

WEEKLY FOCUS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

October 31, 2014

The mission of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

DisAbility Job Fairs Bring Employers and Job Seekers Together

OOD was excited to host two successful job fairs this week connecting hundreds of individual job seekers with dozens of area employers. Together, the job fairs in the Cleveland and Toledo areas connected over 500 individuals with disabilities with more than 50 companies. Both fairs are already paying off with formal interviews and employment opportunities.

The DisAbility Job Fairs offer a unique opportunity to match job ready individuals with a disability with area employers who are hiring. It offers businesses the chance to connect with hundreds of job seekers, explain their available openings, discuss necessary qualifications, the pay, and benefits being offered. For the individuals who participate, it is a chance to explore potential employment with a variety of companies and industries, while polishing their networking skills.

Business Engagement and Training Is Opening Eyes and Doors

In addition to an afternoon job fair, the Cleveland and Toledo events included morning educational training sessions for employers seeking more information about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities and integrating them into their work force. They heard presentations on assistive technology (technology that allows individuals with disabilities to successfully participate and compete in today's workforce) and Windmills Training which explores the fears, biases and myths that create barriers in the hiring process and how to overcome them.



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“The training went really well. The first section [Windmills] was very insightful. It was interesting to think about and discuss how we interact with individuals with disabilities both in a retail setting and as a business,”
Adam Soboleski, Home Depot Human Resources Manager.

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“My experience at the job fair was very informative, very helpful, and I wish there was more job fairs for people with disabilities.”
Derrick Moss

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What was your experience like at the DisAbility Job Fair?

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“I didn’t know they had job fairs like this, for people with challenges like mine, but I had a wonderful time today meeting so many wonderful people.”

Cheryl Hughey

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“There were a lot of jobs that opened my eyes. I am hoping I will get a couple of calls for jobs that I would really enjoy. The job fair had a number of magnificent jobs and a great group of employers.” **Dontez Patterson**

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“The job fair was really well put together. The companies were good to have because they were major companies; they weren’t minor ones that no one knows about, which was a very positive aspect of it.” **Tamas Geczy**

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EXPECT

EMPLOY

EMPOWER



“It was my first time coming to a job fair and I thought it was great. I was nervous at first of being overwhelmed with people and not knowing what to say, but then I started going around the room and introducing myself, asking some general questions, and if they had any openings. After a while I got comfortable with it and it wasn’t so bad. This job fair is a great opportunity for people with disabilities and I enjoyed it, 100%.” - **Tara Packard**

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Youth Leadership Forum Reunion



The Former Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) participants dressed up in Halloween costumes for their annual Halloween Party/Reunion.

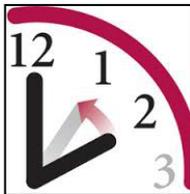
Former Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) participants held their annual Halloween Party/Reunion at the Worthington Recreation Center in Worthington on Sunday. Around 40 returning alumni enjoyed pizza and subs, played games, and caught up with friends. Thank you to Thomas Worthington High School student volunteers Margaret Bridges, Tara Buchy, Chloe Sillanpaa and Hannah Sillanpaa, as well as The ARC of OHIO for all their help in making this event happen.

Massillon Mayor Speaks at Southeast Area Meeting

The Southeast region welcomed Massillon Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry to speak at their area meeting this week in Whitehall. Mayor Catazaro-Perry, the city's first female mayor, is the mother of two children with special needs. This experience led her to co-found the Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children, a daycare for special-needs children in Canton. She is a past recipient of the Ohio Public Image Award, which recognizes individuals who create positive public awareness for those with disabilities. Mayor Catazaro-Perry spoke to area staff about her passion for helping people and her experiences as both a mother and an advocate.



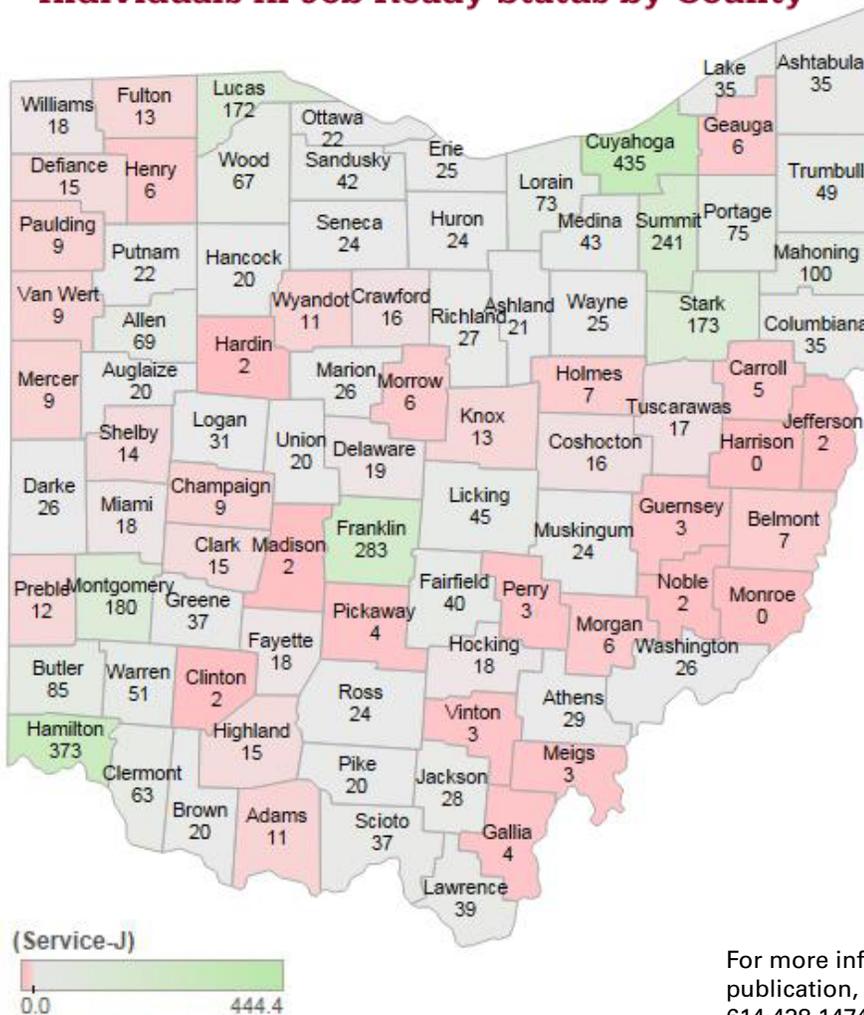
Massillon Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry spoke at the Southeast region area meeting.



Don't Forget to "Fall Back" – Daylight Savings Time Ending

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. this Sunday, November 2. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour, either before bed or first thing on Sunday morning.

Individuals in Job Ready Status by County



Total Statewide:
3,749

* Job Ready Status Individuals have received Vocational Rehabilitation services and are ready and seeking employment.

For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1474.

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