

WEEKLY FOCUS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

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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.

OOD Employees Give Life!



Kathy Boss, HR Training Manager gives blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive

On Thursday, OOD held its annual blood drive in the Commissioners' and David Williams Conference Rooms. Employees were encouraged to sign-up and donate blood to the American Red Cross helping to supply Central Ohio's Blood Bank.

Employees were given a reasonable period of paid time off during their working hours in order to participate in this charitable event. One blood donation can save up to three lives and it only took participants between 30-75 minutes. OOD donated 28 units of blood which translates to 84 lives that could be saved by employees who took time to donate to a great cause.

Thanks to everyone who attempted to donate and donated blood. We appreciate your time and effort!

If you would like to receive more information on volunteer activities and opportunities with the American Red Cross, please feel free to visit their page at www.redcross.org/

Workforce Integration Task Force Nearing Completion

The Workforce Integration Task Force (WIT), co-chaired by myself and Director Cynthia Dungey, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), is nearing the completion of its work. This talented group of professionals graciously volunteered their time to help in this important effort which was created as part of the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) process at the request of Governor John Kasich.

Through a process of data and information gathering, a series of in person meetings, conference calls, and regular interaction and dialogue, the WIT has identified barriers to employment and income parity for Ohioans who are blind, deaf, and deaf blind. They are now crafting recommendations on reducing and removing these barriers. Thanks to the hard work of the members, OOD and ODJFS staff, we are on target to issue the report to the Governor by the statutory deadline of January 1, 2015.

I am excited to see the report and the recommendations come together and am confident that the report will spur more effective efforts to integrate individuals with disabilities into Ohio's workforce.

OOD Holiday Food Basket Results



The BVR/BSVI Director's Advisory Group (DAG) and the DDD DAG would like to thank you for your generosity and support this Holiday Season!

OOD raised \$3,141.13 and donated 769 pounds of food for Ohioans in need this holiday season. That is over 13,333 meals for hungry families across Ohio! Compare this to OOD staff's generosity in 2013 of 8,607.3 meals, 2014 saw a 150% increase in donations. Way to go, OOD!

Thank you for supporting the Mid-Ohio Food Bank's Holiday Food Basket Campaign, because no one should go hungry!

