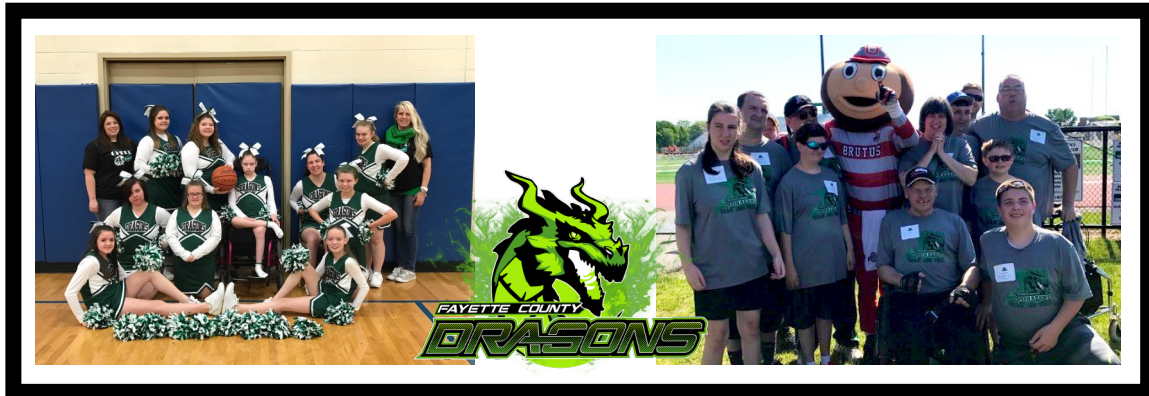


# Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2017 Annual Report



Fayette Co Brd of DD Main Offices  
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**Our Mission:** “We offer quality programs and coordinate available services so that people we serve may realize their dreams and actively contribute to their community.”

[www.fayettetdd.com](http://www.fayettetdd.com)



[facebook.com/fayettecountydd](https://facebook.com/fayettecountydd)

## Welcome to the 2017 Annual Report,

In 2017, Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the tag line of **Always There**. As is true throughout most of the state, the Fayette County Board of DD has been blessed with the support of this wonderful community. In 2017, the passage of the tax levy renewal demonstrated just this. We here at the Board, whether we are receiving services or are providing the service are grateful for this support.

Our Annual Report highlights all of the wonderful services, supports and options that this community has come to expect from the Fayette DD. Our early childhood programs are an essential part of a continuum of service which helps to strengthen skills of our little ones positioning them for a more successful school age experience when the time comes.

The youth and adults participating in Special Olympics, are fortunate to have this community as their #1FANS! The Dragons hold their heads high as they travel around participating in the various sporting events which teach so much. I have often said that you can tell a little about a community by the way they support their Special Olympics programs. Fayette County should be proud.

Like all adults living and working throughout the community, those we serve understand their responsibility and contribution to making Fayette County a great place. We are thankful to our community partners for helping us make this happen with employment and residential support and services so that folks can live their dreams.

There is much more contained in this annual report. Take a few minutes and read about our progress, it was 50 years in the making and the "Founding Families" would be so proud.



Enjoy!

Deb Buccilla



Aquatic Therapy is very beneficial for babies and young children to improving strength, flexibility, body awareness, sensory integration, motor planning, and learning how to move their muscles in new ways. The pool is the perfect environment to learn these skills because it's safe, makes movement easy, and it's fun!

If you have questions about the Aquatic Therapy Program, contact Christie Parker, M.A., ATRIC at [cparker@fayettedd.com](mailto:cparker@fayettedd.com) or call the Preschool at 740-335-1391

# Early Childhood Services

## Early Intervention (EI)

Every day learning opportunities and routines guide how the Early Intervention Team works with children and families to enhance development. These services are provided in the child's natural environment and are centered on the interests, strengths, and priorities of the child and family. Little ones birth-3 can be referred for services in a variety of ways and for reasons including a diagnosed medical condition or a suspected disability or delay. The infants and toddlers are assessed and evaluated for eligibility both to enter the program and as they transition into preschool. The board of DD works collaboratively with many agencies including the school districts. The **88** children served in 2017, first were referred through Help Me Grow of our local Health Department. In 2017 Fayette County Board of DD employed an early intervention team consisting of a developmental specialist, nurse, occupational and speech therapist and contracted physical therapist, to serve children and coach families; building confidence and competence is an ongoing goal. New programs include aquatic therapy and certified PLAY therapy. Weekly play-groups also add social interaction with peers and the team; and provide an opportunity to enjoy new activities.



Play is one of the main ways a child learns.

**Fayette Progressive Preschool** focused on family engagement in the fall of 2017 with several family activities. The school year kicked-off with a family enrollment day complete with physicals offered by local pediatrician Lenora Fitton, preschool screenings and meet the teacher events. This event will grow in the coming year providing even more services to our families.

During the fall families were invited to join the preschool for a field trip to Lohstroh's Pumpkin Farm where the kids explored the farm and chose pumpkins to take home. As a follow up to this field trip, families were invited to a pumpkin science night. Students were given a pumpkin through the help of the Fayette Progressive PTO and Bentley's pumpkin farm, and led through several different science experiments to learn more about pumpkins. Students and families navigated the Ohio Preschool Learning and Development Standards through different opportunities offered that night to play and explore with families.



Miss Stacy and Atreyu pose for a picture on the hayride to pick out the biggest pumpkin.



Buddy the Elf enjoys his visit with the students and families at the Polar Express event.

There was a growing family response to the family activities as demonstrated at the Polar Express Holiday event! Fayette Progressive Preschool was one of the recipients of the Altrusa Loving Spoonful Tasting Luncheon fundraiser. Because of this kind donation, each child received a trip on the Polar Express (AKA FCBDD's school buses the transportation department decorated for the occasion) to Southern State Community College's Community room. The students and families were met by Santa and his elf Buddy, ate snacks, made crafts and through the donations made by Altrusa, each child was given a copy of Chris Van Allsburg's classic story [The Polar Express](#).

The preschool is still waiting for the on-site review from the Ohio Department of Education's Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) rating system. All paperwork has been revised and submitted as of November and the on-site review will take place before July 2018 as required by the state for all preschool programs receiving state funding. Fayette Progressive Preschool is confident in the evidence gathered to support this program and completely expect to do well with this rating system.

The preschool currently serves students in Washington Courthouse City Schools and Miami Trace Local Schools in three half day classes and one full day class. We serve **65** preschoolers and their families in classrooms with a ratio of eight students with special needs and four typically developing peer models.



# Service and Support Administration

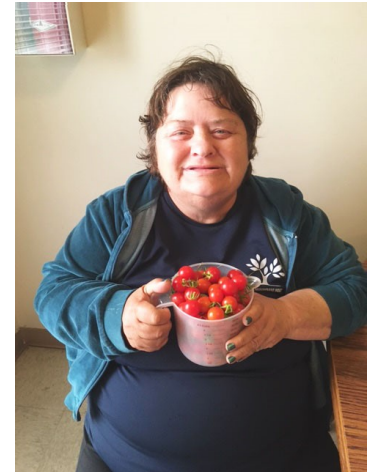
In 2017, the Service and Support Administration (SSA) department continued to build on best practice methods of Trauma Informed Care and Person-Centered Thinking for case management through trainings and organization revisions. Cheryl Binegar, SSA, became a certified Trauma Informed Care trainer, to extend this practice throughout the agency, providers and community partners. By increasing awareness of the best practice methods, people are moving forward in their lives to experience personal goals, such as getting their own apartment or house, marriage and travel. Additionally, the employment first initiative along with the best practice concepts are assisting people in getting meaningful jobs throughout the community and moving away from a sheltered job experience.

In the ever-changing world of technology, SSA is intentional about how technology can enhance a person's life. The SSA team started the 3<sup>rd</sup> year using the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities case management system that allows the person and their team to have access to important assessments, reports, and their service plan through a web-based system. Other ways that technology continues to impact people's lives is the Tele-Psychiatry program that connects people to their medical

professionals electronically, allowing them to access these specialized services easier. Other technology based supports that increase independence and is cost effective include having audio and or video supports and various alert sensors in a person's home that decrease or eliminate the need for a staff person.

With 117 people enrolled on Medicaid Waivers which pays for supports, it was a focus this year for the county board to put efforts into provider recruitment along with connecting people to their own community. Additional providers began serving people in the areas of homemaker personal care, transportation and employment, giving people more choices in their services. In connecting people to their community businesses and organizations is not only the right thing to do, but also helps reduce the local tax dollar commitment to pay for services. This past year more people experienced volunteer opportunities, shopping, exercise and health to name a few, that they did not need to rely on paid supports. We appreciate how our community supports all our citizens.

Along with case management services, the SSA department provided services that include, the 24 hour emergency on-call system, eligibility determination, Medicaid Waiver administration and incident reporting and investigations. SSA served **160** eligible children and adults, and many other individuals and families in Fayette County by providing information and referral needs.



**Mary Lou is very proud of the cucumbers and tomatoes she grew in her garden this past summer.**



**Nate along with SSA, Cheryl Binegar take some time during a home visit to play Super Heroes in his new home in Columbus.**

**The SSAs are trained in Good Life Principles, Trauma Informed Care, and Person-Centered Philosophies, all of which support people and their families with their personal outcomes to help them move forward as they desire, in their lives. Supports are designed to balance what is important to a person and what is important for them. The supports are also provided in many settings such as, but not limited to, the family home, community living, school and employment.**



# Community First

The Community First division had a busy year assisting and creating opportunities for those we serve. Through work experiences, social activities, and self-advocacy, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have become more empowered to be the very best version of themselves, becoming active and valued citizens within their community.

The Community First Department partnered with the Miami Trace Work Study classes to provide transportation to volunteer work sites within Fayette County. At these volunteer work sites, students, ages, 14-22, had the opportunity to develop or improve their work-related skills such as, inter-personal, self-direction, team work, timeliness, work-ethic and hygiene. Having these skills helps to increase their confidence and improve employability outcome. A 5-county transition expo was held at the Good News Gathering in Hillsboro Ohio with over 25 employers and 350 or more students. Fayette County students had the opportunity to get tips on how to train for and apply for a new career, practice a 30-second speech, and to meet local employers and network.

Over 30 local businesses and over **20** adults were honored at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Business Awards Night, held at the Grace Community Church. With over 130 in attendance, employees and employers enjoyed a meal catered by The Willow, followed by an awards ceremony. Employees shared why “work was important to them” through a video, produced by Channel 3. Awards and certificates were presented to the employees and employers for years of service and years of partnership.

The adult Advocacy group, F.A.C.T. (Fayette Advocating Change Together) met monthly at Kroger to help empower people, develop the confidence to speak up for themselves, gain skills to become leaders, and become active members of their community. Many opportunities are provided through trainings, seminars, conferences and attending the 14-county Regional advocacy meetings held monthly in Chillicothe. In 2017, trainings offered at the regional meetings included: the Stable Account, Community Employment, Nutrition, and Eating Healthy during the holidays, presented by the OSU extension office.

Some advocates partnered with local businesses and agencies to help create awareness of the Fayette County Board of DD. 3 adults partnered with Kroger to participate in the 2017 Relay for Life. In August, St. Catherine’s Manor helped the students of Fayette County with a Back to School Bash, giving 4 adults the opportunity to help prepare and serve lunch to those community members who donated to the school supply drive. The adult self-advocacy group (FACT) also donated \$80.00 worth of school supplies from their fund-raising account. Other members of the advocacy group attended an all-day self-defense class and a Speak Up/ Stay Safe training. The training focused on healthy relationships and boundaries, sexuality and dating, abuse, bullying, and harassment, human trafficking, alcohol, drugs, weapon and online safety.

Other trainings and activities included:

- 3 adults attended a Self-Defense class hosted by the Center for Disability Empowerment
- 3 Advocated attended the 3-day Synergy Conference
- 5 Advocates attended the Ohio Developmental and Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio State House
- 2 Advocates attended the Always There 50th anniversary at the Ohio State House.
- The Give-Back Crew visited 15 local businesses to show appreciation for all they do in the community
- The Next Chapter Book Club continued to meet and grew from 4 members to 8 members.
- The FACT group decorated a float for the annual Christmas Parade
- FACT partnered with Community Action for the Santa for Seniors project.
- Community First touched or empowered the lives of more than **68** people.



A Give Back basket was presented to **Donova Stickley and Kevin Evans** for running the sound and video systems at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Awards Dinner.



**Matthew and Chuck** placing FCBD’s box of memorabilia in the Always There Time Capsule

# Operations



In 2017, the Transportation and Operations Department consisted of an Operations Director, Operations Manager, 3 full-time bus drivers, 1 part-time driver, 2 back-up drivers, 1 maintenance staff and 2 janitorial staff. All staff trained on a regular basis to maintain the safety of the students.

The transportation department had five buses on the road for the 2017 school year. The bus drivers provided transportation services for the Preschool program, Early Intervention services, the Miami Trace work study program, Special Olympics, and a variety of field trips. With all the services provided, the transportation team traveled

50,389 miles using approximately 8,398 gallons of fuel.

The county board maintenance staff did a great job maintaining basic repairs of the buses, both buildings, along with some repairs to community homes. The janitorial staff did an outstanding job at keeping the Starting Gate and the FPI buildings clean.

The transportation staff went beyond their regular duties and hosted an Easter Egg hunt for the full-day preschool class in 2017. They supplied eggs filled with treats and presented each full-day class member a small stuffed animal. These staff members honored and celebrated the graduation of the full-day class with a perennial planting at the school, and they participated in the Preschool Halloween event with candy treats during the Halloween parade. In December, the transportation staff got in the spirit by decorating the buses used for the Polar Express event.

"Being a School Bus Driver has its ups & downs. It takes a lot of patience driving highways & towns. A busload of kids can really set you on your nerve, sometimes almost sending you right off the curve. But at the end of the day when you've finished your run, know that you're the best school bus driver and that's a job well done!

~ Sue Pitchfork

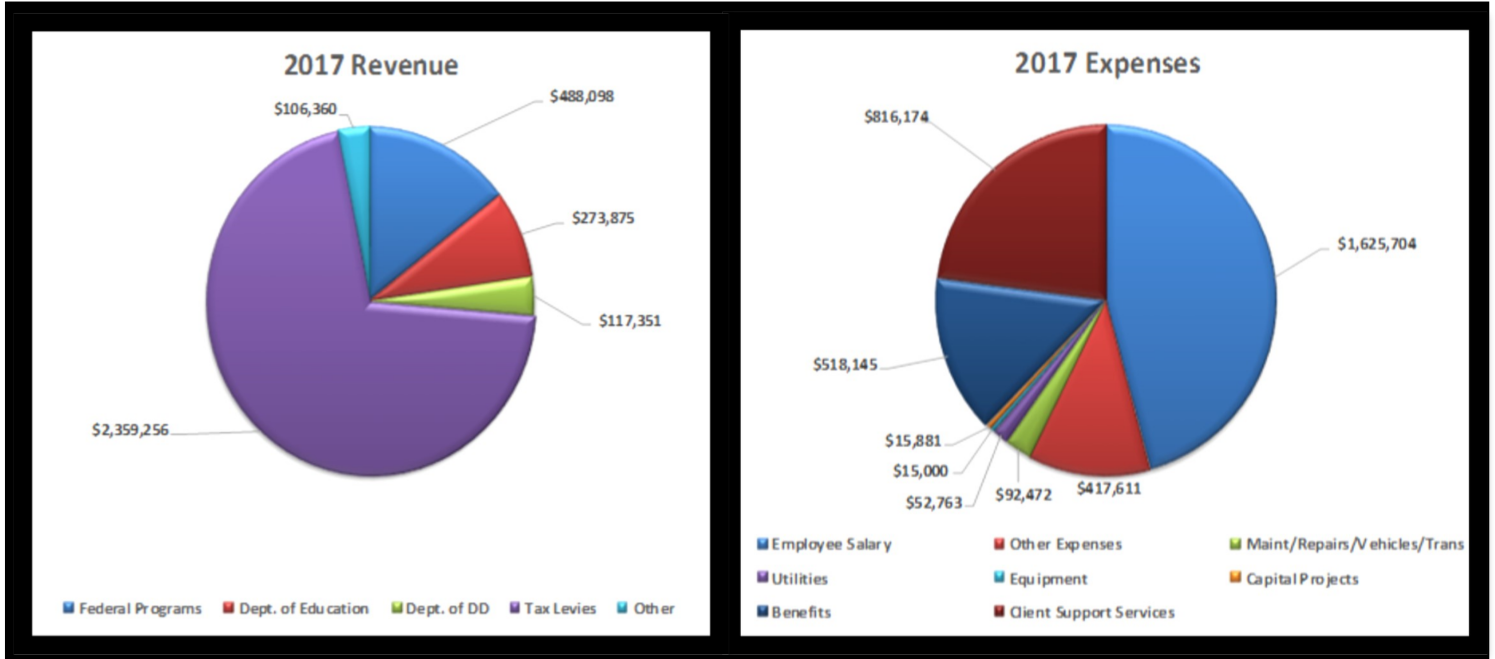


## The Operations Team

Seated: Betsy Miller, Sandy Kelley, Alice Berryman

Standing: Kelly Campbell, Sue Kunie, Matt Bryant, Ronnie Morris, Bill Haines

# Fiscal Data

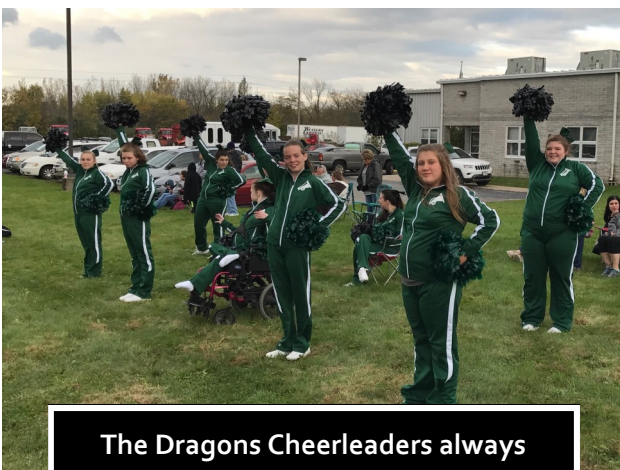


## Special Olympics

The Fayette County Dragons participated in a variety of sports in 2017. Athletes, comprised of adults and students, participated in traditional Basketball with a JV and Varsity team, unified Softball with a JV and Varsity team, Bowling, Track and Field, Cheerleading and Flag Football (a new addition in 2017)! There were **78** total athletes participating in one or more sports. This is the most participants for the Dragons, and the numbers continues to grow! The basketball team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the state



The Guns N Hoses games was a successful fundraiser for The Dragons



The Dragons Cheerleaders always cheer loud and proud!

tournament and the football team took 3<sup>rd</sup> at the state tournament as well. The most successful fundraisers to benefit Special Olympics were held with the annual Basketball game and the annual Dwight Turner Spaghetti Dinner. Some Special Olympics athletes had the privilege to participate in various skills invitational throughout the year. This included participating in a football skills invitational inside the Woody Hayes facility and a basketball skills invitational participating at Value City Arena with an included tour of the facility! It was an experience that most will never forget. The Dragons are looking forward to yet another great year in 2018!





# *Fayette County Board Members*

2017

**Larry Mayer, President**

**Alice Craig**

**Cody Kirkpatrick, V. President**

**Mark Heiny**

**Janelle Mead, Secretary**

**David Sanders**

**Caryl Bookman**

## *Administrative Staff*

**Debra Buccilla, Superintendent**

**Lori Moore, Business Director**

**Renee Guess, Service and Support Administration Director**

**Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director**

**Liz Brennfleck, Human Resources Director**

**Jan Cobb, Nurse**

**Jamie Roe, Preschool Coordinator**

**Betty Reisinger, Community First Director**

**Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant**