Direct Support Professionals Recognized for their Work

In our last issue of The Talebearer, we asked you to support Governor John Kasich budget proposal that provided some much needed new monies in support of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities. Included in that budget initiative; was language that provided wage increases for direct service workers, (also known as Direct Support Professionals). Direct Support Professionals (DSP) are on the front lines, and work with individuals every day to help them meet their goals. Thanks to all of our efforts, we are pleased to report that rates that providers are paid that support services for people with developmental disabilities will be increasing the first of the year. The rate increase will permit us to give much deserved wage increases to our DSP team members.

This is a very strong and long overdue commitment to and recognition of our DSPs at MRSI for the work that they do. Our DSP’s are the backbone of our organization and the important services we provide could not be done without all their hard work. It is empowering to us all to have our state legislators recognize the value of the professional services provided by these men and women with their votes in support of this budget proposal. The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) lobbied long and hard in support of DSP’S, and thanks to them and many other’s hard work, our collective voices did make a difference. We would also like to thank Governor Kasich and the members of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives who supported this issue.

If you know someone who is a DSP or if you have a family member or friend who is touched by the care and support of a DSP, please take the time and thank them for the work that they do. They don’t do what they do for recognition, but like us all, they do appreciate kind words. On behalf of Mercer Residential Services, we are proud of the exceptional professionalism and service of our DSPs. What you do every day makes a positive impact to those we serve in our community. Thank you very much.

Garry Mosier, CEO
The ADS has been very busy!!! We have traveled to the Fish Hatchery, the Lake, Parks, Museums, the Ohio Caverns, boat rides, and more!!! Not to mention all the work the clients have been doing in the facility!! We had our very own OSU Day, did canvas art, new exercises, new skill stations, science experiments, life skills, cooking projects, and more. It is incredibly rewarding to see how much the clients are pushing themselves (and us) to try new things all the time.

I want to thank everyone who helped with the new look at the ADS!! ITT LOOKS AMAZING!!!! The clients reactions when they walked in made all the hard work worth it. We now have display shelves for their artwork, hooks for their crafts, more skill stations, areas for them to do more things independently. Stop by and check it out!!

I want to Congratulate Kristy Eischen on her DSP of the year award!! She will be in Columbus in November to accept her award. CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!!!!!

I would like to Welcome Angel Eisenhut to our team at the ADS. The clients have been very open to her, and we are lucky to have her here.

The ADS has many exciting changes ahead and I want to sincerely thank everyone for the continuous support for us. Gene, Jennifer, Dan, Kristy and Angel are always more than willing to follow the crazy ideas I throw out there, and offer their own. When you have a team that works this well together it can only do one thing, benefit our clients. I also thank Garry, Kelly and Michelle for their continuous support of our plans, ideas, and goals. I am very excited about what we have ahead of us and the growth that will come with it.
The Van Wert ADS has been pretty busy these last few months. In April of this year, our ADS went from 2 days a week at the YMCA to 3 days a week and implementing a volunteer program. Then August 1st, ADS went to a full 5 days a week and with that, a brand new location. ADS members and staff worked extremely hard in making our new location our bright, beautiful happy home! We held an open house in September. We had a great turn out of friends, family and providers to check out our location and program.

Van Wert ADS has been checking out the community in Van Wert and other nearby towns. We have made our way to Fort Wayne, St. Mary’s, Ohio City, Berne, St. Joe, Wapakoneta, and many more. We have visited the Fort Wayne zoo, toured a pickle factory, went putt putting, toured the Botanical Gardens, went to county fairs, and much more. Our Calendars are always full of fun and excitement. Stay tuned to see what’s coming up next!
Jeffrey Reynolds got a job in the community. Preferred Insurance in Coldwater has hired Jeffrey to empty all their wastebaskets and take it to the dumpster once a week. Special thanks to CA employment for assisting Jeff to find employment so quickly and Preferred Insurance for their contributions to the community.

Wayne Street Group Home residents had fun this summer enjoying outings to the Mercer County Fair, band show, bingo, and lake festival parade. They also get outside and enjoying walks and bike rides in the nice fall weather!

**Mercer County Attendance winner for the month of September:**
Dan Jones.

**Mercer County employees having perfect attendance for the quarter:**
- Lindsey Bodiker - WSGH
- Barb Fisher - WSGH
- Sarah Hromish - WSGH
- Landon Kuhn - WSGH
- Brooke Murray - WSGH
- Jennifer Bishop - ADS
- Gene Goodwin - ADS
- Dan Jones - ADS
- Rose Gray - Community Program