

# Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities



1955-2015

Presented by My Voice, My Choice Grassroots Committee

*We Support The Right To*  
**CHOOSE OUR SERVICES**

Thank You For 30 Years of  
Services Provided  
To our Son/Brother Stephen -

*Early Intervention 1986-1988*  
*Happy Hearts School 1988-2007*  
*Ash Craft 2007-Present*



The McClure Family

**HAPPY**  
*60th*  
**ANNIVERSARY**



## WHERE WE BEGAN...

The story of Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries is written into the history of Ashtabula County. The story began at a time when few believed individuals with disabilities deserved the right to public education and a brighter future. The story of Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries is an example to all the love, commitment and determination of parents who persisted and prevailed in accomplishing their goal that opened the door.



In March of 1954, a small group of parents of children with disabilities met and formed the Ashtabula Council for Retarded Children (ARC). One year later, March 1955, because of the efforts of this group Happy Hearts School opened its doors to the first school for children with disabilities in the basement of the Methodist Church on Elm Street and was attended by five students.

From 1956 through 1968 Happy Hearts School was housed in various locations throughout Ashtabula County. Senate Bill 169 was passed which established the creation of the Board of Mental Retardation in 1967 and levies were approved by Ashtabula County voters. In 1968, Happy Hearts School's current building was built. By 1970, the program had grown to provide services to 233 children and adults. In 1977, the construction of Ash/Craft Industries began and today the ACBDD provides services to over 500 children and adults with developmental disabilities thanks to the ongoing support of citizens of Ashtabula County.



Everyone should have the Right to Choose!

Mr. and Mrs.  
Richard Craine  
& Brad

We Support the Right to Choose!

The McTrusty Family  
*Tammy, PJ, Shelby,  
Shane and Keagan*

# MY VOICE MY CHOICE

Everyone should have the Right to Choose!

The Flickinger Family

We Support the Right to Choose!

Community Employment  
Department, Ashtabula  
County Board of DD

We Support the Right to Choose!

Kris and Bill DeCaro,  
Angela Dean and  
Lindsey Fritzsche

Everyone should have the Right to Choose!

Chuck & Jan  
Furmage

My son has the Right to Choose!

The  
DeHavens

We Support the Right to Choose!

Dave, Mary  
& Melanie  
Dragon

I Support the Right to Choose!

Jim  
Hornbeck

My son has the Right to Choose!

Inez & Claude  
Gaumer

We Support the Right to Choose!

Jim and Vicki  
Moyer

I Have the Right to Choose!

Mandy  
Hare

I Support the Right to Choose!

Lisa  
Fuller-Grippi

Everyone should have the Right to Choose!

The Krause  
Family

We Support the Right to Choose!

Dave & Jill  
Oliver

We Support the Right to Choose!

The LaSalle  
Family

Everyone should have the Right to Choose!

Angela Knapp  
& B. Rose  
McKeithan

I Have the Right to Choose!

Thomas  
Miles

My son has the Right to Choose!

The Ryels'

We Support the Right to Choose!

Mary & Bernie  
Melaragno

We Support the Right to Choose!

The Miles  
Family

My daughter has the Right to Choose!

Karl &  
Bernadette  
Cimorelli

We Support the Right to Choose!

Aaron &  
Jamie Davis

Everyone should have the Right to Choose!

Jim & Vicki  
Moyer

My daughter has the Right to Choose!

Marlene  
Mordarski,  
*Parent & Guardian*

We Support the Right to Choose!

Don & Marcia  
Palm

We Support the Right to Choose!

Jeff and  
Shirley  
Petrunger

# WHERE WE ARE TODAY...

Today, Ashtabula County Board of DD provides a wide range of services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



## Early Intervention / Help Me Grow

As a component of Help Me Grow, The Early Intervention (EI) Program is designed to meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. A major focus of Early Intervention is to assist the parent to teach skills that are typically developed during the first three years of life (physical, cognitive, communication, social/emotional and self-help skills) in natural environments. EI services provide vital supports so that children with special needs can thrive and grow.

## Preschool Services

Preschool services are provided for children with developmental disabilities ages 3 to 5, who are referred by their local school districts. A play-based curriculum is utilized to develop skills in pre-academics, socialization, play, communication and coordination. Typically developing children are integrated into the classroom setting to enhance the learning experience.



Produced By The Ohio Wine Producers Association

## Vintage Ohio Wine Festival

August 7th & 8th, 2015  
1-10pm Each Day

Lake Metroparks Farmpark  
8800 Euclid Chardon Rd. • Kirtland, OH  
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Cooking Demonstrations • Artisans/Shopping  
Gourmet, Scrumptious Foods • Spectacular Friday Fireworks  
800-227-6972 • OhioWines.org  
**\$10 Off \$35 Gate • Price Code: AS15CR • Expires 8/2/2015**

*The Midwest's Wine, Food and Music Festival*

## School Age Services

School age services are provided for students (ages 6-21) with multiple disabilities who have been referred by their local school district. This program emphasizes academics, functional life skills and vocational skills. Each student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that is designed and written by the parent and the IEP team to specifically meet each student's individual educational needs. School age services are provided at Happy Hearts School as well as several satellite classroom locations in Ashtabula County.



# LOCAL 1834

*Charter since 1972*

We support the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities and their effort to continue providing services and to remain a choice

# WHERE WE ARE TODAY...

Today, Ashtabula County Board of DD provides a wide range of services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



## Adult Services

Adult Services are available for eligible adults with developmental disabilities. Ash/Craft Industries, an adult not-for-profit sheltered workshop, provides work and vocational training. Supported Employment Services (CARF Accredited) provides support and employment options for individuals with developmental disabilities who have a desire to work in the community. Adult Activities focuses on the development of basic social, self help and communication skills.

## Community Support Services

Community Support services provides eligibility determination, service linkage and coordination with available county resources and agencies, plan development, crisis intervention, advocacy and monitoring of individual services. In addition, information and referral services are available regardless of eligibility.



## Transportation Services

The ACBDD provides or arranges for transportation for the children and adults enrolled in county board programs in the safest and most efficient manner possible. Our buses and community employment vans travel throughout Ashtabula County.

## Investigative Support Services

The purpose of the Investigative Support Services Department is to protect the health and safety of consumers and enhance their quality of life.

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email: info@zieglerheating.com  
www.zieglerheating.com  
OH LIC #23328

# ASH/CRAFT INDUSTRIES, INC

## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

### CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS.... FOR PEOPLE

Community employment through Ash/Craft Industries, Inc. began in the 1980's:  
A few individuals attending Ash/Craft expressed an interest in working in the Community

Some of the initial (original) employers were:

Mike's Farm Market  
Orlando Brothers Golden Dawn  
Ashtabula County Public Library

All of these businesses employed individuals from Ash/Craft for over 25 years

Today over 50 individuals from Ash/Craft are employed in some capacity  
throughout Ashtabula County

The Community Employment Department can help you fill positions with  
energetic, dependable, and motivated workers

### LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

Our Daughter feels she is contributing to society and is in a safe environment with the help of her aids -**Karl & Bernadette Cimorelli**

Our Granddaughter, Kayla Cimorelli, wants the right to choose her place of employment. She chooses Ash/Craft Industries -**Mary & Bernie Melaragno**

My son has worked in the community and he is now employed at Ash/Craft. It is his right to be able to choose the right fit for him -**Kim Ryel**

We are so proud of our son, Lee, and all that he has accomplished in the 10 years he has been at Ash/Craft -**Jeff & Shirley Petrunger**

As a volunteer for Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft for over 50 years, I got to help people with developmental disabilities have a productive life, contribute to society, and enjoy what they do. I do not want to see this program go back to the 1950's -**Inez & Claude Gaumer**

AJ loves going to work every day. It makes him feel good about himself -**Ann DeHaven**



I would recommend Ash/Craft to anyone who is looking to provide good community support and in return receive some of the finest workers who care about the quality of their work. We feel the Ash/Craft employees have become a part of our school community benefitting the faculty, staff and students.

**Cynthia L. Kane, CPA**  
Business Manager/CFO  
Grand River Academy

#### FOR BOYS ENTERING GRADES 8-12



Providing young men the opportunity for success.

(440) 275-2811  
www.grandriver.org

**WE SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

#### We Support the Right to Choose



**Spire Institute**  
5201 Spire Circle  
Geneva, Ohio

#### Retain Our Right to Choose Where We Work and Live Norene Ruffo

40 year Employee of Ashcraft Industries

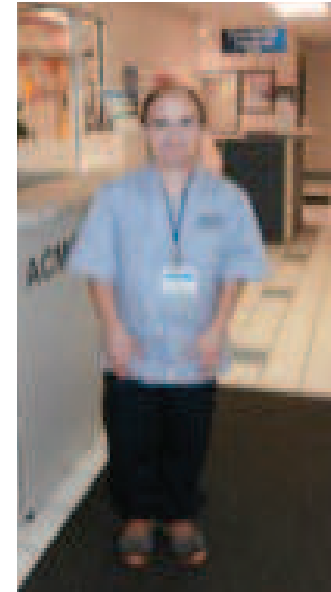
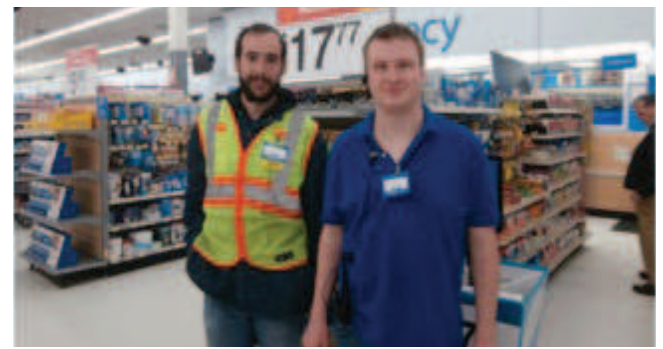
Fred & Phyllis Ruffo  
Larry & Candy Ruffo  
Ed & Virginia Walker

# OUR BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

A. Louis Supply  
Ashtabula County Commissioners  
Ashtabula County Medical Center  
Ashtabula County YMCA  
Brobst Landscaping  
Biscotti's Restaurant  
Cristal (Millennium)  
Dairy Queen Restaurant  
Grand River Academy  
Great Lakes Auto  
Greg Sweet Chevrolet

Kent State University  
Premix Inc.  
Saybrook Landing  
Thompson-Smith – Nesbitt Funeral Home  
UH Hospitals of Conneaut  
Walmart  
Ken Kister  
Phil's Catering  
Rae Ann Skilled Nursing and  
Rehabilitation Centers  
Ashtabula Towne Square

The BAC provides a vital link between Ash/Craft and the business community in Ashtabula County. Our council meets quarterly and provides a great opportunity for employers and organizations to network. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Ash/Craft at 440-224-2177.



I first learned about Ash/Craft Supported Employment when I was asked to be a member of their Business Advisory Council. When I needed to hire a new employee to clean our East Conneaut facility I called Ash/Craft Community Employment and could not be happier with Jeff, who takes care of our Conneaut dealership. He has become part of the Greg Sweet Auto Group family.

**Greg Sweet - Greg Sweet Auto Network**

We have a good working relationship with the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Ash/Craft Industries, Inc. We would recommend their community employment services to other businesses.

**Wal Mart #2359 - Tricia Kondre**



**We believe everyone  
should have a right  
to choose**

**The Ashtabula County Board  
of Developmental Disabilities  
Leadership Team**



# OUR VISION: 200 NEW JOBS BY 2020



## Ashtabula County's economic health is directly impacted by ACMC.

Over the last three years, the ACMC Healthcare System added the equivalent of 160 new full-time jobs in Ashtabula County. And, since 2010, the ACMC Healthcare System has increased the amount of salary and benefits put into Ashtabula County's economy from \$61.7 million to an expected \$86.6 million in 2015.

## Not all healthcare systems share ACMC's commitment.

ACMC is committed to keeping healthcare — and the dollars that go with that care — local. We have invested in new technology, expanded services, added locations and recruited physicians and other providers so you can stay close to home for care. In 2014, more than \$56 million in healthcare dollars left Ashtabula County because your friends and family — or maybe even you — either chose to leave town or were transferred out of the county by other hospitals.

## You have a choice where you receive healthcare.

And that choice will either help or hurt Ashtabula County's economy. When you choose ACMC for your care, you will receive great care, and you will put money back into our economy — rather than the economies of Lake, Geauga, Erie or Cuyahoga counties — by supporting local job creation and generating tax dollars for our cities and schools.

## You can help make Ashtabula County strong again.

We have a goal of creating 200 new jobs by 2020. But, we cannot do it without the support of everyone in Ashtabula County.

Help us grow Ashtabula County's economy. Choose ACMC for your care.

To learn more, visit [www.acmchealth.org](http://www.acmchealth.org).

## Choose ACMC for:

- Allergy/Immunology
- Cardiology
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- Electrophysiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Express Care
- Family Practice
- Gastroenterology
- Gynecology
- High Risk OB
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Obstetrics
- Occupational Therapy
- Oncology/Hematology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Pain Management
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Therapy
- Podiatry
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology
- Radiology/Imaging
- Speech Therapy
- Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

To schedule an appointment,  
call **440-997-6969**.

**Ashtabula County  
Medical Center**  
ACMC Healthcare System

An affiliate of

 **Cleveland Clinic**



**ACMC: Improving Ashtabula County's economy by keeping healthcare local.**



# MY VOICE, MY CHOICE

Please support our right to choose!

Jesus Alameda  
Megan Bailey  
Michael Bailey  
Hannah Bowser  
Patricia Boyles  
Travis Brooks  
Kayla R. Button  
Bruce Carpenter  
Brittany Charlton  
Terri Lee Church  
Kayla R. Cimorelli  
Eddie Cook  
John A. Davis  
Robert DeCaro  
A.J. DeHaven  
Curtis DelValle  
Jose Diaz  
Melanie Dragon

Kim Drozd  
Stephanie Eaton  
Kevin Ecklund  
Mike Emory  
Beth Fogle  
Austin Furmage  
Claude Gaumer  
David Giddings  
Tim Hamm  
Mandy Hare  
Duane Heaven  
Elba Hernandez  
Joshua Hill-Smith  
Victoria Hippely  
Rena Hudson  
Robert Hunter  
John Hurley  
Joey Ipser

Maryann Johnson  
Erin Kitchen  
Kevin Kolman  
Justin Krais  
Tom Krueger  
John Laird  
Brandon Lee  
Ann Lovas  
Betty May Mareno  
Mindy Martinez  
Stephen Jr. McClure  
Jennifer McMahan  
Shelby McTrusty  
Vincent C. Meier, Jr.  
Thomas Miles  
Katrina Miller  
Van Bradley Millspaugh  
Tiffany Mordarski

Bud Mortensen III  
Matthew Nousak  
Brittany P  
Joe P  
Brian Perkins  
Lee Petrunger  
Jane Phipps  
Robert Prine  
Anthony Rathburn  
Gabrielle Rettinger  
Jennifer Richardson  
Samuel Riggs  
Joe Ringler  
Noreen Ruffo  
Matthew Russell  
Matt Ryel  
Michael Sabados  
Bryan Scribber

Tamara Shaw  
Craig Sizemore  
May Soule  
Theresa Spang  
Timothy Starkey  
Rodney Stevens  
Hans Stoltz  
Krista Stonum  
Audrey Thomas  
James Thompson  
Amy Turner  
Jodi Warren  
John Paul Weatherspoon  
Chris West  
Jaye Wight  
Ian Williams  
Sue Wilson

*"We Support the Right  
To Choose"*

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FAST FOOD**



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Julius.**  
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**Chicken Bacon Ranch  
Sandwich**



**Triple Chocolate  
Brownie**



**Chicken Bacon BBQ  
Snack Melt**

# MY VOICE...MY CHOICE...GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEE

## OUR SERVICES ARE NOW IN JEOPARDY!!!

OUR COMMITTEE WAS FORMED TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SHOULD REMAIN A CHOICE!

Ohio is unique as it is the only state that has a county board system that was first established in 1967 and today provides over 90,000 individuals with developmental disabilities services throughout the state of Ohio. Centers for Medicaid Services is now failing to acknowledge the existence of previously acceptable documents. Ohio's County Boards of DD will not be allowed to provide direct services. Thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities who are (or who will be) enrolled on Medicaid waivers are no longer being allowed to choose the excellent and well – established services provided by county boards. Many individuals and their family members will be devastated by the loss of a trusted provider and important safety net for their loved ones.

## YOU CAN JOIN OUR EFFORTS BY:

- CONTACTING OUR STATE OFFICIALS AND VOICING YOUR OPINION THAT THE OHIO COUNTY BOARDS NEED TO REMAIN A CHOICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

**Governor John Kasich**  
77 South High Street #30  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 466-3555

**Sherrod Brown**  
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 1400  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
888-896-6446

**Senator Rob Portman**  
1240 East 9th Street, Room 3061  
Cleveland, OH 44199  
216-522-7095

**Congressman Dave Joyce**  
1 Victoria Place, Room 320  
Painesville, OH 44077  
800-447-0529

- JOIN THE GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE
- SPREAD THE WORD (SHARE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, YOUTUBE VIDEOS)
- TAKE A TOUR OF OUR FACILITIES - 5959 Green Road, Ashtabula, 440-224-2177
- BE OUR FRIEND ON FACEBOOK -ACBDD Right to Choose

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgolYaSh6So&sns=em>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0HA5fgEUM&sns=em>

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& Operated  
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**AND AWAY GO TROUBLES DOWN THE DRAIN**

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INDUSTRIAL • MUNICIPAL  
OH LIC. #30545



### PLEASE JOIN US:

**My Voice My Choice Grassroots Meeting,  
July 30, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.**

at Ash/Craft Ind., 5959 Green Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

## MY VOICE, MY CHOICE GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE

### CHAIRPERSON

Bernadette Cimorelli

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kathy Ezone  
Kim Ryel  
Kris DeCaro  
Jill Juhalo

Connie Payne  
Barb McClure  
LeeAnne Stonum  
Jan Church

**(440) 992-6401** [www.rotorooter.com](http://www.rotorooter.com)

# The story of Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries must continue as long as there are children and adults with special needs and families and communities that believe in them.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-76 OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO'S PLAN FOR PHASE-OUT OF COUNTY A BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AS PROVIDERS OF MEDICAID WAIVER SERVICES AND SUPPORTING THE COMMITMENT OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 3rd day of March, 2015, in regular I session at the offices of the Ashtabula Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities-Training Room, 2505 S Ridge Rd E . Ashtabula, OH 44004, with the following members present: Peggy A. Carlo, Daniel R. Claypool, Casey R. Kozlowski. WHEREAS, the mission of the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to assist eligible Individuals with developmental disabilities in choosing and achieving a life of increasing capability such that they can live, work and play in the community, and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving these goals. and

WHEREAS, rules enacted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) regarding Medicaid waiver services. creates questions regarding a conflict of interest with County Boards of DO to provide direct services for people with developmental disabilities and service support administration, and

WHEREAS, In the past, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities devised a conflict of interest protections including the separation of functions. titled Firewall Document. which allowed county boards to provide services and case management. which was approved by CMS; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Commissioners opposes the State of Ohio's plan for the non-recognition of the firewall document in Ohio, and the phase out of services provided by the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and



Peggy Carlo



Dan Claypool



Casey Kozlowski

Ashtabula County Commissioners "We Support the Right to Choose"

WHEREAS, this Board of Commissioners supports the efforts of the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities to continue to provide the excellent services and programs currently offered to individuals With developmental disabilities residing of Ashtabula County; and

WHEREAS, eliminating these services would not only limit opportunities and affect the quality of life for the children and adults who are served by the Ashtabula County Board of DO, but would also negatively impact the family members or caregivers who rely on the support and structure offered by the programs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County strongly oppose the State of Ohio's plan for county board phase-out of Medicaid Waiver Services and hereby support the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities committent to the needs of the developmentally disabled

***Congratulations on 60 years of providing quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities.***

**State Senator Capri Cafaro  
Representing Ashtabula County**

Paid for by Friend's of Senator Cafaro, Lisa Grotzky, Treasurer,  
600 Warner Road, Hubbard, OH 44425

***In Support of  
Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft  
Congratulations on 60 years  
of quality services***

**State Representative John Patterson**

Paid for by John Patterson



**Ohio Department of Health**

**Help me grow™**

[www.OhioHelpMeGrow.org](http://www.OhioHelpMeGrow.org)

**Do you have questions about your  
child's development**

HMG Early Intervention provides family - centered services for infants and toddlers to age 3 with a developmental delay, disability or a medical condition likely to result in a delay or disability.

**OR**

**Are you an expectant mother or have a child  
under the age of 5?**

The Community Action Home Visiting Program is available to expectant mothers, as well as parents of young children birth to age 5. Services include information on month to month prenatal development, how to care for your growing child, and tips for dads to help prepare for birth and fatherhood.

**440-992-2111**