

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Commissioners Proclaim March 2022 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

PAINESVILLE, OH, March 17, 2022 – An estimated 4.7 million Americans have an intellectual or developmental disability. Some of these may include autism, down syndrome, and cerebral palsy, to name a few. These conditions can cause an impairment in areas like language, learning, and physical behavior. In order to highlight and empower these individuals and their contributions, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, at their March 17, 2022 meeting, has proclaimed March “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” in Lake County.

Throughout the years, thousands of people with developmental disabilities have been supported by their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers and this year, the Board of Commissioners are encouraging everyone in the Lake County community to enrich, engage, and to stand “Side By Side” to provide vital support and resources to these incredible people. One of the most effective ways to increase awareness is through active participation in community activities that will enrich their lives by showing how much they are supported.

“These children and adults simply want what we all aspire to; to stay healthy, active, and involved as a vital part of our community,” commented Board President John Hamercheck. “It’s important we shed light onto any barriers individuals with developmental disabilities might face and help them better connect with others in our Lake County family.”

Commissioner John Plecnik added, “Individuals with developmental disabilities give back to our community in so many ways and they should be celebrated. We are so pleased to honor them by designating March as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness” month. We encourage everyone to join with us in celebrating the successes of all Lake County citizens and acknowledge that through diversity in our community and workforce, our lives are enriched.”

“Lake County is fortunate that, since 1966, the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood has found a home here in Mentor. They offer a broad scope of multi-faceted, community-inclusive services and supports for many of our citizens,” said Elfie Roman, Superintendent of the Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood. The Board appreciates and stands “Side By Side” the individuals they serve, their families, the staff of LCBDD, their volunteers, collaborative partners, and community organizations.

“Inclusion matters and community employment is a high priority for many people with disabilities. We encourage our local businesses to provide more opportunities for these hard-working folks as it provides them with a real sense of purpose and helps them to connect socially while at the same time providing a valuable service,” commented Commissioner Ron Young.

The Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood is located at 8121 Deepwood Boulevard in Mentor. If you have any questions about community resources or the services they offer, you can contact them at (440) 350-5100 for assistance.

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