

OCTOBER 2023

A NEWSLETTER OF LAWRENCE COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# FOCUS



## Meet Will Sowards

# SPOTLIGHT

individuals in need by connecting them to job opportunities in the community.

"Will is very inspiring. Everyone who knows Will lights up when they talk about him," said Adams.

Having faced adversity in the past, Will can look back at his experiences and reflect on something positive to support and encourage others. When asked how he keeps such a positive attitude, Will said, "I don't want to live my life with a bad attitude. You just have to get up and keep going."



**Jill Adams**  
Service and Support Administrator (SSA)  
Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities

Will Sowards is a familiar face at the South Point Foodfair in Lawrence County, OH. He began his job in 2009, and since then, he has worked various jobs at the store from carry out to stocker. Whether it's collecting trash, keeping the parking lot tidy or assisting the elderly while shopping, his devotion to his job and customers is motivated by his love for people. Wherever there is a need for assistance, Will is there ready to help with a smile and an encouraging



"I love that about him," said Jill. "Will's philosophy in life is, 'if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything!'"

**"Will's philosophy in life is, 'if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything!'"**

Scan this QR code to link to Will's interview.



word. Jill Adams, SSA, Service and Support Administrator for Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities, helps to coordinate services for

We share this philosophy with Will, and that's why Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities is proud to partner with individuals like him to provide much-needed resources in education, health care and opportunities for employment.



## LOOK BACK

Thank you Ironton Elks 177 for the generous donation of \$8,238 to the Open Door Booster Club, a 501-c3 organization to benefit students at Open Door School. The funds will be used for a school sensory room and for sensory items that will be made available throughout the school. This will greatly benefit our students. The majority of the funds donated came from a grant the Ironton Elks 177 obtained to benefit those with autism. The rest was raised during their Charity Golf Tournament for Autism held on August 27, 2023 at the Ironton Country Club.

*Pictured below: Monica Blanton of the Ironton Elks 177, presents a check to Tawnya Bailey, Open Door School Booster Club Treasurer.*



*Pictured: left to right, Julie Monroe, Tawnya Bailey, Christi Kerns*

## LOOK AHEAD

**Nov 4**  
Fall Festival at Open Door School  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Nov 7**  
All Staff Inservice, ODS closed.  
For emergency assistance please  
contact 740.532.0406.

**Nov 9**  
Fall art show at Open Door School  
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Nov 10**  
All programs closed in  
observance of Veterans Day  
For emergency assistance please  
contact 740.532.0406.

**Nov 14**  
LCDD Monthly Board Meeting  
6 p.m. at ODS.

**Nov 15**  
Open Door School Booster  
Club Meeting, 3p.m.

**Nov 22 - 24**  
ODS closed.  
For emergency assistance please  
contact 740.532.0406.

**Nov 23 - 24**  
All programs closed.  
For emergency assistance please  
contact 740.532.0406.

**Nov 27**  
ODS Staff Inservice (no students)

**Dec 12**  
LCDD Monthly Board Meeting  
6 p.m. at ODS.



Lawrence County DD  
Growing Possibilities for  
Developmental Disabilities  
604 Carlton Davidson Ln  
Coal Grove, OH 45638

Board Office: 740-532-7401  
SSA department and emergency contact:  
740-532-0406  
Open Door School: 740-532-1234  
Early Intervention: 740-532-0406  
[www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)

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<https://youtu.be/qrJDQEx8dc>



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