

# HOLMES COUNTY TRAINING CENTER & LYNN HOPE INDUSTRIES

Holmes County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

**ISSUE #7**

8001 T.R. 574, Holmesville, OH 44633 330-674-8045

**May 4, 2010 Levy Fact Sheet**

## Renewal of the Training Center's 2.5 mill five (5) year levy

Passage of this renewal levy will **not increase taxes.**

**ISSUE #7**

Passage of this renewal levy will preserve our school program.

**ISSUE #7**

### Finances:

This levy provides approximately \$1,300,000.00 in funding for the operations of the Training Center. If approved by the voters, it would last for another five years and would **not increase taxes**, even if property values increase. Without renewal of this levy, the Training Center would have to reduce expenses by \$1,300,000.00 in 2011, which would involve eliminating and/or reducing what core services we provide to the residents of Holmes County with developmental disabilities.

Two thirds of the funding to support the services provided by the Training Center comes from local tax levies.

2009 revenue= \$4,922,287.87 2009 expenses = \$5,007,243.03 (general fund)

\$888,052.33 in federal revenue used to support the general fund and other staff positions.

90% of our expenses in 2009 were related to staff

The last two years have been difficult for the Training Center. Twelve fulltime staff positions and two part time positions have been eliminated. Services like adult therapy, community activities for adults and the summer program for students have been eliminated. A waiting list has been established to enroll in our adult programs. All services and supports have been significantly reduced. Fifteen administrative staff have taken furlough days and voluntary pay reductions. Staff salaries have been frozen since 2008. Preschool support staff and services have been reduced significantly and as a result, East and West Holmes Schools have had to pick up additional expenses related to preschool services. The passage of the renewal levy will not allow us restore any of the services that have been cut, but it will preserve what are now our core services.

Passage of this renewal levy will **not increase taxes.**

Passage of this renewal levy will preserve our school program.

**ISSUE #7**

**ISSUE #7**

### Services Provided by the Training Center:

Services are provided to qualifying residents of Holmes County at no cost. We do seek reimbursement from Medicaid and other state and federal programs, where feasible and applicable.

**Early Intervention:** Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapists and Developmental Specialists work with families of infants with disabilities to minimize the effects of the disability and maximize an infant's growth opportunities. Working with service coordinators from Help Me Grow (Holmes County Health Dept.), we evaluate infants for delays, help families learn about the special needs their infant may have and specialized plans are developed to teach the parents and others how best to help their infant.

**Preschool:** The Training Center, in conjunction with East Holmes Schools and West Holmes Schools, supports the Tri-County Educational Service Center in providing two classes at the Training Center and one class at Berlin Elementary, one class at Millersburg Elementary and two itinerant teachers to help over 100 students age 3 to 5 in Holmes County. Licensed teachers, assistants and therapists work with children with developmental delays to minimize the effects of their disabilities, maximize learning and prepare the children to succeed in school.

Passage of this renewal levy will **not increase taxes** and will preserve our core services.

**ISSUE #7**

**ISSUE #7**

**ISSUE #7**

**ISSUE #7**

**ISSUE #7**

**Services Provided by the Training Center**

**ISSUE #7**

**School:** The Training Center operates five school age classes at the Training Center and one class at Walnut Creek Elementary to meet the needs of students with multiple disabilities. Licensed teachers, assistants and therapists work to meet the needs of each child based on their individual education plan approved by their family. We are unique option for families of children with disabilities and only exist because families want our services. We seek to make each student as independent and as capable as possible.

**Adult-Habilitation Center:** The Training Center serves adults with significant disabilities and whose needs for specialized exercise, stimulation and recreation are more significant than their need for work training. Each individual and their family develop a plan of services in order to meet the person's needs. Individuals from throughout the county attend the Training Center year round. Families often refer to our staff as their adult child's other parents. We have worked hard to create a positive environment that supports adults for whom getting through each day can be a challenge.

**Adult-Lynn Hope Industries:** Lynn Hope is a non-profit business managed by a volunteer Board of Trustees which contracts with local businesses to provide jobs to people with disabilities. The Training Center staff train adults in the performance of these jobs and assure that the work meets the customer's specifications. Adults who attended Lynn Hope in 2008 earned wages of \$63,000.00 (paying the same taxes as you pay). Lynn Hope maintains a special certificate from the U.S. Dept. of Labor since some people cannot work fast enough to make the minimum wage hourly wage.

**Transportation:** The Training Center operates 13 bus and van routes (10 buses with wheelchair lifts and 2 wheelchair lift vans) throughout the year to help students and adults access services at the Training Center. Our buses travel over 1,300 miles each day, over 26,000 miles each month and over 274,000 miles each year. Because most of our students and adults need continual supervision, we provide door-to-door service from each enrollee's home to the Training Center.

**Service and Support Administration (SSA):** SSA's or case workers help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families develop a plan for the services they need from the Training Center, from other support providers and from community agencies. SSA staff determine if someone is eligible for services, determine the amount of support services they can access, help them locate the services they need and help individuals enroll in Medicaid Waiver programs.

**Family Support Services:** Each family has a budget to purchase goods and services to help them maintain their child or adult with disabilities at home. This program does have a family co-pay based on income. Families prioritize services within their support budget. The Holmes County Association for Handicapped Citizens provides help for families with respite care, specialized equipment (wheelchairs, bath lifts, etc.) and transportation expenses.

**Residential and Waiver Services:** Through MEORC ( our 18 county regional council of governments), the Training Center helps individuals receive Medicaid waiver services that will fund support providers in a person's home or in a group setting or an apartment in order to live as independently as possible (\$800,000.00 in support services contracts). This is now the only state mandated service that the Training Center must provide. We are one of the few counties that are still **living within our state funding** allocation and **have not had to commit local levy funds to residential services.**

**Dental Clinic:** Open two days per week, the clinic serves individuals with developmental disabilities, Head Start children, individuals with hemophilia, the families of these priority groups and staff. An anesthesiologist is available for children and adults who need this support to receive dental care and treatment. **No tax dollars can be used to support the clinic.**

**Special Needs Library :** In conjunction with the main library, the Training Center maintains a collection of books about special needs and various disabilities. We also have a collection of adaptive toys which are available for families to borrow. Patrons can use the self-check procedures to borrow materials whenever the Training Center is open. This project was originally funded with a federal grant and has received recognition as an effective and efficient use of limited resources that maximize benefits for people looking for information or resources about disabilities.

**Specialized Support for individuals with genetic and metabolic disorders:** With the help of the Holmes County Association for Handicapped Citizens, residents of Holmes County can come to the Training Center to see Dr. Wang of the DDC clinic and receive free genetic testing. The DDC Clinic provides consultation, treatment, education and research that we hope, someday will help solve many of the medical mysteries in our community. The Association also provides support to the Windows of Hope Genetics Information Center in Walnut Creek. No tax dollars are involved.

**7 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)  
HOLMES COUNTY**

**A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.**

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Holmes County for the purpose of the operation of developmental disabilities programs and services and for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance and operation of developmental disabilities facilities for the **Holmes County Training Center** and **Lynn Hope Industries** as operated by the **Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities** at a rate not exceeding **2.5 mills** for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to twenty-five cents (\$0.25) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, **for five (5) years**, commencing in 2010, first due in calendar year 2011.

**FOR THE TAX LEVY  
AGAINST THE TAX LEVY**