
UPDATE

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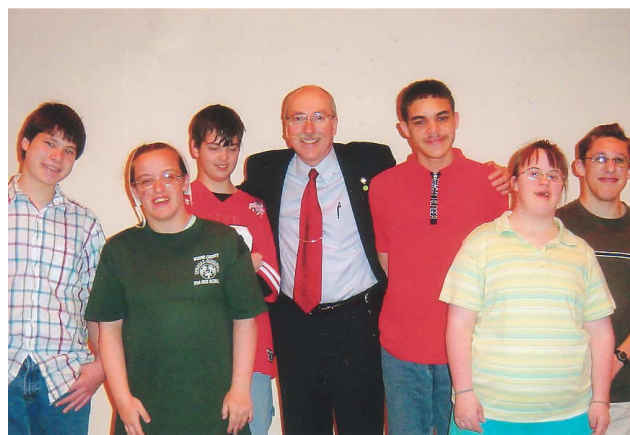
May 2007

IDA SUE SCHOOL/NICK AMSTER WORKSHOP

266 Oldman Road, Wooster, Ohio 330/345-6016



Nick Amster Workshop enrollees enjoy a therapeutic recreation activity



Stevieray, Ruby, Keith, State Senator Ron Amstutz, Eric, Rachel and Jeremy tour the Ohio Statehouse

News from Nick Amster Workshop

Spring is in full swing with summer just around the corner and the Nick Amster Workshop is continuing to gear up to swing into a new approach to Adult Services. Employment has always been and will continue to be an important component of the services provided to our individuals; however, employment will no longer be the primary focus but one of many options for the individuals we serve to choose from.

The mission of the Nick Amster Workshop is to enable individuals to participate in all aspects of daily living as completely as possible on their own behalf. On behalf of individuals, we shall advocate for their rights, educate others about their abilities, and integrate our program into the community.

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IDA SUE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT OHIO STATEHOUSE

By Carol Buchwalter

As part of Ida Sue School's social studies unit, seven students visited the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesday, May 1. The students were able to observe the Ohio legislature in session where State Representative Carmichael served as host and had the students introduced as being in attendance. Afterwards, State Senator Ron Amstutz visited with the students and posed for pictures. Students were able to take a tour of Capitol Square, learning about its history and government functions.

Earlier all students at Ida Sue School spent two weeks studying different aspects of Ohio. Two afternoons were spent working with hands-on activities that focused on people, places and things of Ohio. Activities included using construction paper to make the Ohio flag, assembling airplane gliders, and making buckeyes to eat.

It is never too early!

Ida Sue School, Nick Amster Workshop, and Parent to Parent have set August 18, 2007 as the date for the Eighth Annual Benefit Auction. There is no need to wait though. If you have a new or hand made item, or gift certificate that you would like to donate for sale at the auction, you can send it in any time to either the school or workshop. Please keep us in mind as you are out and about enjoying the summer. You may also call Joe Leeper at 330-264-7682 if you have an item to be picked up.

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, last year was the best event yet. Your support is truly what makes it all work and we look forward to seeing you in Kidron again this year!

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News from Nick Amster Workshop Continued

In order to fulfill our mission we must continually review and improve the way we provide services to the individuals in our program. We are currently reviewing and modifying our schedule of services to include more activities that ensure the optimal functioning of the individual. The services will include life skill training along with activities that will encourage practical application of the training. More therapeutic recreation activities will be offered both in house and in the community. Vocational Habilitation will be designed to teach and reinforce habilitation concepts related to work including responsibility, attendance, task completion, problem solving, social interaction, motor skill development, and safety with the emphasis on community participation. Functional academics will also become integrated into these activities to challenge and assist each individual in developing to their fullest potential with the goal being to offer a variety of fun yet meaningful activities which will assist each individual in acquiring and/or maintaining the skills necessary to live, work, play, and participate in the community as independently as possible.

IDA SUE SCHOOL GRADUATION

Ida Sue School graduation ceremonies were held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at 11 am in the school gymnasium. Five students graduated this year.

They were:

Ben Graber	North Central School District
Brittany Lowe	Triway Local School District
Myron Miller	Southeast Local School District
Kristin Milligan	Wooster City School District
Ian Rollason	Wooster City School District

Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Rev. David Wilcox of the United Methodist Church of Wooster. There was a special musical performance by the Ida Sue School Choir.

This year's graduation was planned by committee members Carol Buchwalter, Frank Croskey, Kathleen Eby, Nancy Jeffries, Tina Oliver, Blenda Palmer and Nancy Zuercher.

CONGRATULATION TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!



***The best and most beautiful things
in the world cannot be seen or
even touched - they must be felt
with the heart.***

Helen Keller

Project PARTnership

For the past several years, the students of Ida Sue School have been participating in project PARTnership. This is a special education and fine arts program offered through Tri-County Educational Service Center in partnership with Wayne Center for the Arts. It began in 1992 through a special grant program of the Kennedy Space Center Very Special Arts, Very Special Arts Ohio, and the U.S. Department of Education. This program is made available to all public high schools in Wayne County.

Once a month, our students travel to Wayne Center for the Arts to participate in visual art, music, drama/theatre, and creative movement classes. In addition, the students participate in an arts-related field trip experience. In the past, we have attended educational performances at the Magical Theatre Company and Canton Cultural Center for the Arts. During April, a guest artist with a disability presented a program on Arts Activities Day.

In addition to this busy schedule, the Project PARTnership program includes an arts experience with a visiting artist at Ida Sue School. This year, we will have Mr. Todd Martin as our guest artist. He will provide activities in the area of visual arts.

We feel there are many benefits our students receive from Project PARTnership. Among them are raising student's self-esteem, increased creativity and simple enjoyment. We appreciate very much the opportunity to participate in this program.

Certified Angus Beef donates BBQ Beef for Graduation

A special thank you to Denise Williamson and Certified Angus Beef for providing 30 pounds of barbequed beef for the 2007 Ida Sue School graduation luncheon. It was a very tasty donation. Also, a big thank you to Mrs. Oliver's class for preparing the rest of the meal. There's no better way to finish a special celebration than with a special meal.

CHOICE OF PROVIDER

Service coordinators are the people who help you write your service plan, discuss your service needs with providers, and keep your services coordinated. At least once a year, your service coordinator reminds you about the rules that give you the right to choose the provider you want for services that are paid for by Medicaid waivers.

The information you get about choosing providers includes instructions for finding the list of qualified providers on the ODMRDD website. Your service coordinator can also print out this list for you. You may choose a service provider at any time, or you can follow the steps in the rule for interviewing and comparing information from two or more providers before you make your choice.

You may ask your service coordinator anytime during the year for changes to your services or for assistance with other things you need.

The service coordination office is located at 326-C N. Hillcrest Drive and can be reached at 330-264-9667.

Upcoming Calendar

- June 11*** Summer Staff Report Day
- June 12*** Summer Program Begins - Ida Sue School
- July 4*** Independence Day - Program Closed
- July 27*** Final day for the Ida Sue School Summer Program
- July 30 - August 3*** Workshop Open-No Transportation Bus Inspection
- August 20*** First Day for Teachers - Ida Sue
- August 21*** First Day of School for Ida Sue

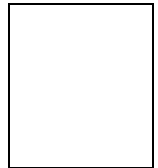
Superintendents Corner

As we wind down the Ida Sue school year, I thank all the staff, parents, and students who have made this year a success. I continuously stand amazed by what is accomplished with the students each year. I must say the highlight for me was spending a few moments during Right to Read week reading to a group of students. They were great. For five of our students, it is time to move on to the world of work. I congratulate Ben, Brittany, Myron, Kristin and Ian on their graduation and wish them the best in the future.

I am looking forward to the beginning of the summer program. The students will be back on June 12, 2007, to enjoy seven weeks of summer services. The staff has been hired and we are preparing for the start of the 39th year of summer fun.

We will have a new face among the staff beginning on June 11, 2007. Tim Richards will be joining the Wayne County Board of MRDD as the Transportation Supervisor. He will be replacing Fred Porr, who retired in March. Tim comes to us from the Triway Local Schools where he served as a mechanic as well as being responsible for the safe operation of the vehicles. Tim is an ASE Certified School Bus Mechanic. Prior to working at Triway, Tim was employed at LTV Steel in the payroll and employee benefits department for 18 years. While there, he was directly involved in management and employee relations. Tim was awarded the Corporate Presidential Award for morale building in his department. Tim's family includes his wife Lori, daughter Shelley and stepdaughter Cari. His favorite sports team is Notre Dame. Among some of his adventures was being part of an Army Skydiving Team. We welcome Tim to the Ida Sue School and Nick Amster Workshop.

Wayne County Board of MRDD
266 Oldman Road
Wooster, Ohio 44691



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