



## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

**BRIAN W. GREEN**

Superintendent Brian Green reflects on our 70th Anniversary year and looks ahead at 2023.

## Fall 2022

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Our Mission is to empower  
people with developmental  
disabilities to live, work and  
play as full members of our  
community.



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# Superintendent's Corner

It is hard to believe we are in the final quarter of 2022. It feels as though we just started celebrating our 70th anniversary, reflecting on Riverside's 7 decades of service, thanks to our community's steadfast support. This year, it has been fun connecting with and hearing from some friends from the past in previous issues of this magazine. We wish to thank Blair Brubaker, Rosemary Saunders and Dan Dickerson for their participation in interviews for articles in our Winter, Spring and Summer issues of ABLE Magazine. I hope you will enjoy the features in this issue, highlighting people served who are employed in the community, building on our history and taking us into a bright future.

As we finish out the year, I am reminded of the many ways in which we have grown while also looking ahead at the many things to come. Our dependence on Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) is one part of our service system that is likely to continue for many years to come, and we are working with groups across the state to ensure the best workers are recruited, trained and retained. It is their hard work and dedication that creates so much opportunity for the people we support. I continue to convey our sincere appreciation for the DSPs who work in Miami County, as our team works to show them daily how much they are valued.

Their work, as well as the work of our own employees, is evident to me when I interact with those we serve. I was fortunate to attend the Synergy Conference (featured on page 6) in Sandusky a few weeks ago. It is clear that the people we support are receiving the encouragement and opportunities needed to help them grow confidence and independence. I look forward to seeing the great things they will achieve.

As special as 2022 has been, 2023 is certain to be an important year for us as well. We learned recently that we are scheduled for our accreditation review by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in January. Our team is already hard at work preparing files for review. It is our hope that this exercise will reinforce our community's high level of trust in us, as our goal is not merely to meet your expectations, but to exceed them.

From everyone at Riverside, I thank you again for 70 years of support and wish you a happy holiday season.



Brian W. Green  
Superintendent



# Dan Metcalf, Valued Employee

By Gus DeLucia, HR Director  
General Films, Covington



*Dan Metcalf (back, middle) is a valued member of the team at General Films in Covington*



*Gus DeLucia (right) is proud to have Dan at General Films. To be sure Dan was able to attend the company outing to Kings Island, Gus offered to be his ride to the amusement park*

Every morning that I see Dan I ask him how he is doing. He always replies without fail: "I'm doing really good today and I'm really liking my job." It makes me laugh a little because it might sound like there was a day he wasn't happy or liking his job. If there is, I haven't heard it.

When I asked his team about him, they are amazed at how much he has come out of his shell since starting with us in April 2021. His supervisor, Jennifer Jay, said that he was very soft spoken and shy when he came to General Films but has since blossomed into a fairly verbal participant in any conversation.

When plans were announced for the July 1st, 2022 company outing at Kings Island, Dan immediately let Jen and a couple of his coworkers know how much he liked riding roller coasters and that he wanted to go. He followed that up with asking if he could get a ride from someone. Jennifer assured him that we would make that happen. That's when she came to me. My oldest son is on the spectrum and is bi-polar. I have first hand knowledge of the challenges folks like Dan or my son face day-to-day, so I said I would do it.

Jen went back to Dan and told her I had offered to take him and see if he agreeable. We also let his mother know of the plans as well.

Then Dan asked Jen if she thought I would ride the roller coasters with him and she assured him that was definitely yes.

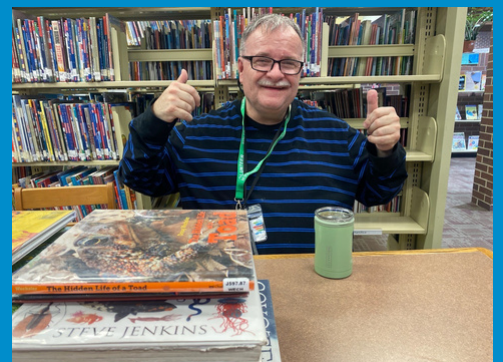
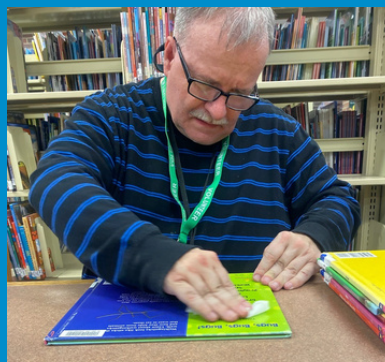
I picked Dan up at his house at our prearranged time and we made the trek to Kings Island. Dan was so excited and seemed like he could barely contain his enthusiasm. I say this tongue-in-cheek. He is so patient but his smile told the story.

We rode the coasters, had lunch, snacks, drinks and dinner. I let Dan decide when he was done and we headed home. Before I dropped him off, he made sure that we had plans to do this again next summer.

General Films is blessed by many of our associates, but Dan in particular. I really enjoy his positive attitude and softly spoken words. Dan is dependable and does a wonderful job each and every day.

## Building Skills

JT recently indicated an interest in volunteering at a library. It didn't take long for us to find a library that could use a set of helpful hands. Thanks to our partnership with the Troy-Miami County Public Library, JT is building new skills that could lead to future employment.



## Employment Feature:

### An Interview with Jordan Alexander

Hi, my name is Jordan Alexander. I grew up in Troy and am 33 years old. I have been working at restaurants and businesses in Troy since I was in high school. When I was growing up, I was so excited to get a job and make my own money so that I could live on my own and be more independent. I look up to my brother, Britten. He is a very hard worker, who has a wonderful family and a good job. My first job was right after I graduated high school at CJ Highmarks. I loved their onion petals and cheeseburgers! Besides the food, I also loved working at CJ Highmarks because they had good management, and the coworkers were very kind to me. I had a job coach that taught me how to roll silverware, bus tables and use the dishwasher.

After my job at CJ Highmarks, I was employed and received services through a vocational habilitation agency in Miami County. I learned more skills like stocking shelves, counting change and greeting customers. While I worked there, I was able to reach one of my goals of getting my own apartment and living on my own. I love being on my own and having my own space. I can take walks and ride my bike to downtown Troy and stores close to my apartment. In 2016, I started my second community job at Stillwater Technologies, Inc. I also had a job coach there that helped me learn the janitorial schedule to keep the building clean. I really liked working there and I made a lot of friends with my coworkers. They even helped my Buddy Walk team by making posters and putting them up around the building. The Buddy Walk helps raise awareness about Down syndrome. I was sad when they had to let me go when COVID-19 got bad in March of 2020. It was hard not having a job for the next 9 months and I really missed my last job and seeing my coworkers. My provider and I started applying for jobs and looking for places that might be hiring. I am very good at remembering dates and finally on December 16, 2020, I started at Agave and Rye in Troy as a Sanitation Ninja.

Working at Agave and Rye is the reason that I wanted to write this article. I am so thankful to work there because the management treats me well, they answer all my questions and are very patient when showing me what needs to be done and tell me when I'm doing a good job. I love my coworkers. They treat me nicely, and we are good at communicating. When they need something from me, I can help them such as with ice and dishes and if I have a question, they help me also. I like meeting new people and making them feel welcome at the restaurant. My main job is to sanitize the server's station, arcade games, door knobs, bathrooms and clean the tables. I have been told I am a really good worker, I go to work on time, I never miss work and I always help out at extra jobs when management needs me. I feel proud to have a job and be responsible for myself, to have my own apartment and take care of my dog Buster.



*Jordan smiles with coworkers at Agave & Rye*



*Jordan loves his job as a "Sanitation Ninja"*



*Sarah Wittman is Jordan's direct support professional (DSP), who helps him with a few tasks each week. This allows Jordan to live a very independent life*



## Community Support

We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of so many in our community, such as these generous organizations that recently made donations to our programs. With support like this, we are able to continue delivering on our mission of empowering people with developmental disabilities to live, work and play as full members of our community! We extend our sincere thanks to:



*Piqua High School Softball players raised \$1,500 for Miami County Special Olympics*



Chevrolet of Troy/Jacob Shepherd  
Excellence In Dentistry  
Jocelyn West & Family  
Piqua High School Softball Team  
Piqua Community Foundation  
Power 107.1FM  
Trojan City Music  
Troy Fish and Game  
West Milton VFW Auxiliary

*<< Riverside Community Connections Manager Krista Smith accepts a \$1,500 check from Jacob Shepherd, owner of Chevrolet of Troy*

*>> The Elliott Mote Memorial West Milton VFW Post 8211 Auxiliary raised \$6,000 for Miami County Special Olympics at its 32nd annual fundraiser*



*Troy Fish & Game donated \$4,979 for the purchase of a new scoreboard for Special Olympics games*



We are happy to introduce these volunteers who have either joined recently or renewed their volunteer status:

**Diane Cerbus**  
**Heather Davey**  
**Natalie Davey**  
**Kesla Klingler**

**Lilly McDowell**  
**Hannah Ryan**  
**Amanda Schwieterman**  
**Rob Williams**

We extend a big THANK YOU to these volunteers, who have given lots of time over the past few months to our Miami County Special Olympics Golf and Softball Teams:

**Harry Bashore**  
**Bob Beck**  
**Katie Blumhorst**  
**Kesla Klingler**  
**Allen Massie**

**Kirk Nichols**  
**Kristie Rittwage**  
**Connie Teserovitch**  
**Keira Teserovitch**



## Riverside Recognized for Community Leadership

Riverside was honored recently to be recognized as a Gold level A-Z Nonprofit Board Award recipient at the Duke Academy for Community Leadership's Mosaic Conference, hosted by the Duke Foundation and Edison State Community College. Riverside Community Awareness and Opportunities Director Melissa Nichols accepted the award on Riverside's behalf.

## Special Olympics Update

Miami County Special Olympics had a very successful summer with two teams going to State Tournaments. Our softball team made an overnight trip to Sandusky on September 9-10, and were proud to bring home the bronze! In addition to playing in the tournament, they also were able to enjoy an afternoon at Cedar Point! The trip was a great opportunity to travel, see new places, eat at new restaurants, and for some, stay in a hotel for a first time! Our golf team also competed at the State Tournament in Cincinnati. They returned with 4 gold and 3 silver medals. One of our golfers, Tommy Cramer, plays solo and earned the lowest score of the entire tournament by scoring a 34 on a par 31, 9-hole course! This season was full of new friendships with new partners, great achievements and a lot of fun. We extend a big THANK YOU to the Troy Foundation for their generous grant from their fall 2021 cycle, which covered fees for our athletes and volunteers all season long. Thank you, Troy Foundation!

This fall, our Powerlifting, Swim, Basketball and Cheerleading teams are busy with practices and competitions. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updates on games and tournaments, and come out when you can to cheer on our Miami County Magic!



<< Softball team at the State Tournament



>> Golf team at the Regional Tournament

## All About Advocacy!

Every year, Riverside turns its focus to the topic of "advocacy" for the months of September and October, by hosting a regional conference at our location, and also by sending a group to a statewide conference in Sandusky. We hosted a record 160 guests at the Regional Advocacy Conference, hosted by Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Logan, Preble and Shelby Counties. This year, we also had a group join us from Montgomery County. Participants listened to great speeches by keynote speakers Officer Mike McRill, Chip Hare and Tom Clark, and enjoyed a puppet show and square dancing with Liz Maxson. There were many smiles as folks were enjoying being together again while learning how to advocate for themselves. Our trip to the Synergy Conference in Sandusky was just as successful, with 16 people served attending. The group enjoyed the activities, sessions and opportunities to gain independence and make new friends.



Miami County advocates attended the Synergy Conference in Sandusky to learn about speaking up for themselves, making good choices and gaining skills to grow their independence



Brooke and Laura help one another with a group activity at Synergy



Officer Mike McRill, Tom Clark and Chip Hare were guest presenters at the Regional Advocacy Conference in September



Austin completes an activity during the Regional Advocacy Conference



# Celebrating Direct Support Professionals!

As caregivers for the people we serve, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are a critical part of Ohio's developmental disabilities system. Each year, we celebrate National Direct Support Professional Appreciation Week in September, and this year's celebration took place September 11-17. We hosted a food truck dinner for all DSPs in Miami County, which was a big hit with nearly 250 people in attendance! The weather cooperated and people were happy to stay and visit with each other. It was great to see so many folks we haven't seen in a while. We have received so much positive feedback that we are already planning to do another one next year.



## Provider Agency Spotlight:



AngelSense is a company offering assistive technology for safety and greater independence for individuals with unique needs.

Recently, AngelSense became a Medicaid waiver provider statewide in Ohio, with availability in Miami County. AngelSense includes a wearable GPS device with an assistive speakerphone, a user-friendly app for multiple caregivers (parents, family members, teachers, therapists, law enforcement). According to their website, AngelSense is designed to support individuals with safety concerns, who are striving for a higher level of independence or who could benefit from remote support from parents/loved ones or caregivers.

For more information about AngelSense services, talk to your SSA or visit [angelsense.com](http://angelsense.com).

## Director Hauck Visit

On September 22, Riverside was fortunate to spend the afternoon with Director Kim Hauck of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Director Hauck spent the first hour of her visit sharing statewide updates with all of our employees, and then later met with our leadership team and a few board members to learn about what makes Miami County special. We are proud of the work we do in Miami County and appreciate Director Hauck's time as she spent an afternoon with us.





## Inside this Issue

### Fall 2022

Riverside is wrapping up our 70th Anniversary celebrations!

Check out the exciting things we've been up to, see who has supported us along the way and get a peek at what's ahead!