



Metzenbaum Center

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

Winter 2025

GeaugaDD.org

Message from the Superintendent

As we all at Geauga DD look ahead to the new year, I am excited for the opportunities that await us. Reflecting on this past year, we've made significant strides in strengthening our community and fostering meaningful partnerships. Starting off this year in 2025, we will focus on key goals such as improving community living opportunities, expanding transportation services, and growing our relationships with partner agencies. We also aim to enhance our public outreach efforts, ensuring that more individuals and families in Geauga County are aware of the services and supports available to them. Together, with the dedication of our staff and the support of our partners, we will continue building an even stronger, more connected community. Here's to a year of growth, innovation, and continued progress! -Don Rice



Cookies With Santa

The annual Cookies With Santa event continues to be a holiday favorite! The children of The Early Intervention program had a day full of yummy cookies and activities. But most importantly was meeting the man himself, Santa! They even managed to avoid any cookie related chaos, though Santa's belly got a bit fuller. It was safe to say that Christmas magic was in the room.



Bonding Over Bowling

Special Olympics bowling is where the pins fear for their lives, and the bowlers roll with the grace of a slow-motion action hero. It's a sport that combines precision with unpredictability, where strikes are celebrated like Olympic gold and spares are treated like hidden treasures. Everyone, no matter their skill level, is a champion. Celebrating with epic high-fives after each round of throwing stones brings the team together and makes each athlete better. Thanks goes to the Chardon Rotary for the new stylishly snazzy team uniforms! The Metzenbaum Foundation Rec Department is always looking to grow hidden talents. If you want to know more, contact Josh at: josh@metzenbaumfdn.org



Jim's Story

Jim has always been the type of person who likes to contribute, thrives on being productive, and wants to be valued. His willingness to offer his time and skills has been a defining trait throughout his life. So, when he found himself unexpectedly not called back after the Covid shutdown to a job that he had held for many years, it came as a shock.

Determined to find a new opportunity in 2020 following the comeback of the pandemic, Jim began his job search. Through his efforts, he connected with Creative Learning Workshop (C.L.W.), an agency that helped him navigate the employment process. With the support of a dedicated job coach, Jim applied for numerous positions and attended several interviews.

His persistence paid off when he was offered an interview at Auburn Career Center, the same school he had attended for high school technical training. After a conversation with the adult program director, he felt a sense of connection with the team and the work environment. It didn't take long before he was offered the job.

In June 2022, Jim began his role as the adult program evening receptionist, working part-time. Since then, it has been a fulfilling and rewarding experience. Being a part of the Auburn team has allowed Jim to once again contribute his skills in a meaningful way, making a positive impact in his new role.

For Jim, this job has not just been about finding employment, but about finding a place where he can truly make a difference and feel like a respected team member.



Jen's Story



Staying busy with a full schedule of work and activities is what brings Jen happiness. During high school, Jen gained some experience working at Drugmart through a work/volunteer program, which gave her a solid foundation when applying for the job three years after graduating. Although Jen felt a bit nervous about the interview, she was already familiar with the manager, who had always been kind to her and calmed her nerves.

Working at Drugmart has been a rewarding experience for Jen. The job is a great fit and conveniently located close to home, making her daily commute quick and easy. Jen started in June, and although it was tough to say goodbye to her volunteer role at UH Hospitals, where she had been since high school, she was excited to embrace this new challenge. Her responsibilities include stocking shelves, unloading trucks, cleaning spills, removing damaged items, checking expiration dates, and assisting customers as needed. Jen's favorite part of the job is the satisfaction that comes with completing tasks and knowing she's done a good job. While the work can be tiring, such as lifting heavy detergent, Jen feels incredibly satisfied and happy when the day ends.

Jen has made new friends through her job, including a coworker she occasionally goes out to dinner with. Her boss is approachable and always happy to answer questions, creating a positive and enjoyable work environment. Jen is excited to see where this new chapter in her life will take her, and she's grateful for all the people she's met along the way.



Partner Agencies, Activities, Events, & Happenings



Volunteering is important for the individuals who attend the Solid Rock On Which We Stand day program. A partnership with the Geauga County Senior Center gives the attendees the fulfilling opportunity to deliver meals to senior citizens. To find out more, visit solidrock-llc.com



Some of the best things about The Metzenbaum Foundation is that they offer lots of opportunities for recreational activities like sports, weekly and monthly events, outings, and classes. They keep the schedule full to grab your interest so check out their Facebook page to see things to do: facebook.com/metzfdn



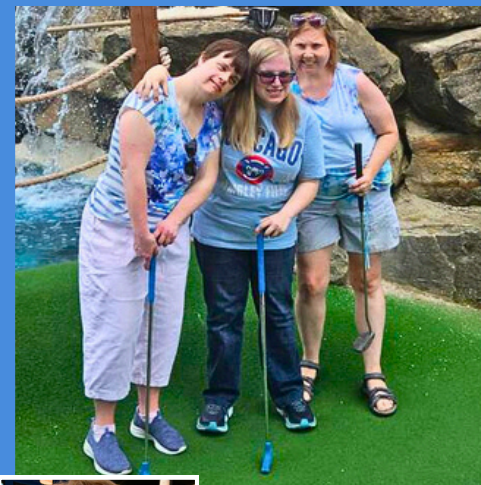
Rocking RockAbility

The band RockAbility is blasting tunes and raising awareness! They got the opportunity to jam at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, in the "garage." Their set list included songs ranging from "Hard To Handle" to classics like "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas". Stay up to date on their tour dates by visiting their website at: npowerservices.com. For more information, contact Lori Weber at: lori@NpowerServices.com



CLW On The Go

C.L.W.'s On-the-Go program offers fun activities to help individuals explore their community, pursue interests, and connect with others. The program hosts two activities a month, with three options to choose from that are based off of participant feedback. One great perk is C.L.W. can provide transportation to and from each outing. Past favorites include visiting the Great Lakes Science Center, drum circles, lunch dates, produce picking, shopping, supporting veterans, ice cream runs, and mini golf. For more info, contact Heather Helms or Daniella Herrera at 440-273-8158.



And now, Jokes from Andy



How does Santa pay for parking?
Don't worry, it's on the house.

How do you know Santa is really coming?
You can sense his presents.

Which state is Santa's favorite? Idaho -ho -ho

**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**
8200 Cedar Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

Save The Dates

March is DD Awareness Month!

Family Forums:

April 15: Family Engagement

Contact Megan Thirion to attend or for
Virtual invite: mthirion@geaugadd.org

Movie Night: Jan. 22 & Feb. 19

Community Carnival: March 1

Monsters Game: March 1

El Night to Shine: March 6

1 Mile Fun Walk: May 17

Trunk To You: May 31

Annual Golf Outing: June 13

Geauga Fair Band Concert: June 17

Family Fun Day: August 17

Keep a lookout on information for the
upcoming Captains Game.

For the latest info on upcoming
events, visit GeaugaDD.org or
[Facebook.com/GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)



The Spirit Of The Season

The Metzenbaum Aktion Club and The Metzenbaum Foundation (TMF) Rec Department are always focused and looking for ways to give back. Who who wouldn't want to be on their nice list?

This holiday season, the Giving Tree program supported Geauga families in need, ensuring they could celebrate the season with some extra help. A total of 77 requests for gifts for children under 18 were fulfilled, thanks to the kindness of employees, board members from both Geauga DD and TMF, and other partner organizations happy to provide some holiday cheer.

In addition, recognizing the need for support among adults, TMF partnered with the Geauga YMCA to provide gifts to 89 adults with developmental disabilities living in Geauga County. Thank you to everyone who selected a name from the YMCA Giving Tree and contributed to the cause. Your generosity makes you all holiday heroes!

The Aktion Club also spread holiday cheer by collaborating with the West Geauga Kiwanis Group to collect donations for their annual food drive benefiting families during both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Geauga DD is proud to support these compassionate individuals in their efforts.

For more information or to get involved (or to claim your spot on the "future" nice list), please contact The Metzenbaum Foundation at: metzenbaum.foundation@gmail.com.