your wisdom, your experience, and your voice."

If you are interested in participating in the panel discussion and becoming a parent mentor, call Tanya at 419-422-8173, or contact your child's SSA.

New presentation tells the BVC story

Ever wonder what Blanchard Valley Center really does? What's an SSA or a provider? And what are those waivers everyone keeps talking about?

We've put answers to those questions and more in a brief presentation scheduled for release in January 2019. This PowerPoint program, covering all aspects of BVC, includes short videos from people supported by the agency. Plus, it is presented by a staff member and one of our advocates who explains BVC from a personal perspective.

This short presentation is ideal for clubs, professional organizations, school or church groups, or any small groups wanting to learn more about the Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

We are now scheduling presentations for January 2019. If you want answers to your questions about BVC or simply want an informative program for your organization, call us at 419-422-6387, ext. 1030.

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

New Year! New Opportunities!



Happy new year! 2019 is here, bringing 365 new opportunities to serve, to discover, and to grow. At BVC, we're excited to see what 2019 has to offer.

You'll be hearing much more from us this year as we focus on telling the BVC story, the people we support, their providers or employers.

Our first Dinner & Dialogue of the year focuses on Ohio's new Technology First initiative. It covers remote supports

and assistive technology, designed for those seeking more independence at home and in the community.

Finally, Special Olympics basketball is in full swing and the team would appreciate your support. Come out and cheer the team on as they compete. The complete schedule of games is listed on the BVC website.

We hope you'll join in the excitement and promise of the new year with us!

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

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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