



STARLIGHT

OCTOBER
2019

Employer Recognition Brunch to be Hosted

Blanchard Valley Center will host its Employer Recognition Brunch on Monday, Oct. 21, from 9:30-11 a.m. at the training center, 1700 E. Sandusky St. in Findlay.

The event is being held in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Guest speakers will be:

- Sherry Markley of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities;
- Sarah Pettit, a sous chef with Mancy's Steakhouse; and
- Matt Reed, and employee at McLane Company.

Anyone interested in attending the brunch is asked to RSVP by Oct. 16 to Nadine Weininger at nweininger@blanchardvalley.org.

Shawn Jefferson Shines at Mancy's Steakhouse

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time when we celebrate the people with disabilities who work in the community and the companies and non-profits that employ them.

One of those individuals is Shawn Jefferson, who receives support from Blanchard Valley Center and works at Mancy's Steakhouse in the Hancock Hotel as a dishwasher and busboy.

Sarah Pettit, a sous chef and one of Shawn's supervisors at Mancy's, said he is a delight to have in the restaurant.

"You couldn't ask for a better employee," Sarah said. "He works hard, has a great personality, and interacts well with his co-workers. And, he's one of the fastest dishwashers we have."

Shawn's Service and Support Administrator, Calista Altenburger, said he has embraced working in the community. "Shawn is very conscientious about his work," Calista said. "When someone like Shawn succeeds in the community, it helps open doors for other people with disabilities."

Sarah said Shawn doesn't let his disability hinder his work ethic. "Shawn is very detail oriented and that shows in his work. I'd take a dozen just like him."



Melanie Williams was recently honored at Blanchard Valley Center for 20 years of loyal service. Melanie handles intake and eligibility at BVC and heads up the Hancock County Special Olympics. Congratulations, Melanie.

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

Every Wednesday – 6-6:30 p.m.
Walk Wednesdays

October 14 – 5 p.m.
Aktion Club Installation Dinner

October 22 – 4:30-6 p.m.
Developmental Screenings

October 28 – 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting

October 29 – 7 p.m.
**Halloween Parade
in downtown Findlay**



STUDENT OF THE MONTH
Savannah Kowalski



PROVIDER OF THE QUARTER
KanDu Group
Mike Chiarelli of the Kan Du Group

Kan Du's Brian Ritter Gets Commissioned for Artwork

Brian Ritter's ability has certainly risen above his disability. He has been recognized as an accomplished artist.

So much so, in fact, that he was recently commissioned to create a painting for GSW Manufacturing in Findlay.

GSW General Manager Annette Edgington asked Brian to create the painting.

Congratulations, Brian.



Artist Brian Ritter and GSW General Manager Annette Edgington admire his artwork.

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT Thanks to Those Who Provide Jobs to Our People



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. One of the best ways for a person with disabilities to engrain themselves in the fabric of a community is through employment. It enables them to earn a check and create relationships, which enhances self-esteem. Thanks to all the area employers who give the people we support these opportunities.

We are consistently trying to increase our presence in the community and Nick Longo recently did that by visiting Coffee Amici to ask trivia questions and hand out Dietsch's chocolates to participants. Nick's a great ambassador of goodwill for our organization.

Congratulations to Chris Clapper for capturing first place in the Special Olympics State Golf Tournament in Cincinnati.

Watch for our floats in the Findlay Halloween Parade on Oct. 29. I'll give you a hint on the theme. It's going to be "Ozmazing."

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

1700 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH 45840
blanchardvalley.org

Administration Number
419-422-6387

Service & Support Emergency Number
419-722-9262