



INSIDE:

- Erica Culver promoted to Lead DS
- Cindy Newman is Nurse of the Year
- SCDD celebrated Valentine's Day
- Meet our new staff
- AND MORE!

SCDD hosts Red Cross blood drive for VRS graduate

The first blood drive ever held at Vern Riffe School was Jan. 10, in honor of Jon Adkins

Scioto County Developmental Disabilities and the American Red Cross hosted a blood drive in the gymnasium of the SCDD's Vern Riffe School (VRS) in Portsmouth on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. This was the first blood drive ever hosted at the school, and it was in honor of a recent VRS graduate, Jon Adkins.

Jon, a 2023 graduate of VRS, has a positive, energetic, hard working attitude. He loves to play pranks and jokes. On New Year's Eve 2022, Jon got sick. He was subsequently diagnosed with stage 3 testicular cancer. Since his diagnosis, Jon has endured chemotherapy, multiple blood transfusions, major surgery, and is currently undergoing kidney dialysis. But through it all, that positive personality continues to be evident.

Andrea McClellan, a VRS Positive Support Facilitator, spearheaded this event. "Jon has had to receive maybe 11 or 12 units of blood since his diagnosis. We thought this would be something that we, as a community, could do to support him and his family. We just thought: everybody can't give money, but everybody does have blood."

Andrea requested 20 donor spots



and she was assigned 43 by the Red Cross. At the end of this very successful day, a total of 34 pints of blood were donated! And Jon even stopped by to say hello to his many friends gathered at the Vern Riffe School.

Many volunteers and friends of Jon also stepped in to help make sure the event was successful. "Some of Jon's former classmates, who are still attending school here (VRS), are volunteering and helping out. An individual from Minford High School and three of his friends also came to help.

Some of the older students are making cookies today to serve in the canteen," McClellan said. For more information about the American Red Cross, or how to donate blood, visit online at www.redcross.org, or call 1-844-216-8286.

For more information about the programs and services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, call 740-353-0636 or visit online at www.sciotocountydd.org, and like and follow them on Facebook and TikTok.

SCDD promotes Erica Culver to Lead Developmental Specialist

Culver has been with Scioto DD since 2019 and will help mentor and guide staff



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities has promoted Erica Culver to the position of Lead Developmental Specialist. Culver has been employed in the DD field since college and joined Scioto County DD as a developmental specialist in 2019. Developmental specialists work

with referred infants and toddlers along with their families. They connect families with therapies, various services and assist with developing and implementing an individualized family services plan. “In college I got a job working with adults with disabilities and I fell in love with the individuals, so I changed my degree in college to continue to work in the DD field,” Culver said. “Working at Scioto DD has been absolutely amazing. We have the most collaborative team serving young children, and we get to be the difference in tomorrow’s future leaders.”

In her new role as Lead Developmental Specialist, Culver will continue working with individuals one-on-one, but will have the added leadership responsibility of helping train and mentor the DD’s staff of developmental specialists.

Catie Metzler, Director of Early Childhood Programs said Culver was an easy choice for the job. “She’s great at helping support the staff, but an added strength is that when she’s presented with a problem, she is really good about coming up with positive solutions,” she said. “Erica is a phenomenal mother and you can see that in her compassion for the youth and caregivers she works with.” As Culver prepares for this new job, she said she is looking forward to helping mentor new staff. “I want to be open-minded and help people feel comfortable coming to me,” Culver said. For more information about the programs and services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, call 740-353-0636 or visit online at www.sciotocountydd.org, and like and follow them on Facebook and TikTok.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

- Nancy Sand
- Melissa Gampp
- Melissa Wolfenbarker
- Matthew Purcell
- Amanda Literal
- Jessica Hoffer
- Brandon Puckett
- Erica Culver
- MaKayla Coffey

February

- Cindy Coriell
- Carlisa Baker
- Bob Shultz
- Tracy Smith
- Becky Mault
- Kristi Cyrus
- Stephanie Moss
- Catie Metzler
- Cera Wymer
- Trent Fife
- Brittany Mitchell
- Aaron Borders
- Cierra Cooper
- Kalyn Eastwood
- Jordan Sharp
- Kourtney Tackett

March

- Alma Whitt
- Jeannette Ferguson
- Tracey Lunsford
- Kayla Wilder
- Tom Sherman
- Jeff Horner
- Kristina Cotton



Cindy Newman of STAR, Inc. named statewide 'Nurse of the Year'

Presented with award during annual conference in Columbus



STAR, Inc. Nurse, Cindy Newman, received the prestigious Nurse of the Year award during the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) conference in Columbus on Oct. 26, 2023.

"Every year they put on their annual conference, and they invite their members to submit for awards and I submitted for Cindy as Nurse of the Year. She has 34 years serving the DD population in Scioto County and she's set to retire in 2024. I thought this

was an apt time to recognize her many years of excellent service," said STAR, Inc. Director of Operations Kelly Hunter.

Hunter said Newman has been an excellent nurse who has always promoted STAR, Inc.'s commitment to health and safety. "In the eight or nine state reviews that we've had since I've been with the DD, which is 23 years, we've never gotten a citation regarding health and safety. In all that time, Cindy has made sure the citizens of Scioto

County health and safety has been a priority," she said.

Newman was selected from a pool of 15 nominees as OPRA Nurse of the Year, and attended the conference in Columbus joined by Scioto County Developmental Disabilities Provider Liaison Kristi Cyrus.

"Cindy works for STAR, Inc., one of the great provider agencies in our county serving people with developmental disabilities and we wanted to show our support for

her achievement and recognition," Cyrus said. "As I've worked with her through the years, she has been very helpful and she has always answered my questions. She's just an amazing person and very deserving of this award."

STAR, Inc. is a non-profit organization in Portsmouth, Ohio, dedicated to enriching the lives of adults with developmental disabilities by promoting independence, providing choices, giving support, empowering lives, and offering guidance. With programs that promote community outreach through volunteering as well as acquiring employment. All of their services and programs are tailored specifically to each members' unique needs. For more information about STAR, Inc., visit online at <https://sciotostar.org>. OPRA is a statewide association of service providers, to collaboratively build a statewide service system that meets the needs of its ultimate customers: Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Currently, OPRA's Membership consists of 178 provider organizations, both for-profit and not-for-profit, providing services to more than 40,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities. For more information about OPRA, visit online at www.opra.org.



Vern Riffe students create Valentine's cards for Children's Hospital

Room 109 at Vern Riffe School created 717 Valentine's Day cards to send to the kids at Children's Hospital this year! Teacher Sam Vetter and her classroom students and staff have done this three years running. Every year more classrooms and individuals pitch-in to help out with this growing, heartwarming tradition.



The 100th day at Vern Riffe School was on Valentine's Day this year! Carson was the 100th person to walk through the door and received the celebratory confetti greeting. Students passed out their Valentine's Day cards and enjoyed classroom parties. They finished the amazing day off with a dance party in the gym!



SCDD January 2024 Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities conducted its annual organizational meeting in January 2024, followed by its regular monthly meeting. During the organizational meeting, the board elected as its officers President Michael Arnett, Vice-President Anthony Mantell, and Recording Secretary Cindy Gibson, as well as standing committee appointments: Finance/Personnel – Chairperson Anthony Mantell and member Jon Peters; Ethics Council – Chairperson Adrienne Buckler-Callihan and member Cindy Gibson; Facilities – Chairperson William Adams and members Anthony Mantell and Ellen Murray. During its regular monthly meeting, Superintendent Matt Purcell delivered his report to the Board during which he commended the Leadership team for their exemplary efforts in maximizing non-traditional funding sources, bringing in roughly \$730,000 in

grant money to the organization at no cost to taxpayers or other operational funds. The board also heard a legislative update, regarding a bill which is in process to establish a registry for people with DD in the community which will be available to 911 emergency/first responder personnel. During new business, the board took the following actions:

- Approved motion to maintain current services provided by SOCOG in 2024, including advocacy, SSA Assistants, and MUI investigations.
- Approved motion of a mandatory resolution which states the intent of the County Board to honor payment of a share of non-federal Medicaid for qualified individuals. Approval of this Resolution complies with Ohio Revised Code Sections 5126.059 and 5126.0510 which mandate County Boards pay the Non-

Federal share of Medicaid expenditures for certain services to eligible individuals.

- Approved motion to accept the annual budget
- Approved motion on allocation of IDEA Part B Funds (Federal Awards). Purcell explained that through IDEA (Individual's with Disabilities Education Act) Part B, funds are awarded to school districts to assist with education costs provided to students with disabilities. The recommended use of the awarded funding (approximately \$17,000) is to put towards teacher's salaries to offset costs.
- Approved motion to accept revised Policy 1.08 - Meetings of the Board and Transaction of Business. Purcell stated this Policy had been updated to include the language regarding remote attendance for Board and Committee meetings. The rest of the policy remains unchanged.

SSU student begins internship at Scioto County DD



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities welcomes Shawnee State University student intern Elizabeth Maynard. Originally from Wellston, Ohio, Elizabeth is a junior in college at SSU. She is pursuing a psychology-

related career, and said she has always been interested in working with DD services. When she's not working or studying, Maynard said she likes to watch anime and crime documentaries, play video games, and listen to music.



VRS Cardinals wore red to show support for the Minford Falcons and the family of Ajay Stiles, a Minford senior who unexpectedly passed away in January.

Welcome the newest faces around SCDD!



JORDAN SHARP

1:1 Aide

Jordan lives in Piketon with her soon-to-be 3-year-old daughter and their dog. She has two family members in the DD program, and said she enjoys spending time with her family, and shopping.



ERIN BRUCE

1:1 Aide

Erin lives in Franklin Furnance. She has a child in the DD program and enjoys participating in her childrens' activities, such as dance, football, baseball, and special olympics.



AARON BORDERS

Positive Support Facilitator

Originally from Columbus, Aaron now lives in Otway. He has a wife, son, and a dog, and he enjoys boxing. He joined SCDD because he said he loves to help make a difference.



CIERRA COOPER

1:1 Aide

Cierra lives in Minford, and she enjoys playing in makeup. She said she joined SCDD because she has always loved the community and wanted to make a difference for others.



KRISTINA COTTON

1:1 Aide

Kristina lives in McDermott. She has 4 kids plus 2 step-kids with her fiance, as well as six horses and eight dogs. She said she enjoys sports, riding horses, and being a mom to her kids.



STEFANY McGLONE

Developmental Specialist

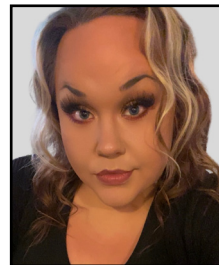
Stefany is married and lives in Wheelersburg. She has three adult children and a dog. She loves volunteer work and photography, and she's active in her church. She has worked in EI for nine years.



BRITANI MESSER

Developmental Specialist

Britani lives in Minford and has a BS in Health Science from SSU. She is married with a son and a daughter, and a dog. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, traveling and being at the beach.



MICAHLEE PARKER

1:1 Aide

Micahlee lives in Portsmouth with her two dogs. She enjoys music, movies, painting, makeup and hair. She said she enjoys working with SCDD because she enjoys helping others.



BRITTANY PORTER

Substitute 1:1 Aide

Brittany lives in Portsmouth and attended the Paramount Beauty Academy. She enjoys traveling, nail art, and skin care. She said she enjoys helping others.



KIERRA RAFALOWSKI

1:1 Aide

Kierra lives in Wheelersburg. She enjoys spending time with her grandmother and cat, Ollie. She also enjoys painting, hiking, and anything musical.



TAMMY GRIGSON

VRS Secretary

Tammy lives in Portsmouth, and she's returning to VRS after two years away. She wanted to return because she missed being a part of the team. She enjoys her church, family, and traveling.



KIMMY GOLD

1:1 Aide

Kimmy lives in New Boston with her husband and four children. She has a master's degree from American Public University, and she enjoys drawing, writing, reading, and crafting.

2024

2024



SCDD CHARITY DRIVE RACE

TO ENTER:

***Qualifying will take place on March 6.**

***Please email Andrea at: avaldes@sciotodd.org, saying "I'm in" to qualify for the race.**

***Racers will be grouped into teams of 6 by a random team generator.**

On March 7th, we will drop the green flag, and the race will begin!

***Race teams can drop off donations Mon.-Thurs. 8-10am at VRS. (Mahert Road Foyer)**

***Items for donations are:**

Non-perishable food-1 point

Hygiene products-3 points

Undergarments-5 points

On April 3 we will wave the checkered flag and the race will end.

***The team with the most points WINS!**

The team that makes it to VICTORY LANE will receive a free lunch of their choice between:

Sonora, Toro Loco, Market Street Cafe, or Hickies.

Upcoming Events:

MARCH

- 1st: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month,
- 5th: Human Rights Committee Meeting
- 6th: Special Olympics Basketball Game at home at 10:30 am
- 7th: Kick off of SCDD Charity Race
- 8th: Special Olympics Basketball Game at Northwest High School
- 11th: DD Awareness at the Scioto County Library: Vision Impaired Supports at 10 am
- 12th: Statewide Advocacy Day Event – SCDD Watch Party at Carousel at 10 am
- 13th: Special Olympics Basketball Game at home at 10:30 am
- 14th: DD Awareness Month Proclamation at Commissioners Meeting at 10 am
- 15th: VRS Early Dismissal
- 16th: Saint Patrick's Day Parade – 10 am lineup and 11am kick off
- 19th: Southern Ohio Advocacy Group Meeting
- 20th: Special Olympics Basketball Game at home at 10:30 am
- 21st: Rock Your Socks Day: Down Syndrome Awareness
- 21st: SCDD Board Meeting at 5pm
- 22nd: Knights of Columbus Foul Shooting Contest
- 22nd: Meeting After the Meeting
- 22nd: Special Olympics Game
- 25th: Spirit Week: Details TBA
- 27th: Hardwood Heroes 80s-theme Pep Rally
- 28th: Hardwood Heroes at SSU: Tip off at 6pm
- 28th: VRS Easter Egg Hunt
- 29th: All SCDD Primary Classes Closed: Good Friday

In Memory

Marisa Reeder



Marisa Reeder, a service recipient, passed away on Jan. 28, 2024. Marisa was an outgoing young lady with many interests and passions, that included promoting childhood cancer awareness in

hopes others would understand and support this cause. SCDD offers sincere condolences to Marisa's family, friends and all those who knew and loved her.

John Cantrell



John Cantrell, former SCDD employee, passed away on Dec. 31 2023. Mr. Cantrell was an employee from March 2000 through May 2011 and served in various roles during his time with

SCDD. His service and dedication to the organization will not be forgotten.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities
2619 Gallia Street
Portsmouth, OH 45662-4898

Telephone: 740-353-0636
Fax: 740-353-0780
24-Hour Emergency Line: 740-353-4677

You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok, and online at www.sciotodd.org.