



# FOCUS



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## ODS Student Shares Experience of Working

I started work at Bob Evans in Burlington, Ohio nearly a year ago! Working there is really great!

My duties at Bob Evans are bussing tables, taking plates and cups to the dishwasher, and folding silverware. Sometimes after I finish working, I get lunch there! Working at Bob Evans is a fun and pleasant experience I will never forget!

*By Alex Beckett*

## Staff Birthdays

Ron Sims, May 4

Sandy Stormes, May 4

Arlie Lynd, May 19

Chris Bentley, May 22

## Honoring the 2018 Open Door Graduating Class

Tally Adkins is the daughter of Jason and Brandy Adkins and Don & Sarah Thompson. Tally wishes to attend Easterseals in Burlington, Ohio after graduation. During Tally's school career she participated in cheerleading, Special Olympics, swimming, bowling, science/social studies fair, bell choir, and transition to work activities. Tally was the 2018 Prom Queen.

Shayna Bowling is the daughter of Diana Bowling. She plans to attend Persons Centered Services in Coal Grove, Ohio after graduation. Shayna participated in swimming, transition to work activities, bowling, science/social studies fair, cheerleading, and Special Olympics during her time at Open Door School.

Robert Clayton Lyon is the grandson of JoAnn Lyon. Clayton plans to attend Person Centered Services in Coal Grove, Ohio and he also plans on getting a job. While at Open Door School, Clayton participated in bell choir, Special Olympics, swimming, bowling, science/social studies fair, transition to work activities and was the manager of the Open Door Jets basketball team. Clayton was also the 2018 Prom King.

Jacob Thompson is the son of Benny Thompson and Rick and Kim Corn. He plans to stay home and learning more sign language. During Jacob's school career he participated in transition to work activities, Special Olympics, swimming, bowling, and science/social studies fair.

Zachary Toppins is the son of Glen and Lisa Toppins. Zac plans on attending Person Centered Services after graduation. While at Open Door, he participated in bell choir, Special Olympics, transition to work activities, science/social studies fair, bowling, and swimming.

Raven Webb is the daughter of Eric and Tammy Webb. Raven plans on staying home after graduation. Raven participated in cheerleading, transition to work activities, bell choir, Special Olympics, bowling, swimming, and science/social fair during her time at Open Door. Raven was also the manager of the Jet Café.





## Superintendent's Corner

It's springtime and there are many exciting things around the corner. We are looking forward to graduations at the ECC and Open Door School programs, Special Olympics Track and Field day and much more. The LCDD programs will be participating in the 150<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade in Ironton on May 28, 2018. We welcome anyone who would like to walk with us so please contact Tim Nunnery at 740-532-7401 if you are interested.

Also, to assist with getting important information out, the new LCDD website will be up and running soon at [www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)

On the statewide front, the 'Fix the List' campaign is underway and everyone who is currently on a waiting list for DD waivers in Lawrence County should have received an informational letter from me explaining this initiative. In sum, it is aimed at making the waiting list process more efficient, accurate and reflective of immediate needs. More information can be found on the web at [FixTheList.info](http://FixTheList.info), or contact the Service and Support Administration Office at 740-532-0406.

- Julie Monroe, Superintendent

## Overcoming Autism

According to the Center of Disease Control, autism affects every 1 in 68 children in America; but for one child and family in Lawrence County, the condition did not deter a life worth living to fulfillment.

Hunter Allen of Kitts Hill was born on July 6, 2011 to Andrew and Marissa Allen. From birth, his parents began to encounter challenges in Hunter's development as a newborn. He had experienced trouble sleeping and as well as feeding issues, even to the point that Hunter had to be fed from a small medicine bottle.

At 9 months old, Hunter still experienced difficulty sitting up without support. He then did not begin crawling until 10 and a half months old and did not learn to walk until he was over 14 months old.

Andrew and Marissa decided to seek opinions from health professionals on some of the issues they had noticed in Hunter as he began to grow older, such as avoiding eye contact, speaking few words, and having trouble with crowds. At 3 years and 8 months old, Hunter was diagnosed with autism by the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Autism is a condition, present from early childhood, characterized by difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts, as well as sensory issues associated with touching and receptive behaviors. According to the Autism Science Foundation, in the 1980s autism prevalence was reported as 1 in 10,000. In the nineties, prevalence was 1 in 2500 and later 1 in 1000. Today the condition has increased to affecting 1 in 68 children.

"Our reaction to finding out Hunter had autism was initially shocking," says Marissa Allen. "But then we felt relief because we finally had some answers."

Shortly following his diagnosis, Hunter began speech and occupational therapy to treat the symptoms of autism. In 2015, Hunter was enrolled in the preschool programs under Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities in South Point, which specializes in providing services and support for developmental disabilities, including autism.

Annette Payne was Hunter's preschool instructor at the Early Childhood Center and noticed his difficulties with social interaction, tending to tasks and following directions.

"He had to learn to transition from his parent's surroundings to the unfamiliar setting of school," says Payne. "He also had to learn the expectations of the classroom rules and routines. At first this was difficult for Hunter and he needed a lot of individualized assistance."

Over time though, Hunter began to develop his social and learning skills, eventually becoming a standout in his classroom with his progress. "As time passed, Hunter's confidence increased and he showed pride in being able to complete his work, participate in the daily routine and interact with others. By the time he left preschool Hunter had gained a lot of new skills that would help him be successful in kindergarten," says Payne.

On May 17, 2017, Hunter graduated from the ECC's preschool program.

Today, Hunter enjoys watching Youtube videos, camping with family, and riding go carts with his brother, Holden. He has gone on to kindergarten at Dawson Bryant Elementary, where he's accompanied by his personal aide, Barb Moore at all times. Marissa attributes Hunters progress in his socialization and learning to the services he received at such an early age following his diagnosis.

"Hunter is still doing therapy and seems to be responding well. I can say none of this would have been possible without Annette Payne. She truly has a special place in her heart for kids with special needs and also the classroom aide, Donna Childers - she was a huge help too."

In Lawrence County, early intervention services are available for suspected autism through Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities. To receive more information about the services under Lawrence County DD, contact 740-532-7401.



## Tidbits From Around Lawrence County DD

### Individuals from Person Centered Services Volunteer at the Early Childhood Center

Individuals receiving services from LCDD are providing their volunteering services to other programs within the LCDD umbrella. Robin Murphy and Dorothy Martin are giving their time to assist at the ECC when needed.



### LCDD Develops First Responder Informational Cards

Lawrence County DD developed informational cards for first responders when they encounter an individual with DD. The card is intended to be kept in first responder vehicles in our county - police cruisers, fire trucks and ambulances - and contains Do's and Don'ts as well as contact information for our IA and SSA department.

### LCDD Participates in Area Autism Run

Staff members, families and student receiving services under LCDD participated in the 17th Annual Rally For Autism 5K, put on by the Autism Services Center at Ritter Park in Huntington, W.Va. The rally drew more than 700 participants this year and was a perfect morning for a stroll through the park.



### Calendar of Events

May 2-3  
DODD Accreditation Review

May 3-4  
ODS Staff Appreciation

May 4  
ECC Staff Appreciation

May 8  
LCDD Board Meeting - Noon

May 9  
Flower Planting at ODS

May 10  
Special Olympics  
OACB Conference Begins

May 15  
ODS Graduation 6:00pm

May 22  
ECC Graduation 6:00pm

May 25  
Last Day for Preschool Programs  
(24th last day for students)

May 28  
Ironton Memorial Day Parade

### SSA Emergency Number to Change

Beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 the phone number for contacting the LCDD SSA Department in the event of an emergency after hours will change. The after hours phone number will be **740-532-0406**. This is the same number that you currently use to contact the SSA Department during business hours. We are making things easier by only having one number to call no matter what time of day you are calling:

**740-532-0406!**



## Contact Us!

Main Board Office  
740-532-7401

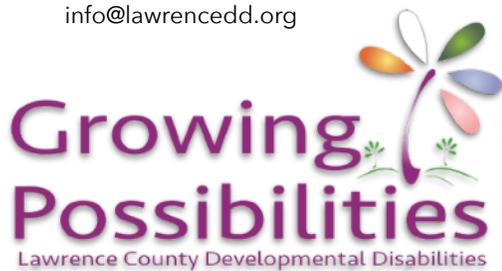
Early Childhood Center  
740-377-2356

Open Door School  
740-532-1234

Service and Support Administration  
740-532-0406

Emergency Number  
740-237-0447;  
After May 16 - 740-532-0406

[www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)  
To receive the newsletter electronically,  
email us at  
[info@lawrencedd.org](mailto:info@lawrencedd.org)



604 Carlton Davidson Ln.  
Coal Grove, OH 45638

## Misner Receives Promotion at Lowe's

Daniel Misner, an individual receiving SSA services under LCDD, was recently promoted to a Truck Supervisor position at Lowe's in South Point, his place of employment for the previous 2 years.

Daniel is excited about the opportunity to hold a supervisory position in a community employment role. LCDD congratulates Daniel and wishes him the best in his new role.

