



# FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

## DD Awareness Month Celebrated in March

Every year, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is celebrated in March to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the community, as well as to barriers that people with DD may face in their lives.

Lawrence County DD typically holds annual events every March, including the annual ChiliFest and Craft Show for DD Awareness. However, the past year has been anything but typical. And in order to comply with health and safety measures due to COVID-19, our celebration of the month was smaller than usual - but still a blast for all involved.

Students at Open Door School participated in many DD Month traditions we've come to know and love such as our balloon launch, Dr. Seuss Day, and our students vs. staff basketball game.

We're hopeful that next year, our Chilifest and Craft Show will return and we can welcome everyone from our community to once again celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month together!



## 2020 Graduates

In the spring of 2020, Open Door School saw three students graduate. Graduation time is always a bittersweet moment.

We say goodbye to students who we have grown close to, but also recognize that the future holds some very special opportunities for them. This graduation, however, was especially difficult because we were not able to celebrate in our usual way. Due to the closures caused by COVID-19, our students were not able to participate in a typical graduation ceremony. Instead, the students have been invited to participate in the 2021 ceremony. We would like to congratulate Dustin Gallaway, Brittany Hackworth, and Jason Smith on their graduation.

We are so proud of you!

## New Provider Alert!

Check out what PALS is bringing to Lawrence County

### Service Recipient SPOTLIGHT



Herman Faulkner

#### ***What town do you live in?***

Ironton

#### ***What services do you receive from LCDD?***

SSA services and transportation to and from my job at Cintas (been there 8 Years).

#### ***What do you like to do for fun in your free time?***

I like watching football & baseball games. I love NASCAR and being outside.

#### ***What is your dream vacation?***

Tampa Bay Florida-love the beach.

#### ***What is your favorite way to spend your weekend?***

I like to relax, spend time outside, sitting on my porch, and feeding the deer in my back yard.

Physical Activity and Life Skills (PALS) is the newest provider of services in the Lawrence County DD community. PALS's primary focus is to create an overall active and engaging environment in which individuals are in constant movement engaging in activities of their choice while gaining physical wellness and daily living skills in doing so.

"Our goal is to create unimaginable opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, our mission is their success! We truly do live that mission day to day in our supports." Says Mike Pierro, representative from PALS. "We are a provider who is not afraid to engage in the community, taking a creative and progress approach to our day to day supports. Our groups have engaged in activities such as rock climbing, zip lining, group camps, college enrollment, and habilitation of vocational skills inside of community businesses that all lead to an overall increased quality of life."

PALS has been selected as a provider for the DODD Transformation Summit for numerous years as a model provider for DODD's mission of community engagement and supports.

Lawrence County's branch has a sibling program in Gallia County, where PALS was awarded the opportunity to privatize GallCo Industries and transform the former sheltered workshop into a community based program.

Some examples of what the Gallia program has brought to the local community are:

Mowing and landscaping contracts with local businesses.

Adopt a block programs.

Giving/Sharing boxes posted throughout the local community.

Hunger drives for the community

A park created and maintained by individuals supported by PALS.

Employment and vocational opportunities at local businesses.

College experience both virtually and on campus.

For more about PALS, visit their website at [www.palschrysalishealth.com](http://www.palschrysalishealth.com) or find them on [Facebook](#).

**Contact Us!** 604 Carlton Davidson Ln., Coal Grove, OH 45638

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[www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)



We'd like to commemorate Onan Murnahan who passed away on April 1, 2021 with this month's newsletter. If you'd like to recognize Onan, you may make a donation in Onan's name to : Nationwide Children's Hospital, Attn: Oncology Dept., 700 Children Dr., Level H11 Columbus OH 43205