

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 2010 Community Recognition Dinner will take place Sunday, March 7 at the Cincinnati Marriott North by Union Centre Blvd. More details and nomination forms available soon!

A Newsletter about Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities programs, supports and staff

## Transition Student Enjoys Helping Others

Amanda Stoepell was ready to enter the workforce this spring after going through Butler Tech's Project Search program. The 23-year-old just wasn't sure what she wanted to do. She had a few ideas - a veterinarian or a secretary. But those options weren't feeling right for her. Then, she began spending time

with her grandmother and helping her around the house with chores. The work gave her joy and she felt like she was making a difference. Amanda discovered that she wanted to work with senior citizens.

This past summer Amanda participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program sponsored by the Department of Job and Family Services and funded through federal stimulus dollars. The program gave transition students like Amanda a chance to have community work experience. She worked for the Butler County Care Facility, which provides residential services and day activities for local senior citizens. After the summer program ended, Amanda was hired on as a part-time employee. She's responsible for daily activities for the day services program. "We decided to hire her because of her enthusiasm," said Nancy Carey, Care Facility Adult Services Director. "She is also very dependable and is always smiling."

Amanda's favorite part of the job, she said, is interacting with the clients. "They really like me," she said. "And I like helping them."

*Amanda Stoepell with Ada Martin at the Butler County Care Facility*



**A Note About the Artist:** The snowflakes featured on this postcard were drawn by Scott Barnett. Scott passed away this year at the age of 21. He attended Liberty Center and was an avid artist. He created elaborately detailed pen and colored pencil drawings.

**ERASE THE R WORD**

Words can hurt. It's time to erase the word 'retard' from our vocabulary. The word is used as slang, a put-down and an insult. We've taken the term 'mental retardation' out of our name to show respect to thousands of Butler County residents who receive our services. We've joined the adjacent counties of Clermont, Hamilton and Warren to embark on a campaign about removing the 'R' word. Advertisements can be seen in local movie theaters beginning this month and in January billboards will be put up throughout the area. Learn more at [www.erasetheRword.com](http://www.erasetheRword.com).

Butler County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
1910 Fairgrove Avenue, Suite E  
Hamilton, OH 45011

Address service requested

## WINTER Weather & Closings

When winter weather hits, tune to the following TV and radio stations for information about closings, delays or transportation cancellations:

WCPO, Channel 9

WLW, Channel 5

WKRC, Channel 12

WXIX, Channel 19

WEBN, 102.7 FM

WOFX, 92.5 FM

WAKEW, 93.3 FM

WLW, 700 AM

WMOH, 1450 AM



## Agency Surveyed by CARF

The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities hosted three CARF surveyors in November. The agency has been accredited by CARF for the last 30 years. The surveyors traveled around the agency to interview stakeholders, including individuals and families who receive services, employees and Board members. Areas reviewed included leadership, financial planning and management, risk management, health and safety, human resources, technology, rights of persons served and accessibility.

At the exit interview, the surveyors noted a number of strengths, including these exemplary commendations:

- The early intervention staff was commended for their use of videotaping as a teaching method for families.
- The adult services program was commended for the development of the sensory studio, which allows individuals to express themselves and interact with their environment.



A more formalized report will be issued with the accreditation status in December or early January.

CARF, which stands for Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, was founded in 1966 as an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FAIRFIELD, OH  
PERMIT NO. 160

**HIPAA Notice:** The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities is required to notify consumers, parents and guardians that they may acquire a privacy notice online at [www.butlerdd.org](http://www.butlerdd.org) or by calling Laurel Lovely, Records Coordinator at (513) 867-7560.