



NEWS FROM THE SENECA COUNTY OPPORTUNITY CENTER

A publication of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Our Mission: To improve the lives of persons with disabilities



Seneca Arrows athletes during their events at Special Olympic Summer games in Columbus

SCOC Calendar

Sept 24th	Dinner and Dialogue
Sept 25th	Sub Day
Oct 8th	Hoot in the Park
Oct 12th	Columbus Day (SCOC Closed)
Nov 11th	Veterans Day
Nov 26th -27th	Thanksgiving (SCOC Closed)

Board Members

Erin Simmons, President
Arrin Allen, Vice President
Frank Lengel
Joe Moore
Kim Radison
Kenneth Clason
Michelle Smith

Contact Us

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419-447-7521

Early Intervention
419-447-7674
797 E TWP Rd. 201, Tiffin, OH

Early Childhood Center of Fostoria
419-436-0797
801 Kirk St., Fostoria, OH

Service and Support Administration
567-938-2381
40 Fair Lane, Tiffin, OH

News from Natasha by Natasha Nichols, Superintendent

As we welcome the beginning of a new school year, I am excited to introduce myself as the new Superintendent of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I have had the privilege of serving this organization for thirteen years as the Director of Service and Support Administration (SSA) and have worked in other capacities in this field previously. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the community in this new role.

We are also welcoming in a new school year! It brings new opportunities for learning, growth, friendships, and discovery. For our students, families, and staff at the School of Opportunity, I hope this year is filled with meaningful experiences, accomplishments—both big and small—and opportunities for every student to reach their fullest potential.

As Superintendent, my commitment is to ensure that the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities remains focused on what matters most: supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families, promoting independence and inclusion, and creating opportunities for people to live meaningful and fulfilling lives in our community.

I also recognize that the strength of our organization comes from the people who make up our community. Our dedicated staff, families, providers, community partners, Board members, and—most importantly—the individuals we support all play an important role in helping us fulfill our mission of improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

As we begin this new school year and this new chapter together, I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside each of you. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and remain committed to leading with compassion, collaboration, and a person-centered focus.

To our students and families: welcome back! To our dedicated staff: thank you for the work you do each day to make a difference. And to our entire community: thank you for your continued support of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

I look forward to an exciting and successful school year and to all that we will accomplish together.

Warmly,

Natasha Nichols



New Beginnings

Meet Our New Director of Education

The School of Opportunity is excited to welcome Ann Pfister as our new Director of Education!

Ann brings 27 years of experience in education, previous roles include music educator, Intervention Specialist, Director of Special Education, and Educational Consultant. She also traveled throughout North America as a Global Professional Instructor for the Crisis Prevention Institute.

Ann holds degrees from the University of Akron and Ashland University, and says her passion for education comes from one goal: "I want to make a difference in a child's life."

Outside of work, Ann enjoys biking, baking, DIY projects, hiking, and spending time outdoors. A fun fact about Ann—she once performed at Carnegie Hall with a wind ensemble!

We are excited to have Ann on our team and look forward to the experience and passion she brings to the School of Opportunity!



Back to School at SCOC

A new school year is underway at the School of Opportunity, and students and staff have been busy settling back into their routines. The first days have been filled with smiling faces, learning, and fun.

Classrooms have been getting to know one another through creative "All About Me" projects, giving students a chance to share their favorite things and what makes them unique. Students and staff celebrated being back together with a dance party filled with music, movement, and smiles.

The school's Walking Club has also started, giving students another way to stay active while spending time with friends and staff.

From stepping off the bus to getting back into classroom activities, it has been a great start to the year. We look forward to watching our students learn, grow, and make new memories throughout the 2026–2027 school year!



Welcome to the SCOC Team



Miranda Billman
Intervention Specialist
Fav snack: Chocolate
Fav color: Orange



Jenna Bradford
Teachers Aide
Fav snack: Any Fruit
Fav color: Blue



Carmella Fabrizio
Teachers Aide
Fav snack: Pretzles
Fav color: Purple



Colleen Briggs
Intervention Specialist
Fav snack: Chocolate
Fav color: Purple



Chelsey Bunting
Teachers Aide
Fav snack: Apples & PB
Fav color: Purple



Karina Dunn
Sub Nurse
Fav snack: Chocolate
Fav color: Orange



Tegan Emshoff
Intervention Specialist
Fav snack: Popcorn
Fav color: Pink



Tyler Youngston
Teachers Aide
Fav snack: BBQ Chips
Fav color: Black & Orange



Carol Hoerig
Teachers Aide
Fav snack: Cheese
Fav color: Red



Sonya Larick
SSA
Fav snack: Caramel Apple
Fav color: Black



Allison Otto
Teachers Aide
Fav snack: BBQ Chips
Fav color: Purple



Renecca Padula
SSA Clerical Specialist
Fav snack: Bugles
Fav color: Periwinkle



Emma-Lee Segura
Sub Teachers Aide
Fav snack: Dark Chocolate
Fav color: Teal

Summer Memories

Special Olympics Summer Games

The Seneca Arrows traveled to Columbus this summer to compete in the Special Olympics Ohio Summer Games. Our athletes competed in track and field, bowling, and bocce, bringing home several medals and plenty of great memories!

Track & Field: Titus earned bronze in the 100-meter dash and gold in the softball throw. Kaleb took silver in the 100-meter dash and bronze in mini javelin. Orlando earned silver in the running long jump and placed 6th in the 100-meter dash. Thomas brought home silver in mini javelin and gold in the 100-meter dash, while Ally placed 5th in mini javelin and earned silver in the softball throw. The 4x100-meter relay team of Titus, Thomas, Kaleb, and Orlando finished in 4th place.

Bowling: Wendy brought home bronze, Camden earned silver, Breanna placed 4th, and Jerry finished in 5th place.

Bocce: The team of Nedra and Joey brought home silver, while Michelle and Jenny finished in 4th place.

Congratulations to all of our Seneca Arrows athletes on a great showing at the Summer Games! We are proud of your hard work and accomplishments!

Summer School

Summer school was filled with learning, creativity, and plenty of fun at the School of Opportunity! Students stayed busy with hands-on activities, including creating bird feeders, making bubbles, creating hand prints and playing interactive games with BEAM, a game system that projects activities right onto the floor.

Students also celebrated National Ice Cream Day with a sweet treat and enjoyed many opportunities to learn, play, and spend time with friends.

From creative projects to interactive games, summer school gave students a chance to keep learning while making some great summer memories!



Advocates on the Move

On August 15, SCOC Aktion Club traveled to Westerville for the annual Aktion Club Leadership & Education Day. Aktion Club and Kiwanis members from across Ohio came together for a day of learning, leadership, networking, and fun!

Members took part in sessions about leadership, personal growth, and sign language, enjoyed a magic show, and ended the day with an inspiring keynote from Kyle.



Fun at the Seneca County Fair

The Seneca County Opportunity Center had a great time at the Seneca County Fair! Throughout the week, staff and volunteers welcomed visitors to our booth, shared information about services and resources, and enjoyed connecting with members of our community.

Individuals from our Afterhours group also spent an evening at the fair enjoying good food, friends, animals, and all the fun the fair has to offer.

One of the highlights of the week was the 8th Annual Jodi Depinet Rainey 4-H & Me Livestock Show. This special event gives individuals the opportunity to experience showing an animal with the support of local 4-H members and volunteers. A special thank you to Emily Gilliland, the Depinet and Rainey families, and the Seneca County Jr. Fair for continuing to make this meaningful event possible.

From smiling faces and great conversations to making memories together, it was another wonderful year at the Seneca County Fair. We are already looking forward to next year!



Picnic in the Park

It was a beautiful summer day for Picnic in the Park at Opportunity Park! Individuals, providers, staff, and friends came together for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

Cycling Without Age Seneca County gave trishaw rides around the park, while Scoops of Joy served up delicious ice cream. Several local providers also joined us with the individuals they support, giving everyone a chance to visit, have fun, and enjoy the day together.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the event so special. Summer days are always better together!



Summer Fun with After Hours

The After Hours group had a busy summer getting out and enjoying the community! Activities included dining at various local restaurants, attending a Toledo Mud Hens game, area fairs, fishing, movie nights, shopping, and playing mini golf.

After Hours continues to offer fun opportunities for individuals to spend time with friends, try new activities, and enjoy all that our community has to offer!

DSP of the Month

Each month, ACT Council and SCOC Board members recognize a Direct Support Professional (DSP) who makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. DSPs provide important support that helps individuals live, learn, work, and be active in their community.

Interested in becoming a DSP? Contact Karen Frank, Provider Liaison, at 567-938-2381 ext. 1010 or kfrank@senecadd.org.

May: Kandy Estep



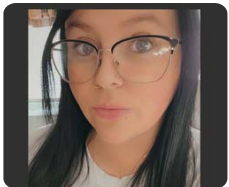
Kandy works for Preferred Pathways. "Kandy has worked with Ryan for many years. The transition from the School of Opportunity to Preferred Pathways Programming has been successful for Ryan because of Kandy. Her smile lights up a room. Ryan trusts and loves Kandy like family."

June: Chaise Williams



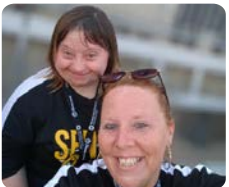
"Chaise is very dependable for those that she works with; she is flexible in her scheduling, and she spends a great amount of time ensuring the individual's happiness. With the person she serves on my caseload, she is always taking her out for walks and making sure all her medical needs are met. She is always willing to go above and beyond, and she has been fantastic about communicating any changes with me as they come along."

July: Imogene Edgeston



"Imogene always goes above and beyond what is asked of her. She puts the people she supports first and is always willing to step up when help is needed."

August: Danette Brown-Dunn



"Danette goes above and beyond to help the people she supports feel loved and special. One person shared that she is thankful for Danette because she helps her with cooking, shopping, and doing her hair. She also shared that she loves Danette's singing and dance moves!"

We Are Hiring!!

Looking for a rewarding career? If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Seneca County Opportunity Center team, visit our website to view current job openings. You can also follow our Facebook page for job postings, updates, and other opportunities!

<https://www.senecadd.org/about/careers/>

Check out our DSP video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhj9EzSQU>

Instagram page: [@senecacountyopportunitycenter](https://www.instagram.com/senecacountyopportunitycenter)

Thank You for the Memories



After an incredible 31 years of service, Becky Nusbaum has retired from the Seneca County Opportunity Center.

Becky's coworkers celebrated her last day as an SSA with a retirement party on August 7. She was also recognized at the August Board Meeting for her many years of service and dedication.

Throughout her career, Becky was committed to supporting individuals and families and helping people live their very best lives. Her compassion, hard work, and dedication have made a lasting impact on many people throughout our community.

While Becky will be greatly missed, we are excited for her as she begins this new chapter. Thank you, Becky, for 31 wonderful years of service, and congratulations on your well-deserved retirement!



After five years of dedicated service as a Bus Aide, Garry Nye has retired from the Seneca County Opportunity Center.

Throughout his time at the Opportunity Center, Garry was known for his kindness, patience, and dedication to the students he supported each day. His calm and caring presence helped

every bus ride a positive experience.

Garry has been a valued part of the Opportunity Center team and will be greatly missed by our students and staff. Thank you, Garry, for five wonderful years of service. We wish you all the best and plenty of well-deserved relaxation in retirement!

New Wheels, New Possibilities

Students at the School of Opportunity have a new way to get moving! Our new adaptive tricycle gives students a fun and safe way to be active during the school day. Riding the tricycle can help students build strength, improve balance coordination, practice movement skills, while having fun and taking part in activities with their friends.

The tricycle was purchased by the ACT Council (Advocates Coming Together) Foundation. The Foundation raises money



through the support of our community at events like the annual Palm Sunday Dinner. Money raised at these events helps provide new opportunities and equipment for the people we serve.

Thank you to ACT Council and our community for making opportunities like this possible!