

# The Training Center Times

**Special Points of Interest**

- Mar. 1st—Away Basketball Game with Wayne Cty. @5:30 p.m
- Mar. 6—Area Basketball Tournament Tuscarawas TCC Cathollic @11:00am
- Mar. 17th—Board Meeting / @6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 24th—All Star Basketball Game West Holmes@7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 22ND—LHI Board. Meeting. @noon
- Mar. 28th through April 1st—CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK



## March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

**Whereas:** Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people;  
And,

**Whereas:** the most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone's active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual's contribution;  
And,

**Whereas:** opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to function as independently and productively as possible must be fostered in our community;  
And,

**Whereas:** we encourage all citizens to support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in our community that include full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities;  
And,

Now, therefore, we, the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities, do hereby proclaim March, 2011 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and recognize that **"together"** we accomplish more and everyone wins. Take time to get to know someone with a disability and what he or she has to offer.

### Highlights of DD Awareness Activities

- Every Friday is Hat/Scarf day
- March 7th and 21st—Therapy Dogs will be here
- March 9th—Akron Zoo visit (thank you to those who helped raise money from the bake sale to pay for this event).
- March 18- Community Luncheon at 12:00 p.m.
- March 24- Pep Rally
- March 24- All Star Game at West Holmes at 7:00 p.m.

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Menu Insert

## May 3, 2011 Levy Renewal information

Passage of this renewal levy **will not increase taxes**. We do not have an issue number yet. This levy provides approximately \$1,267,000.00 in funding for the operations of the Training Center. If approved by the voters, it would last for another ten 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 \$1,267,000.00 in 2012, 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.

2010 revenue= \$4,899,234.61

2010 expenses =\$4,831,605.57 (general fund)

\$627,981.61 in federal revenue used to support the general fund and other staff positions.

87.9% of our expenses in 2010 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. 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.**

## Voter Registration

If you want the levy to pass, you need to vote for it!

If you want the levy to pass, you need to tell others how important it is and ask them to vote for it.

Remember to tell them it will not increase their taxes.

If you are not registered to vote, we can help you get a registration form from the Holmes County Board of Elections. Send us a note requesting the form or call and talk to Curtis. Please do it now because if the form is not returned to the Board of Elections by the end of March, it will be too late and you won't be able to vote in May.

Remember, by requesting an absentee ballot, you and other registered voters in your household, can vote at your kitchen table at home. With an absentee ballot, you can vote early and mail your ballot. You can vote together as a family if you wish.

It is important to mail your completed ballot before the election date of May 3, 2011.

## Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting Feb. 17, 2011

The Board met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the Early Childhood Center. The Board is still in need of a volunteer to serve on the Board to replace Bob Hines. The Board had a long discussion with Dave Gerber, Curtis Goehring and Superintendent Brace regarding the condition of our school buses. Two of our spare buses are in need of engine overhauls and significant body work that will cost over \$12,000.00 (putting good money after bad buses). Seven of the fourteen buses have over 181,000 miles. The eleven buses with regular routes are driven an average of 25,000 miles per year. A new bus, with a wheel chair lift and air conditioning, would cost about \$85,000.00 (with trade in). The Board reviewed possible financing but this would create a bigger problem in the future and cost more money in the long run. Since the Board's fiscal condition is very tight and more state budget cuts are anticipated, the Board requested that the Superintendent ask the parents association (HCAHC) if they could help with the purchase of a new bus. To date, no used buses in good condition have been located as available for purchase.

Sherry Cerreta, production manager at Lynn Hope, reported that work has increased from Denco Marketing, Rexam and JIT. In addition, Lynn Hope will soon be doing work for Wayne Dalton.

The Board approved the Proclamation of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. Superintendent Brace informed the Board that Rhoda Mast has been hired as Principal, replacing Cindy McCauley, starting in September. Brace also informed the Board that three staff have submitted applications for the early retirement incentive: Pat Heller, Karen Sprang and Dave Gerber. Pat and Karen will be replaced with newer staff. A building and grounds coordinator will replace Dave and a part time mechanic position will be created to replace that fulltime position. This should save the Board about \$40,000.00 next year (2012).

Superintendent Brace gave the Board an update on the Region 5 county collaborative project. Holmes is one of 18 County Boards in Region 5. This project involves regional cooperation to reduce costs and improve services, in partnership with the state. The Board expressed interest in the project since it would make service plans more accessible and family friendly. Brace informed the Board that the \$55,000.00 project to convert to digital X-rays and electronic records in the dental clinic has been recommended for an award of a \$24,500.00 grant from the Austin-Bailey foundation. An \$18,340.00 grant related to this project has passed the screening process from the Sisters of Charity Foundation and the Board approved this grant application. Superintendent Brace shared information with the Board about Dr. Morton and the Clinic for Special Needs Children in Pennsylvania. Brace has been invited to a conference about clinics serving children with special needs sponsored by Dr. Morton. The Board approved Brace's request for use of a van to transport individuals involved in getting such a clinic started in Holmes County to the conference in Pennsylvania on March 24. The Holmes County Association for Handicapped Citizens have committed to helping with hotel costs for the conference.

## SCHOOL NEWS— Ruth Conrad, Danell Taylor, Carly Fagin

Training Center students have enjoyed some fun activities to celebrate Valentine's Day during February. To start the month, students decorated heart-shaped mailboxes and displayed them on the front bulletin board. Many people in the school joined in to fill the mailboxes with messages or treats, and students enjoyed finding these surprises.

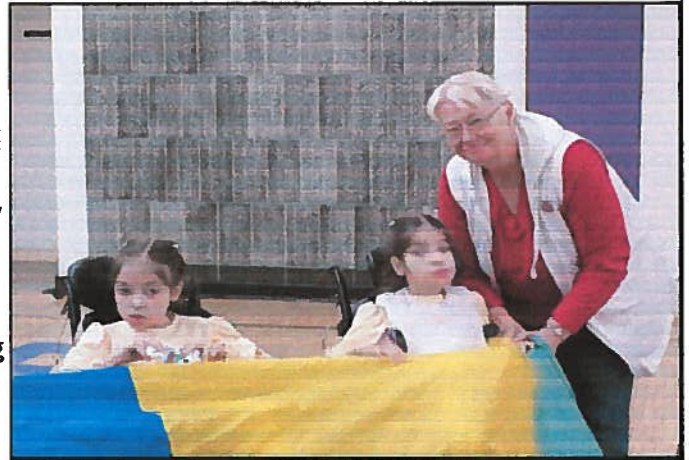
On Feb. 7, we gathered together for a group cooking activity to make "love potion" drinks. While sipping our raspberry floats, we watched a special performance of the song "Love Train" by the Vocational II class. Their version was complete with singing puppets and a model train, which students could operate using a switch.

We also participated in a group activity on Feb. 9 to hear a story and make potpourri sachet bags for gifts. We learned that making gifts for others is a fun part of Valentine's Day.

We celebrated Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 by wearing red and playing some group games. We used the parachute to bounce paper hearts. Parachute play seems to be a favorite game for us! In another game, we played "Add a Friend" musical chairs. We ended our party by snacking on cupcakes. We were all happy to spend time with friends.

We gathered together one more time at the end of the month to listen to music. Paul Conrad and Sarah Lockard played dulcimer music for us, and we relaxed together while enjoying some songs. We've had a fun-filled month and found many ways to celebrate friendship.

Picture to the right shows Sarah, Amanda, and Lisa playing with the parachute game.



Julian checks his mail



Micah and Danell operate the "Love Train."

# MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Away Basketball @5:30 Wayne Cty.	2	3	4	5
6 Basketball Area Tournament Tusc. Cty @11:00	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Board Meeting @6:00pm	18	19
20	21	22 LHI Board Mtg.@noon	23	24	25	26
27	28 CLOSED SPRING BREAK	29 CLOSED	30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED	CLOSED	

Mar. 1st—Away Game Waynel Co. vs "Bucks"@5:30 pm  
 Mar. 6—Basketball Area Tournament Tuscarawas County TCC Catho-lic@11:00 a.m.  
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## Adult Services Update Sheri Martin

The adult program has already begun the transition for a couple of our students in the adult program. We also have a new individual starting in Lynn Hope this month that has moved from another state and is eligible for our services. The group home had an individual move with family to California and we are waiting to see if their new individual moving into the home will be placed in the habilitation area or Lynn Hope. Our ratios are still very tight in the habilitation area which requires eleven staff to serve the individuals in that area. Lynn Hope has a little more room to work with in regards to the mandated ratios. This is mainly due to the individuals requiring less one to one in direct care needs. We also have a classroom from West Holmes coming to do a tour of Lynn Hope to see what services are offered. East Holmes visited in the fall to look at possible transition for some of their students after graduation. We are very encouraged by this type of collaboration between the districts and their willingness to look at our programs as a viable option for services before actual graduation takes place.

Lynn Hope has become steadier with work opportunities. We have been very pleased that Denco has been using us regularly for work. Our individuals have been anxious for more consistent work with some variety of jobs. The weather has not been a huge impact as of this point with pick up and deliveries, but we are all ready for spring.

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## Holmes County Training Center's Mission Statement

*Our mission as a family oriented program is to maximize potential, develop independence, educate and support all individuals with special needs and their families through a choice of progressive, diverse and personalized programs and services in a safe, secure environment.*

*F. Scott Brace, Superintendent  
Sheri L. Martin, Asst. Administrator/Adult Services Director  
Cindy McCauley, Principal HCTC  
Curtis Goehring, Business Manager  
Tracy Kolarovsky, Service & Support Administrative Supervisor  
Dave Cleveland, Personnel Manager*