



Together, We Build Meaningful Lives

# Scioto County Board of DD

## Sodexo Awarded Employer of the Year

Every year, the Community Employment Program at The Vocation Station recognizes two individuals as employees of the year and one local business as employee of the year.

In addition, the organization has presented Sodexo with the Employee of the Year award. Sodexo has been a part of the Community Employment Program for two years and currently employs two individuals through The Vocation Station.

"Sodexo Food Services has proven their commitment to employing individuals with disabilities in our community by providing them with competitive, integrated employment opportunities," said Steve Sowkulech, team leader for the Community Employment Program.

"In return, the individuals served by The Vocation Station have proven themselves long-term, dedicated, and talented members of the Sodexo team. The partnership between The Vocation Station and Sodexo has been a huge success!"

The program also recognized Gary Hoffer, of Bob Evans-New Boston, and Brandi Pennington, of Sonic, as Employees of the Year at the annual Community Employment Banquet on Oct. 11.

The Community Employment Program is located at The Vocation Station, which is part of SCBDD.



Community Employment Team Leader Steve Sowkulech and Adult Services Team Leader Elizabeth Porter present Sodexo General Manager Rachel Steele and Dining Services Manager Heather Mantle with the Community Employment Program's 2016 Employer of the Year award. The program annually recognizes a local employer who has proven dedication and commitment to employing local people with developmental disabilities.



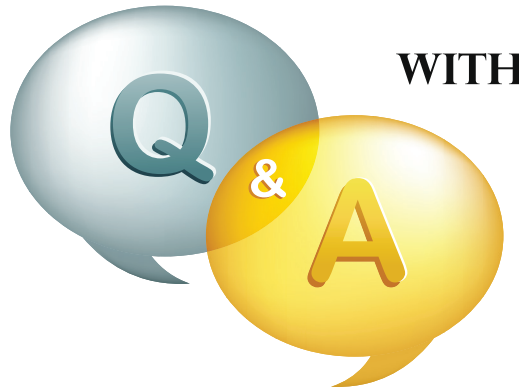
Adult Services Director Kelly Hunter and Community Employment Program Employee of the Year Gary Hoffer.



Adult Services Director Kelly Hunter and Community Employment Program Employee of the Year Brandi Pennington.

# STAR/Adult Services Privatization Facts

*Superintendent Julie Monroe recently filmed a segment of Positively Portsmouth to lay out some facts regarding STAR Adult Services Privatization, and to answer some common questions about the issue. You can catch the episode on The Zone, Time Warner 24, 76.6161; Minford TV channels 23, 153, 154, 155; and OTA 50.1, 50.2, 50.3, and 50.4. Positively Portsmouth airs at 6 p.m. Saturdays. A copy of the episode will be available at the SCBDD administrative offices.*



**JULIE MONROE**

## **Why are Adult Services programs operated out of STAR, Inc., and the Vocation Station privatizing?**

The programs will be private due to federal and state mandates. Since county boards of developmental disabilities provide Service and Support Administration which include many important functions — such as assisting individuals in choosing a provider for services — the Centers for Medicaid Services, a federal program, considers it a conflict of interest for county boards to also provide services.

## **What will this mean for the people served and how will things change?**

The day-to-day operations and services provided to individuals should not change. Once privatization is complete, STAR, Inc., will operate as a private entity, billing Medicaid directly for waiver services. Since STAR, Inc., began filling openings with non-SCBDD staff in 2011, most

employees are already employed by STAR, Inc. The remaining SCBDD staff will have the option to become a STAR, Inc., employee at the time of transition.

## **When will these changes occur?**

Fortunately, the State of Ohio was able to negotiate a transition plan to phase out of providing waiver services for the individuals already being served. The phase out must be complete by 2024. The SCBDD has chosen to cease providing services on or before July 1, 2018.

## **What is the SCBDD's plan to make the changes while assuring quality?**

The SCBDD has partnered with members of the STAR, Inc., Board to put together a transition committee to oversee the process for a smooth transition. The SCBDD will continue to be responsible for monitoring services for quality as it always has, and STAR, Inc., will continue to provide the same quality

services it has provided for the past several decades.

## **Will the SCBDD still need tax dollars if it no longer provides these services?**

Yes. This need does not change for several reasons, including, but not limited to:

- The SCBDD has an obligation to provide the 40 percent match for each Medicaid waiver. There are currently 266 individuals on Medicaid waivers served by the SCBDD, and that number is only projected to increase.
- The SCBDD still operates other programs such as Vern Riffe School, and the recently expanded Early Intervention Program.
- Only county boards of DD can establish eligibility for services, and provide the Service and Support Administration function.
- The SCBDD is responsible for assuring all allegations of abuse, neglect and misappropriation, etc., are investigated for all eligible individuals in Scioto County.

*Stay up-to-date on SCBDD news at [SciotoCountyDD.org](http://SciotoCountyDD.org) or on our Facebook site*



# Melonie Donates to Help Other Children

Around Vern Riffe School, Melonie Reyes has been known for her big heart and her dancing skills. Now, the kindergarten student is adding “donor” to her title.

Melonie recently had her long, dark hair cut into a bob and decided to donate to the organization Wigs for Kids. Wigs for Kids provides hair replacement to children who

have lost their hair due to medical treatment, alopecia, trichotillomania, burns, and other medical issues. There is no cost to the children or their families.

In addition to going to the salon for her haircut, Melonie took a trip to the Portsmouth post office to see her donation of five ponytails mailed to Wigs for Kids.



Melonie Reyes, a kindergarten student at Vern Riffe School, drops off her package of several ponytails at the Post Office in Portsmouth.

## Fall-O-Ween FUN!



Above, Jeromy Call and Daniel Whittaker mug for the camera as they stop at the admission and ticket table at Fall-O-Ween on Monday, Oct. 24. Below, pirate Trisha Schmidt encourages guests to try their hand at digging for treasure. Huge thanks to the staff and volunteers for helping put on a great event. We'd also like to thank Party Pros, Portsmouth Little Theater Board of Governors, and everyone who helped make Fall-O-Ween 2016 a fun event for our guests!



## Birthdays & Workiversaries

### BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER

12: Tammy Nelson  
16: Derick Whisman  
19: Chad Phipps  
23: Lea Cummings

### DECEMBER

5: Tammy Bolton  
8: Sherry Burney  
15: Lori Snyder  
16: Trisha Schmidt  
20: Janet Barber  
21: Steve Sowkulech, Lynn Chaffin  
23: Jayne Stone  
31: Ceci Sherman

### WORKIVERSARIES NOVEMBER

3: Shonda Cooper  
6: Kayla Stone  
23: Karen Cox, Donna Tackett, Derick Whisman

### DECEMBER

4: Margaret Compton  
9: Nancy Partlow, Tiffany Semento, Cindy Newman  
10: Debra Duckson  
12: Nakia Peters  
26: Chad Phipps



## Pet Corner

Camille is a princess, a diva, and a daddy's girl. Camille owns SSA Theresa Rowland. Camille, who is 9, refuses to step in the grass, feels she owns the bed and makes sure her people know that the bedroom belongs to her, she's just gracious to allow the humans to sleep there, too.

# STOP ON RED

## VRS observes National School Bus Safety Week with drills, skits

It's important to follow the rules, and nobody knows that better than the orange-vested folks who get the students of Vern Riffe School and adults served by STAR, Inc., to and from safely. As part of Bus Safety Week, the staff of the Transportation Department at SCBDD gave demonstrations on how to approach and get on and off buses safely.

Staff then led students and adults through safety drills wherein all bus riders were properly evacuated through the rear door.

"Stop on Red' is the Bus Safety Week theme this year," said On Board Instructor Rita Arthur. "We have so many people running red lights each year, putting our passengers in harm's way."

Doing what we can to stay out of harm's way is crucial.

"Stop on Red" is an important demonstration for both children and adults, motorists and passengers, said Scott Wilson, general manager for National Transit Express, which contracts with SCBDD for school bus transportation services.



Members of the transportation department and Vern Riffe School's staff assist kindergarten student Noah Altman from the bus during safety demonstrations on Thursday, Oct. 20. Vern Riffe School students and adults served by STAR, Inc., took part in Bus Safety Week to learn more about safety protocols when using mass transit.



**Superintendent's Office**  
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