

The Crusade

February 2024

Ross County Advocacy Newsletter

What's in the News



New DD Board Member

The Ross County Commissioners recently appointed Hunter Robinson to the Ross County Board of DD governing board. Hunter is the first person with developmental disabilities to serve on the board. Congratulations, Hunter!

Law Passed for Parents

In April 2023, Ohio passed a law which prohibits authorities from denying or limiting participation in parenting activities on the sole basis of disability.

A new law went into effect which makes it unlawful for Ohio decision-makers such as courts, children's services, child placement agencies and adoption agencies to deny or limit parental or custodial rights based on a person's

disabilities. Currently 17 other states have similar laws. The law ensures that the rights of parents with disabilities are equal to those without disabilities and acknowledges that disability does not determine fitness to parent. Many groups advocated for more than seven years to get these important protections for parents with disabilities passed into Ohio law.

Special Olympics News

The Ross County Special Olympics Swim Team won 13 medals after competing in the regional competition that was held at Kenyon College. Kaitlyn Brown, won a gold medal in the 100m breaststroke, Andrea Baer took the gold in the 25m backstroke and Asher Duncan brought home the gold in the 25m freestyle. The team also won one silver, four bronze and a relay team bronze. These athletes will be advancing to the State Indoor Winter Games in February at Bowling Green University.

Health and Wellness



Here's some inclement weather suggestions borrowed from the DD website.

Be aware that steps, sidewalks, and streets can be slippery from ice, even if it's not visible, which can increase the risk of falling. Being outside for too long

in extreme cold can also pose health threats, such as frostbite or hypothermia. Make a plan so you can successfully avoid extreme temperatures, such as when waiting for a bus. Also, prepare the Home for Cold Temperatures and Weather:

1. Request that the furnace be checked and is in good order.
2. Check the carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.
3. Make sure you have extra supplies and food on hand. Keep an emergency kit that includes flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, extra medicine, etc.
4. If the power goes out, call your supervisor immediately. The people you support may be at greater risk for hypothermia and other concerns.

Take a look at these fast facts- People with diabetes, those who take high blood pressure medication, have poor circulation, or Raynaud's disease may be at a higher risk for hypothermia or other cold weather conditions. • Forty percent of the body's heat is lost if a person's head is not covered. • Carbon monoxide detectors save lives. Every year, over 400 people die and 50,000 are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning. • Be alert when using space heaters. Heaters that are not working properly or get knocked over can cause

fire and death. December, January, and February are leading months for home heating fires.

Get to Know...



My name is Brice Coey. I am a disability advocate for Ross County. I am someone you can come to with questions and concerns about any disability rights or need connection with services. I am also the producer of

this newsletter! You can contact me through email at bcoey@rossdd.org. We are always looking for articles for this newsletter, if you want to add your birthday to the calendar, or if you'd like me to research and put information into the newsletter.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2024



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Walk for Awareness Downtown Chillicothe 10 AM
			7 DD Month Art Show Pump House 6:30 PM	8 Food Truck Friday 167 W. Main St. 11 AM - 2 PM
	12 DD Awareness & Advocacy Day Viewing Party 9:30 AM Pioneer Admin Building			15 Food Truck Friday 167 W. Main St. 11 AM - 2 PM
		20 Celebrity Basketball Game Chillicothe H.S. 6 PM	21 Rock Your Socks for Down Syndrome Awareness	22 Food Truck Friday 167 W. Main St. 11 AM - 2 PM Party at the Elks 6-9 PM Music & Concessions
		27 DD Month Awards Banquet Chillicothe High School 6-8 PM		29