

Opportunity Center News

A publication of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities

WINTER 2016

Hello Again to Everyone!!

As we race toward the end of the year, I wanted to take some time to review 2016. It would seem that the motto for the year has been change for change sake.

In Adult Services we have seen change in many different forms. We have seen some staff move into retirement, with well wishes and hope for happiness; and have seen new faces come into the picture eager to make their mark and help us toward our mission. We have seen rule changes, and changes to the rules they just changed! We have seen the continuation of the change in philosophy regarding what we do. We have seen changes in the people we serve, people growing and moving into new and exciting chapters in their lives.

The changes have been everywhere. Through our inner strength and our support for each other we have endured them in 2016, and can endure them in the years to come. As always, we make the most out of whatever life hands us. When counting my blessings this year I will include the dedication that every one of us shows each day, and I hope you will do the same. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2017!

Rodney Biggert,
Director of Adult Services

This amazing Willy Wonka Christmas Tree was decorated by Natalie Ranker and other SCOC employees and was donated by the Opportunity Center to Community Hospice Care's Festival of Trees.



On April 27, 2017 the Opportunity Center will have a scheduled 2 hour delay for staff training.

~~Please note that this is a change to the previously distributed calendar~~



SENECA COUNTY
OPPORTUNITY CENTER

169 Board Members

Patricia Smith

Joe Moore

Amy Kirkpatrick

Lindsay Parkins

Sandy Hallett

David Shelton

SCOC 419-447-7521

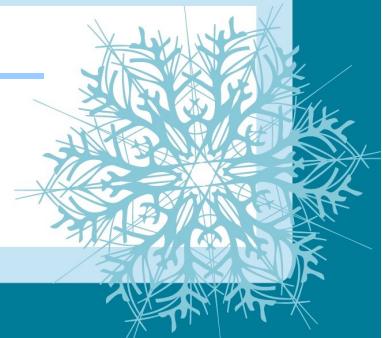
Fostoria Re-Ads
419-937-2081

Help Me Grow/
Family Learning Center
419-447-7674

Early Childhood Center
of Fostoria
419-436-0797

Service & Support
Administration
567-938-2381

Opportunity Center Website
www.senecadd.org



Buffalo Wild Wings, WTTF Radio & Local Universities Team Up to Support Seneca Arrows

Tiffin's Buffalo Wild Wings and WTTF Radio have been teaming up on Monday nights to support local athletic programs. During these events, Buffalo Wild Wings donates 15% of the bill of each customer wearing the sponsored team's colors.

The Seneca Arrows were grateful this fall when the football programs at both Heidelberg University and Tiffin University chose to donate the proceeds from their Eat Wings, Raise Funds nights to the Seneca Arrows. Thanks to the amazing generosity of Heidelberg, Tiffin University, and the community, the Arrows received over \$1,000 toward the purchase of new uniforms.

If you missed the chance to support the Arrows while eating wings this fall, you have another chance in February. On Feb. 27th, Buffalo Wild Wings will host an Eat Wings, Raise Funds event just for the Seneca Arrows!

Go Arrows!



**Mark your calendar for
February 27th**

to EAT WINGS & RAISE FUNDS for the Seneca Arrows!

Wear your black & gold to the Tiffin Buffalo Wild Wings between 6pm and 9pm and 15% of your bill will be donated to the Seneca Arrows!



SCOC Volunteer Donates Kindle Fires

Over a year ago, Rita Zechiel decided she was tired of sitting at home, so she called the Opportunity Center to see if she could be a volunteer. On her first day at SCOC, Rita was welcomed by Jim Zellner, and ever since Rita and Jim have been a familiar sight at the Opportunity Center. Rita is involved in numerous SCOC activities, enjoying time in the arts & crafts room and visiting in the senior program. On Mondays Rita's husband joins her, volunteering in the Vocational II classroom.

After spending so much time at the Opportunity Center, Rita developed a plan. Realizing that they would be practical, educational - and fun! - she decided to make a donation of e-books. Although she initially planned to donate four e-books, Rita stumbled across a deal so amazing she was able to donate eight Kindle Fires.



Rita is already helping put her donation to use, using the Kindle Fires to help individuals research simple recipes and diet guidelines. Ultimately she plans to use this research to promote independence by teaching individuals to prepare their own meals. She's heard "I can't cook!" a few times already. But Rita, who is blind, doesn't take no for an answer. "I can't even see the kitchen," she replies, "and I cook all the time!"

Thank you so much, Rita!
The Opportunity Center is so blessed to have not only the donated Kindle Fires, but also the gift of your time and your amazing attitude!

Seneca County Wave Award Recipients



Congratulations to all SCOC staff recently recognized with WAVE awards by the Clearwater Council of Governments. These awards recognize individuals for acting above and beyond their normal work duties.

A special shout-out goes to Sandy Hallett, an SCOC Board Member and Parent Mentor/Autism Coordinator at NCOESC, whose phenomenal work and dedication to children and families in Seneca County was recognized with a Crystal Wave Award.

Way to go everyone! We are grateful to have you in our agency and in our community!

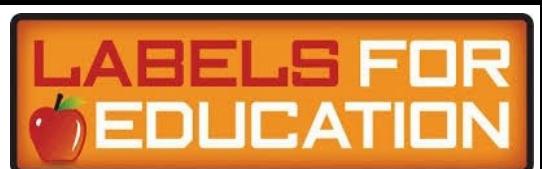


Remember that we have collection boxes for Box Tops and Labels for Education at both Tiffin and Fostoria. Thanks for your continued support!



Congratulations

Chris
&
Joshua!



Dawn Nye will retire on December 31st. Dawn was a summer bus driver sub beginning in 2002, and became a full time bus aide in 2011. Dawn is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and camping with family.



Sue Weiler will retire on January 31st. She has been a full time bus driver for the past year and a half. Sue is looking forward to some travel and to spoiling her darling new grandson even more than she does now, if that's possible.

Congratulations Retirees!



Annette Hill retired October 31st after nearly 17 years as a workshop specialist. She has endless plans for her retirement including crafty projects, travel, and a new house.



Aileen Schreiner will retire on December 31st. Aileen started as a sub teacher in 1991, but has been full time in early intervention since 1997. We thank her for helping countless children and their families!

Administrative Resolution of Complaints

While we encourage everyone to resolve disagreements in an informal manner, there are those occasions when this is not possible. In the event that you have an issue you need to resolve with the Opportunity Center, there are policies and procedures in place to facilitate a resolution. If you would like further information regarding the resolution of complaints, the SCOC has brochures available describing the process. If you would like a copy of the complete information in policy form, that is also available at your request.

**SENECA COUNTY
OPPORTUNITY CENTER**
780 E. CR 20
Tiffin, OH 44883
www.senecadd.org

OUR MISSION:
To improve the lives of
persons with
disabilities!

Cancellation & Delay Procedure

Cancellations and delays are determined with the safety of the passengers and staff in mind when it is determined that weather conditions are such that it is not safe for a school bus to operate.

When it is necessary to delay or close the Opportunity Center, the One Call Now system makes automated phone calls. If you would like to sign up for One Call Now, call the Opportunity Center and give your information to the receptionist. The delay or closing announcement will also be made on the following TV stations:

WTVG-TV13 (ABC)

WTOL-TV11 (CBS)

WNWO-TV24 (NBC)

If the Opportunity Center is open on schedule, but a school district within Seneca County is closed, the Opportunity Center will follow that district's closure by not providing transportation for our individuals living within that district. If transportation services are canceled in your district but the Opportunity Center is open, you may provide transportation to and from the Opportunity Center for your individual.

If the Opportunity Center is open on schedule, but a school district within Seneca County is delayed, the Opportunity Center will delay transportation for our individuals living within that district according to that district's delay. If transportation services are delayed in your district but the Opportunity Center is open, you may provide transportation to the Opportunity Center for your individual.

The procedures above do not include cancellation or delay by a district for any reason other than weather related. If you have any questions please call the Opportunity Center at 419-447-7521.

2016/17 SCOC Calendar

Dec. 21-	Christmas Break (Program Closed)
Jan. 2	
Jan. 10	169 Board Meeting, 4:30pm, SCOC
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Day (Program Closed)
Jan. 17	Homecoming Game, 6:00pm, SCOC
Jan. 20	Homecoming Dance, 5:00-9:00pm, SCOC
Feb. 14	169 Board Meeting, 4:30pm, SCOC
Feb. 16	PM Parent Conferences
Feb. 17	AM Parent Conferences (School Closed)
Feb. 20	President's Day (Program Closed)
March 14	169 Board Meeting, 4:30pm, SCOC
March 28	Celebrity Basketball Game at Heidelberg University

