

# 2010

## Annual Report



BUTLER COUNTY  
*Board of*

**DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

*Supporting Possibilities*



**"The Garden"**

Tile Mosaic by Beth Huff

Dear Friends,

2010 was a year of successes and challenges. The challenges have been due to the budget and the decrease in revenues. The successes have been due to long-term planning and the commitment to look for new ways to provide supports. In 2010 we began to implement some major changes as we continue to aim toward keeping services and supports available to individuals. Although we began plans to consolidate our adult day programs and changed our day program staff duties to include providing transportation, we were/are able to keep day programs available to individuals who need specialized supports.



Of course, for those of you who like to see the numbers, this report includes graphs that show you the current trends. You will see some of the most significant fiscal trends as well as who we support and how we provide support. For those of you who want to know how we make a difference in people's lives, we have included stories that illustrate how our pursuit toward annual goals relate to success stories. Naturally, we have many stories and only so much room, but hopefully, you will get some idea of how resources and supports translate to real life positive outcomes.

Some of the changes we planned and/or began in 2010 will continue toward fruition in 2011. I have to say that during these volatile times, our strategic planning and annual planning, goal setting, measurement of outcomes, our foundation of philosophical beliefs and our highly trained and experienced staff have made the difference for our organization. Of course, we could do none of this without the support we receive from you, the citizens of Butler County.

I am a firm believer in the phrase, "Compassion teamed up with accountability is a powerful force," written by author John Beckett in the book *Succeeding in Business Without Selling Your Soul*. These trying times remind me that both compassion and accountability are needed to survive with results. Experience, energy, optimism and focus help direct the force and keep it going. Our board and agency have been blessed with all of these. Thanks for being a part of our efforts.

Please keep up with us by visiting our website [www.butlerdd.org](http://www.butlerdd.org) and by visiting our Facebook page. You can also call anytime to get a tour or to ask questions. We also welcome your input and feedback!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Hurr". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Christina Hurr, Superintendent

# Art Studio Developing Creative Passions



Alphonso Rowe's enthusiasm for painting is contagious, as is his bright, cheerful smile. When he gets started on a new canvas, he carefully picks out which paint color

to use, then applies each color in broad, thick strokes. He smiles. He steps back, looks at his progress, and giggles. He then picks out another color and follows the same method: applies paint to canvas in thick brush strokes, steps back, smiles and giggles.

Alphonso is InsideOut Studio's most prolific artist. He sold \$650 worth of art last year, earning a commission of about \$250. He has exhibited at Kona Bistro in Oxford, Spalon S. Marie in Hamilton, Venue 222, Coffee Emporium, Art Beyond Boundaries and the Pendleton Fine Arts Center in Cincinnati, the Butler County Educational Service Center, and the Butler County Board of DD Administration Building. His artwork was submitted to Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) to be displayed in its International Headquarters in Tucson, Arizona. He was also a part of the Art & Soul Exhibition in Dayton, where he placed and won a cash award and his art was selected to be a part of its yearly calendar. Dan Hare, the Superintendent of the Butler County Educational Service Center, commissioned Alphonso to create a 5-foot by 5-foot painting to display in his office.

InsideOut Studio is an initiative through the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Adult Services Division. The studio, housed at Liberty Adult Center in Fairfield Township, provides an opportunity for artists with disabilities to produce, market and receive an income from their art all the while gaining confidence in their abilities. Artists are able to explore different mediums to discover their creative styles.

When Alphonso first started coming to the art studio, he showed an interest in art, but was hesitant. He had an interest in bright colors and liked to make plastic bead necklaces, but didn't have experience with drawing or painting. When the studio staff put a paintbrush in his hand his creativity radiated.

Alphonso paints abstract pieces. He's learning how to add perspective to his pieces and to discover the various colors in natural elements, such as leaves or flowers, and to incorporate those colors into his canvases.

Besides art opportunities, the Adult Services Division offers educational programming and services out of the Liberty Center and Middletown Center. Services offered include: site nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and behavior support services and programming through a computer lab and cooking classes as well as daily living and communication skills, job retention services and a sensory studio.

For more information about InsideOut Studio, visit: [www.artfrominside.com](http://www.artfrominside.com).

# Making Her Dream Come True

Ever since Christine Grewe was young she knew that she wanted to work in a hospital. Having been in and out of hospitals for different medical procedures growing up, she was very comfortable with doctors and nurses and medical buildings.

“We weren’t sure how it was going to happen, but we knew that Christine would be happiest if she could work in a hospital,” her mother, Ann, said.

That opportunity came along a year and a half ago, when Christine was paired up with a volunteer who wanted to work in a hospital too. Jeff Cox takes Christine to the Atrium Medical Center once a week. They both volunteer there, taking around a cart of magazines to five floors of the hospital, replacing old magazines with new ones.

Christine, who is typically shy and reserved, blossoms as soon as she steps through the hospital’s doors. She smiles, waves and says hello to everyone she sees. She’s polite and offers a bright smile to people that need cheering up and is courteous to those that need space. Christine knows many people at the hospital and has her favorite floors and departments: she makes sure to say hello to the security guards each week and she checks to see if there are any new babies in the nursery. After their work is done, she and Jeff eat lunch in the cafeteria.



“Being at Atrium, being able to contribute, is fulfilling Christine’s dream,” Ann said. “She’s always wanted to work in a hospital and she’s finally able to do it. She looks forward to Fridays like no other day.”

Volunteers like Jeff are an integral part of the supports provided by the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Volunteers are paired up with individuals with disabilities and their interests are matched. Jeff was the perfect match for Christine because he is training to become a nurse and was interested in learning more about the disability community. He and Christine have become friends. Jeff looks forward to Fridays just as much as Christine does!

# Employee of the Month

A plaque hangs on the wall at the Cottingham Retirement Community in West Chester. It says "Employee of the Month Award for March - Brett Knauer."

Brett has worked at Cottingham for three years. He was picked Employee of the Month out of all of the employees at the Retirement Community because of his positive attitude and "sure will" attitude. Brett washes dishes in the kitchen.



"No matter what he's asked to do, he does it," said Sharon Boatright, Kitchen Manager. "He comes in when he's asked to, he's on time and he does a good job."

"I like coming to work," Brett said. He works full time and gets benefits.

He was surprised by the Employee of the Month award. "I didn't know I was getting it. Everyone called me out to the hallway and they told me," he said. He was awarded a free parking spot for the month, but because he doesn't drive, he gave it to one of his co-workers.

"Brett has very high standards and a good work ethic," said Terry Ferguson, Brett's Retention Coach from JVS. "He enjoys working and enjoys interacting with his co-workers."

Encouraging people to get jobs in the community and supporting them to keep those jobs is a high priority for the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities. In 2010, 28 new people with disabilities got new jobs in the community. Also, 10 people were able to participate in paid internships in the community and 30 people participated in a work enclave and received community work experience at or above minimum wage.

## Self-Advocacy Group Celebrates 10 Years



Empowered People Reaching Out (EPRO) is a group of people with disabilities who gather together for regular meetings to discuss issues that give meaning to their lives. Formed in 2000, the group celebrated its 10th anniversary in June of 2010. The group works with other self advocates across Ohio and the nation in order to have their voices heard, their points of view included in the way people see them, and the way decisions about their lives are made. The group started out with a half dozen members and has grown to over 60 over the years. For more information about EPRO visit [www.butlerdd.org/about/eipro.php](http://www.butlerdd.org/about/eipro.php) or visit their blog [www.butlercountyepro.blogspot.com](http://www.butlercountyepro.blogspot.com).

# Giving the Gift of Time

Families caring for a child with a disability oftentimes cannot easily find a break because dependable childcare is difficult to find. To help, in 2010, the Behavior Supports staff planned two Respite Days - one in August and one in December - at the Janet Clemmons Center (JCC) in Hamilton. Both Respite Days were held on Saturdays.

Respite Days are filled with fun activities for children. In August the children played outside on a waterslide and in December they swam in the pool in JCC. The children played games, made crafts, participated in sensory activities, played in the gym and had lunch.

Families benefit from Respite Days just as much as their child because they get to spend one-on-one time with their other children or they get to do something for themselves. Their child benefits from the socialization and fun activities.

Lynn Cox of West Chester has two children with special needs, Logan, 7, and Ryan, 14. They participated in both of the Respite Days last year.

"I was able to get caught up on things around the house after I dropped the boys off at Respite Day," she said. "In August I was able to mow my yard. I struggle with having time to get my yard work done. In December, I was able to wrap presents. It was great to have that time and I knew the boys were having fun."



Respite Days were funded through grants and donations in 2010 to cover the costs of purchasing activities, supplies and food. The Behavior Supports staff work the Respite Days including Behavior Specialists, Family Focus Specialists, Classroom Consultants, Counselor, Support Coordinators, administrators and numerous community volunteers.

## 2009 Publication Wins Award

Last year's Annual Report won the prestigious Award of Excellence from Ohio Public Images, an organization that honors publications and marketing efforts that promote positive public awareness of people with developmental disabilities. This is the second year in a row the publication won the high honor. The judges noted that the 2009 Annual Report had a good mix of statistical information and personal stories.



# Early Intervention Supports Provides “Light at the End of the Tunnel”

When Brody Barr was 16-months-old, his parents noticed he was having trouble communicating. He wasn't speaking, wasn't taking commands and wouldn't make eye contact. His parents were concerned and had him evaluated. It was discovered that Brody had a speech delay and would need speech therapy and social groups to help him develop. The family turned to the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities for help and began receiving supports from Early Intervention.



“Without the guidance of the Early Intervention team we would have been completely lost,” his dad, Jim, said. “People kept telling us there was a problem with Brody’s communication but we couldn’t figure out how to fix it. We felt helpless.”

Through the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention Programs, Brody attended a social group where he had the opportunity to work on developing his social, motor and language skills. In addition to visits in the home, Jim and Brody participated in sessions with the Social Communication team at Janet Clemmons Center. After about four months of therapies, Brody started coming out of his shell.

Today, Brody is 4-years-old and attends preschool. When he turned 3-years-old he aged out of the Early Intervention program, but the supports he received will benefit him life-long, his dad said.

“Without the Early Intervention program Brody would not be where he is today. We were in a dark room and didn’t know where to go, where to seek help. But with our therapists and Early Intervention Specialists we were given the right tools to help Brody. We saw the light at the end of the tunnel.”

In his preschool classroom, Brody receives speech, fine and gross motor therapy. He is slightly behind his peers but he’s leaps and bounds from where he was before he started with Early Intervention, Jim said.

The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides services to eligible young children and their families at no cost. Each family is given the opportunity to learn to help their child to develop so the child is ready to enter school. Studies show that children who benefit from Early Intervention services need less interventions and supports as they get older. To be eligible for Early Intervention Services a child must show a delay in one of these areas of concern: problem solving, social skills, motor skills, communication skills, self-help skills, behavioral/emotional skills and/or may have a medical condition which adversely effects their growth and development.

In 2010, of the families completing surveys upon leaving the EI program, 100 percent noted improvement in their child’s development and 95 percent indicated improvement in knowing how to help their child.



## Erase the 'R' Word Campaign

2010's Awareness Campaign focused on the Board's name change (the elimination of the 'MR' term) and the reasoning behind the change. The slogan "Erase the 'R' Word" was used throughout the year to educate the public about how the 'R' word is hurtful when used as slang. Advertisements were placed in local theaters and in local newspapers. A poster was developed and distributed to schools and community groups. A video was created to explain the name change and a 30-second commercial appeared on TV and radio stations.

Work will be on-going to Erase the 'R' Word. The awareness materials will be continuously available on the Board's web site: [www.butlerdd.org](http://www.butlerdd.org) (click on "News").

## 2010 Human Resource Figures

### Employees by Department

(Budgeted positions-some budgeted positions were not filled in 2010)

Administration (Superintendent, Business Office & Human Resources)	21.8
Adult Services	54.5
Early Childhood	23.2
Ancillary	36.7
Service & Support Coordination	55.0
Quality Assurance & Office of Incident Review	8.0
Transportation & Site Services	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>210.2</b>

### Gender

Female	84%
Male	16%
Average years of employment	11.86
Average age of full-time employee	45.35

### Educational Level

High School or Equivalent	88
Associate Degree	9
Bachelor's Degree	75
Master's Degree	31
Doctorate Degree	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>

### Tenure / Experience

Under 1 year	8
1-5 years	41
6-10 years	63
11-15 years	30
16-20 years	25
21-25 years	17
26-30 years	19
30+ years	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>

## 2010 Enrollment Figures

<b>Early Intervention</b>	1,100
Children aged birth - 2 years	
<b>Adult Service, Direct</b>	223
<b>Adult Service, Contracted</b>	326
<b>Support Coordination</b>	1,096
<b>Total Served in 2010</b>	<b>2,745</b>

### Breakdown of Programs

Family Support Services	688
Family Focus	118
Behavior Supports	119
Psychiatric Support	206
Social Health Education	70
Community Employment	160

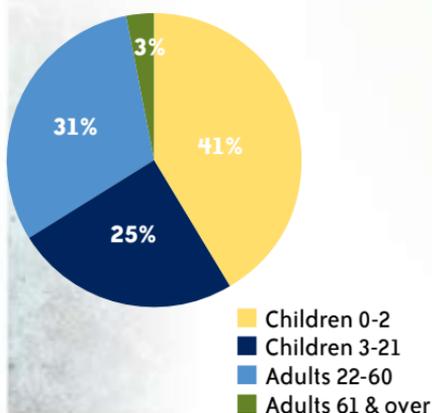
### Public School Supports

Classroom Management	125
School-age Support Coordination	358

### Residential Supports

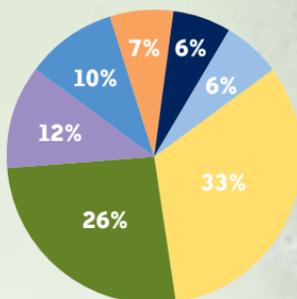
Supported Living	0
IO Waiver	290
Level 1 Waiver	324
Martin Waiver	8

### Enrollment by Age



## 2010 Expenditures

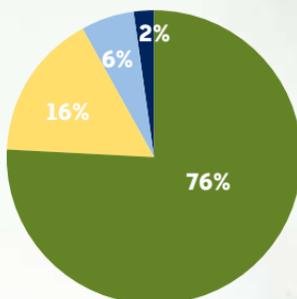
Total: \$27,260,537



- Administration: \$1,786,091
- Adult Services: \$3,151,063
- Community Supports & Supported Living: \$8,969,330
- Building, Maintenance & Utilities: \$1,688,226
- Transportation: \$1,842,647
- Early Intervention: \$2,711,180
- Local match used to draw down Medicaid Funds: \$7,112,000

## 2010 Revenues

Total: \$28,167,356



- County Tax Levies: \$21,202,833
- Federal Funds: \$4,493,036
- Ohio Dept. of DD: \$1,832,322
- Other Local Revenues: \$639,165

# Careful Spending and Monitoring Leads to Budget Savings

Many cost savings were implemented in 2010 to ensure the Board's fiscal responsibility. Due to careful monitoring and management of resources, expenses came in under budget by six percent.

Several individual items made up the bigger picture of budget savings:

- \* In June, the Board began a new contract with a new electric company which resulted in a 30 percent savings on utility bills.
- \* The Board cut back its contract with an outside transportation company and began providing transportation to individuals attending the adult centers. Adult Services staff drive the Board-purchased vehicles resulting in \$1 million in annual savings. An initial investment was made to purchase the new vehicles for the fleet but the new vehicles will cut down on fuel and maintenance costs in the future.
- \* The goal during 2010 was to decrease the gap between Adult Services' revenue and expenses to be below 40 percent. By the end of 2010 the gap was 18 percent due to unfilled staff positions, reduced transportation costs and the elimination of some budgeted items.
- \* In 2010 cost reductions were made in personnel by not replacing retiring staff.
- \* The Board realized savings in the health insurance plans because most staff switched to a middle tier plan. The plan is just as effective but is less costly.
- \* The Board reduced the budget line on staff training. Out-of-state trainings were eliminated and most trainings were conducted in-house.
- \* Savings were seen in the purchasing of IT software by utilizing discounts provided to school districts.
- \* Throughout the year, contracts for various services were re-evaluated for maximum effectiveness and were reduced if needed.
- \* The Board was able to realize savings in the cost of advertising because funds were pooled together with the Southwest Ohio Council of Government (comprised of the counties of Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren). The COG was able to purchase higher profile and more impactful advertisements.

# In the News...

**Hamilton Journal-News, March 8, 2010**

The article highlighted the messages from the 2010 Community Recognition Dinner and the award winners.



**Hamilton Journal-News, March 8, 2010**

David Campbell was featured in this full-color article about his work for the Badin Basketball Team.



**Middletown Journal, May 8, 2010**

Daniel Hellard brought the Board's Erase the R Word campaign to his elementary school.



**Hamilton Journal-News, December 20, 2010**

The article highlighted the ornaments produced out of InsideOut Studio and the work the Studio does to cultivate people's artistic potential.



# New Website & Social Media Sites Unveiled in 2010

The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities expanded its presence on the web in 2010 with the revamping of their website and the inclusion of social media.

The Board's website was redesigned in an effort to better organize the many sections and pages.

The homepage features six navigation boxes.

Each navigation box opens a new page and an in-depth organization structure.



Check out the Board's Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/ButlerCountyDD](http://www.facebook.com/ButlerCountyDD)



Follow the Board on Twitter  
[@butlercountydd](https://twitter.com/butlercountydd)

## Get Involved!



The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities offers volunteer opportunities for community members, high school and college students who enjoy giving back. Call Cathy Howell at (513) 420-2570 ext. 25 for more information.

Other opportunities:

Join the **Arc of Butler County**, a family advocacy group. Call (513) 867-5960 ext. 272 or email [arcofbutlercounty@yahoo.com](mailto:arcofbutlercounty@yahoo.com) for more details. The Arc meets the first Thursday of

each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Redeemer Church in Fairfield Township.

Join **Empowered People Reaching Out** (EPRO), a self-advocacy group. Call Keith Banner at (513)867-5932, email him at [kbbanner@butlerdd.org](mailto:kbbanner@butlerdd.org) or visit [www.butlercountyepro.blogspot.com](http://www.butlercountyepro.blogspot.com) for more information.

Volunteer time or donate money to **Friends of Citizens with Disabilities**, the Board's political action committee which funds levy campaigns. Call Wendy Planicka at (513) 867-5962 ext. 21 or email [wkplanicka@butlerdd.org](mailto:wkplanicka@butlerdd.org) for more information.

# Board Members

**Dr. Kathy McMahon-Klosterman**

Board President

**Tony Yocco**

Vice-President

**Richard Meier**

Recording Secretary

**Dr. Dale French**, Board Member

**Laddie Henninger**, Board Member

**Utawna Leap**, Board Member

**Connie Sullivan**, Board Member



Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities meets the second Thursday of each month, except July, at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Administration Office.

Refer to [www.butlerdd.org](http://www.butlerdd.org) for updated schedules.

## Directory of Services

### **Early Intervention**

In-home parent education program for families with children ages 0-3 with developmental disabilities. Provides assessment, coaching and small group parent education.

### **School-Age Supports**

Family Focus in-home consultation for challenging behaviors. Classroom consultation for challenging behaviors.

### **Support Coordination**

Determination of eligibility, assess need and develop service plans. For ages 3 and up: Inform individual/family about providers of service and monitors the services.

### **Community Employment**

Contract for job development, help to find jobs and job training. Provides ongoing support for job retention.

### **Adult Day Programs**

Day habilitation programs that promote learning and skill acquisition for adults.

### **Transportation**

To and from work and day habilitation programs.

### **Administration**

IT network and support, communications, billing, payroll, staff development, human resources.

### **Office of Incident Review**

Investigates reports of abuse and neglect as mandated by state.

### **Quality Assurance and Provider Relations**

Completes mandated quality assurance reviews, monitors provider compliance and supports providers of residential services in the county.

### **Residential Support**

Waiver programs.

### **Community Supports**

Community-based opportunities including recreation and leisure activities, volunteer opportunities, sports and physical fitness activities, and job-related supports. Assessment and assistance provided by therapists (occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy).

# Directory of Buildings

## **Central Administration Office**

1910 Fairgrove Ave., Suite E  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
513-867-5962  
Fax: 513-867-5078  
Toll Free: 1-800-874-0268

## **Facility Operations Service Center**

282 N. Fair Ave.  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
513-867-5035  
Fax: 513-867-1527

## **Fairfield Community Team Office**

155 Donald Dr.  
Fairfield, OH 45014  
513-867-5600  
Fax: 513-867-5783  
TTY: 513-867-5601

## **Hamilton Community Team Office**

1270 Eaton Ave.  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
513-867-5750  
Fax: 513-867-5759

## **Janet Clemmons Center for Young Children and Families**

282 N. Fair Ave.  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
513-867-5960  
Fax: 513-887-1527  
TTY: 513-867-5960

## **Liberty Adult Center**

5645 Liberty-Fairfield Rd.  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
513-867-5977  
Fax: 513-867-5621  
TTY: 513-867-5977 ext. 116  
Adult Services Dept. Fax:  
513-867-5989

## **Middletown Adult Center**

1520 14th Ave.  
Middletown, OH 45044  
513-425-8728  
Fax: 513-425-8694

## **Middletown Community Team Office**

4418-B Lewis St.  
Middletown, OH 45044  
513-420-2570  
Fax: 513-420-2587

## **West Chester Community Team Office**

*New location June 2011*  
282 N. Fair Avenue  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
513-867-5700  
Fax: 513-867-5979

## **Go Online To See More Highlights From Our Year!**

The 2010 End of Year Update document is available online. Go to [www.butlerdd.org](http://www.butlerdd.org), click on "News" then "Annual Action Plan." The 2010 plan highlights each goal and explains how it was accomplished during the year.

