

Good morning, Riverside FANS!

In just the short time it's been since our last FANS newsletter, you all have gone above and beyond with your support. You warmed our hearts as you pitched in during our recent festivities, selflessly donated some much-needed items, and forged everlasting friendships with those we serve. Seeing you thrive these past couple weeks has left many tears in our eyes and a permanent smile on our faces.

Each one of you truly are making a difference in the lives of those we serve and are the very reason we're proud to call Miami County our home. We are forever grateful for everything you do, and we'd like to show our appreciation by thanking the following individuals for their latest contribution. Please join us in thanking:

- **Police Chief Eric Burris, Officer Parrish Brazel, and the Tipp City Police Department** for your outstanding efforts to make Tipp City an inclusive community for everyone, especially kids on the autism spectrum and their families. (Pictured below, left and center photos)
- The **Covington, Piqua, Sidney, Troy, and West Milton** police and fire departments for inviting us and 10 members of our Special Olympics softball team to your 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Battle of the Badges softball tournament. We had a blast! (Pictured below, right)
- **Thrivent Financial** for sponsoring the Battle of the Badges tournament and organizing a hygiene kit packing activity where players and community volunteers packed backpacks to be distributed to people with developmental disabilities in Miami and Shelby counties. Because of you, we were able to share 75 kits with the folks we serve. Thank you to Thrivent Financial and all the community members who helped pack kits that day! (Pictured below, right)
- **Angie Anderson** and the **Troy High School cheerleaders** for welcoming our Miami County Magic cheerleaders to the Trojans' home game against the Sidney Yellow Jackets on Friday, October 12. Your partnership with us this past year has been amazing, and we can't wait to see you again for our basketball season!
- **Diane Cerbus** for being such a positive, encouraging coach to our flag football cheerleaders this season.
- **Rob Williams** for the dedication and friendship you have shown this season to our Miami County Magic flag football players as their head coach.

- **David Maxson** for leading our Riverside Bell Choir during their latest performance at Troy Main Street's "Summer Send-Off: Speed Volunteering" event at Troy Memorial Stadium.
- **Victoria Glover** and **Barb Minnich** for sharing your expertise with a couple of the folks we serve and helping them improve their reading skills. You both are such strong, positive role models for them.
- **Hannah Schaffnit** for finding the time in your busy school schedule to tutor one of the kids we serve. We also loved seeing you at our Halloween Dance earlier this month.
- **Hayden Nichols** for also helping during our annual Halloween Dance. We're so glad you could join us for some spooktacular fun!
- **Harry Campbell** for being such a dedicated FAN and spending some of your retirement time with us and the folks we serve. We appreciated having you as a referee this flag football season and as a volunteer at our Halloween Dance.
- **Jill Circele** for helping our Community Awareness & Opportunities Department earlier this month with tabbing, labeling, and mailing both the Fall 2018 ABLE Magazine and our November/December RecZone.
- **Bob Schoknecht** for not only being our Miami County Magic's go-to photographer, but also for donating an air hockey table to a couple young gentlemen we serve. We are lucky to have such a devoted FAN like yourself!
- **Eileen Littleton** for leading the way in helping us prepare for our monthly Aktion Club and Adventures in Advocacy meetings.
- **Penny Hoekstra** for always keeping our Aktion Club members energized and ready to go with some tasty treats during their monthly meetings.
- **Karen Clark** for your friendship with one of the ladies we serve. With the holidays just around the corner, the two of you are sure to have a lot of fun these next couple months!



You can see more pictures of our FANS by visiting our [Facebook](#) page and checking out the Fall 2018 edition of [ABLE Magazine](#). Make sure you keep your eyes open for pictures from FAN Bob Schoknecht too, coming to Facebook soon!

Our FANS program has received quite a few new opportunities for you all to support those we serve. If you can fulfill any of these requests, please give us a call. Not able to help but know someone who can? Send them this newsletter!

If you or someone you know can help with any of these requests, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 or [brittany.ulman@riversideddd.org](mailto:brittany.ulman@riversideddd.org). Here are the details:

- **Secret Santas** – Are you or someone you know interested in bringing a smile to the folks we serve this holiday season? If you'd like to make this Christmas one to remember for an individual or family we serve, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 to discuss our Christmas sponsorship program.
- **Basketball, Cheerleading, and Swimming Coaches, Officials, Scorekeepers, & Buddies** – Swimming is still underway and basketball season will be here before we know it, so our Recreation Department is always looking for anyone wanting to be a coach, official, scorekeeper, or buddy. If you and your friends are interested, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information. We also welcome school sports teams and clubs, as well as other groups in our community, to volunteer too!
- **Office Assistants** – Helping our different departments around the office is a great way for local high school students to gain valuable work experience, meet local professionals, and explore a range of career paths. If you or someone you know would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Cat Foster Family** – A gentleman we serve recently moved into a new apartment, but his beloved cat unfortunately couldn't come with him. The cat is a young, short-haired breed that has been both declawed and neutered and has received all his shots. If you'd like to welcome this friendly cat into your home, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for details.
- **Buddies & Role Models** – Do you have that one friend in your life who you love spending time with no matter what you do? If you'd like to be that person for someone else, we have several people we serve who'd love to meet you! For more information, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Furniture** – Ask just about any homeowner and they can tell you how expensive furniture can be. The same goes for some of the folks we serve, especially when they're working with limited resources. If you have a piece of furniture you'd like to donate—whether it be a couch, loveseat, recliner, or dresser—we know of

several individuals who'd greatly appreciate it. For more information, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.

- **Appliances** – It's always nice to see another one of our individuals gain their independence and move out on their own, but the moment can be bittersweet if they aren't able to purchase all the essential items they need. If you have a washer & dryer unit, stove, microwave, window A/C, or dishwasher you'd like to donate, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information.
- **Kitchenware** – Some of those we serve who have recently moved out on their own are looking for basic kitchenware. If you can help them acquire such items, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for details.
- **Beds & Box Springs** – Unfortunately, due to limited resources, some of those we serve cannot purchase the appropriate size or style of mattress they need, leaving them in an uncomfortable bed—and sometimes even on the floor—every night. If you'd like to bring them some comfort with a twin, full, or queen size mattress and/or box spring, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the Riverside FANS family, please share this newsletter with them. You can also direct them to the [Volunteer](#) page on our website where they can learn more about our FANS program, sign up for the FANS email list, and download a volunteer [application](#). If you'd like more information about any volunteer opportunities available through our FANS program, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 or [brittany.ulman@riversidedd.org](mailto:brittany.ulman@riversidedd.org).

Because of people like you, our community is well on its way to becoming a welcoming, inclusive home to people of ALL abilities. In a world where negativity seems to be lurking around every corner, we could all certainly use a little ray of sunshine amongst the looming clouds. Thank you for being Riverside and Miami County's beacon of positivity, hope, and most of all, compassion.

Sincerely,

Brittany Ulman