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Happy Thanksgiving!

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.
~Cicero

1. Family Advisory Council Members Look Ahead to 2012

The DODD Family Advisory Council provides opportunities for families to provide input to policy makers, and offers family members a venue in which to exchange information about programs, services, and options available to people who have developmental disabilities and their families. More at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

The November 15 meeting of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) at Columbus Developmental Center addressed members' requests for information about many subjects -- including an update on the National Core Indicators initiative (see NCI, [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 23](#)); a unique and interactive description of the steps through which a bill becomes law; a family's story of natural inclusion in the educational/social community known as -- high school; and, information about expanding managed care enrollment, presented by representatives from the Department of Job and Family Services.

A Few Brief Highlights

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Liaison Officer Paul Jarvis enlisted the help of -- none other than the traditional toy, Mr. Potato Head -- to help describe 'How a Bill

Becomes Law.’ Adding the arms, eyes, mouth, etc., in the usual places proved to be quite a learning opportunity for the group, as a team exercise progressed employing the various ‘parts and pieces’ of law-making. As one FAC participant in the exercise noted,

“Sometimes the teeth can’t remain, in favor of the ears staying on. What matters is the overall intent of the legislation maintains its integrity as a whole.”

Jarvis noted that the advocacy efforts of constituents are extremely important in helping to inform and educate local legislators on various issues, and these efforts are valued and necessary. He cited the example of Senate Bill 79 which became known as the “MRDD Name Change Bill” (see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 14](#), July 8, 2009), which was introduced as legislation following the consistent and focused efforts of self advocates and others within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community asking to have the words ‘mental retardation’ removed from general terminology and the state agency’s name.

Jarvis commented, “When can you have an impact? When you talk to the people who have the power to do something about your issue of concern ... and give them the information they need.”



Mr. Potato Head starts out as a simple spud with no features, and becomes fully-formed as the ‘lawmaking’ process goes along.

DD Council’s Paul Jarvis (holding the featureless spud) enlisted the help of Mr. Potato Head to help describe ‘How a Bill Becomes Law.’ Adding the arms, eyes, mouth, etc. in the usual places was a learning opportunity for the group, via an exercise in the various ‘parts and pieces’ of law-making. At right, clockwise from left front, are Evan McFee, Chuck Beatty, Diane Menchoffer, and Amy Clawson.

The November meeting also included a presentation by Hannah Wackernagle and her Mom, Hollie, who told their story about Hannah’s participation in activities at Central Crossing High School in Grove City. (See *The Columbus Dispatch*: [Leading the cheer for acceptance](#)). After reading the article about Hannah’s cheerleading participation at the school, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin asked the Wackernagle family to share their story and talk about their experiences in the public school system.

Hollie's comments included personal reflections as a parent worrying about her child as she grew up and began attending school, and whether or not Hannah having Down syndrome would keep her from becoming a part of her peer-group in high school. It turns out there were some challenges. But once Hollie began asking for some opportunities and options for her daughter, and was firm in seeing to it that the school gave Hannah a chance to try things -- lots of different things -- her world changed. Once Hannah was given the opportunity to try out for and be a part of the cheerleading team, Hollie shares ...

"It was the most wonderful thing. One day after Hannah had been involved for a while with cheering, she was out there with the group at a game, kind of 'working the crowd' with the students in the stands, and mingling with everyone ... and it dawned on me that I couldn't tell which one she was. I couldn't tell Hannah from any of the other girls from where I was sitting - not by what she was doing or wearing or anything. She was a natural part of everything. It was wonderful."

And what did Hannah have to say about all this? Well, after she belted out a song for the FAC attendees, complete with a star's stage presence and cool moves (she's in the school's Drama productions, too), she confirmed,

"I love being famous. I love it, and I'm good."



Hannah Wackernagle and her Mom, Hollie.

More about the Wackernagle family's experiences in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Fall 2010, and publishing in late December.

Family Advisory Council contact is Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov; (614) 466-8706



2. Annual SIBS Conference Fosters Family Connections

About 160 people participated in the Eleventh Annual Ohio SIBS Conference at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, including several family members who attended from out-of-state to

participate with their Ohio siblings. Speakers addressed current and emerging issues directly affecting conference attendees, including Life Transitions, Employment, Advocacy, Community Living, Program Funding, and Social Support. Again this year, a self-advocacy track was very popular, and prompted good conversations among family members.

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin attended with two of her three daughters, and noted, “Our kids listening to other people is so important. They don’t always listen to us, and if they hear things from their siblings and their peers on subjects of interest to them, it just means more sometimes. It gives them a different perspective.”

Dr. Tom Fish, Director of Family and Employment Services at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center – and a founder of the SIBS Conference and advocate for people with developmental disabilities – commented,

“I heard a conversation during this year’s conference that meant a lot to me, and went something like this ... ‘I really love being able to meet other siblings and see how their experiences compare with mine. It’s also great just knowing there are other siblings out there with families like mine.’ ”



Elena and Margaret enjoy a break at the SIBS Conference.

Elena (right) flew in from Colorado with to attend the SIBS Conference along with her sister, Margaret McIntosh. The two spent time relating to each other as only sisters can!

Check it out! [Ohio SIBS on Facebook](#)

Conference participants also demonstrated a great deal of interest in the information presented about various waiver services, and how those services could benefit their family members. One sibling who was visiting her sister from out-of-state observed, “I never knew *exactly* what it could mean to my sister to have a waiver, or how to go about looking into applying for one. This was very enlightening for me, and very positive.”

Issues such as the long-term care of siblings with developmental disabilities, and eligibility for various support services also were discussed with interest at this year’s conference.

For more information: www.ohiosibs.com; ‘Sibling Stories’- Essays about siblings by people with disabilities at <http://siblingstories.blogspot.com/>



3. Keys to Housing Conference Opens Doors to Discussion

The *Keys to Housing Options* conference attracted 200 participants including Ohioans with disabilities of all ages, their family members, providers, and other professionals interested in housing issues. The November 8 - 9 conference, hosted at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus was sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. Co-sponsors included CareSource, Creative Housing, Inc., the HOME Choice Program, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Ohio Housing Locator, Ohio Legal Rights Service, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), and the Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL).

Keynote speaker Derrick Dufresne, president of Community Resource Associates, reinforced the objective of independence for people with disabilities by living in the community of their choice. He asked the audience,

"What does it take for someone to find a place called home? Thinking differently."

Dufresne also cited statistical information for conference attendees to think about, including this:

Nationally, 453,000 people with disabilities live in some kind of housing other than a home, and 750,000 are living with a caregiver older than age 61.

Thought-provoking as these statistics are, stories about real people told by themselves can be even more impactful. A brief video of a housing situation was shown depicting Ron, a U.S. Navy veteran who became ill and was placed in a nursing home. He explained, "This place isn't bad, but it's locked up 24 hours a day. The VA (Veterans Administration) thought I needed someone to take care of my medicine. I'm a good guy. I'm not a trouble-maker. They just don't want me to go into the community where you have more freedom and go where you want to go. Freedom is a very important thing."

Dufresne added that Ron had not seen his family, including grandchildren, in four years.

Other Conference Highlights

A panel of five Ohioans with disabilities shared their personal housing experiences with conference attendees, each of whom provided a different insight into various challenges experienced by people with disabilities who wish to live in a home and community of their choice.

State Senator Charleta Tavares attended a lunchtime conference panel, and offered a legislative perspective to housing issues. She discussed the importance of addressing housing for people with disabilities through legislation, such as a statewide [Visitability](#) law, and pointed out that such an effort takes more than one person to become enacted. She emphasized that advocacy

efforts are key to the process, and legislators are always interested in hearing from their constituents on subjects that impact the individuals they serve and their communities.

Conference participants chose from a variety of workshops on the overall subject of housing for individuals with disabilities. To most effectively reach the different levels of knowledge and different needs of those attending, the *Keys to Housing* Conference offered sessions featuring information presented in beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Special thanks to the DDQuarterly, special Housing Edition, for this information.

More at: <http://www.olrs.ohio.gov/ddq-nov-2011-housing>



4. Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State Includes Reader Input & an Original Bonus Item

In this issue closest to the observance of Thanksgiving, we highlight a few of the many things for which we, at DODD, are thankful ... and for which YOU, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us YOU are thankful.

Pipeline also takes this opportunity to thank our readers for your feedback and comments during the year. Many articles are the result of reader input.



Thankful for People Who Reach Out to Others

Director Martin's Observations on Generosity, Caring

by DODD Director John Martin

Like many Ohioans, as the air gets colder and the leaves begin to change, my mind turns to the many blessings bestowed upon myself, my family, and the developmental disabilities field. In particular, as I just returned from a national meeting, I was particularly thankful for how our system is structured. Other states without the steady flow of local levy dollars have faced more drastic cuts and service reductions than Ohio. And at the ballot box in November, I was grateful for the financial sacrifices made by the overwhelming majority of the voters in these difficult times, as more than 80% of the DD levies passed.

Ohio continues to lead the nation in the level of local support provided to individuals with disabilities and we all can feel grateful for the support the DD community shows us, as demonstrated by their votes.

So, I thank each of you for the role you play in making our system work. Whether you are a voter, a parent, a program participant, a County Board employee, or one of the hundreds of

Direct Support Professionals working on Thanksgiving Day to make it a special day for someone else, may you all have a relaxing and meaningful Thanksgiving Holiday.

– John Martin

Thankful for the Opportunity to Serve Others

Service Providers and Others Share Their Thoughts

From: Add, Thankful for 40 Years of Serving Central Ohio's DD Community

Earlier this month, the *Jazz Arts Group of Columbus* performed alongside people with developmental disabilities at the Ohio Union Performance Hall on the OSU campus, and were joined by comedian Josh Blue, winner of NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, celebrating Add's 40th anniversary. Perhaps best known as, "The comedian who puts the 'cerebral' in cerebral palsy," Josh Blue has impacted the national comedy scene by capturing the country's attention with his talent, not his disability. The *AddAffinity Gala* program noted, "Over the years, Add has provided supports to hundreds of people in Central Ohio, helping them live, work, learn, and connect in their communities." The *AddAffinity Gala* offered an opportunity for Add to thank their many service partners, and according to the organization's Marketing Director, Chris Stollar, in addition to the music and memories created at the event, artists with disabilities also showed and sold their original works to an enthusiastic audience.

Contact: www.addohio.org; Chris Stollar (614) 607-7751.



At the AddAffinity Gala 40th Anniversary event, the celebration was enthusiastic and musical.

"It was wonderful to see and realize that our community so strongly supports our mission. Our sincere appreciation to everyone who attended the AddAffinity Gala."

–AddPresident & CEO Don Bashaw

From: Fayette County - Thankful for New Employment Opportunities

Last month, *Double Play Sports* in Washington Court House held its official grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. Guests included DODD Director John Martin, Fayette County Commissioners Jack Deweese and Tony Anderson, Fayette County Board of DD Superintendent

Fred Williams, Board members, and other local dignitaries. *Double Play Sports* was created to provide employment opportunities and training to adults with disabilities who receive services from Fayette Progressive Industries and the Fayette County Board of DD. The goal is to employ up to ten individuals by January 2012. Individuals will be trained in skills including customer service, product knowledge, stocking displays, and providing some maintenance services.

Double Play Sports offers quality used and some new sporting goods at affordable prices. They also accept donations and items on consignment. Currently on-hand are items for every sports season including various styles of sports footwear. Next month the store will offer baseball and softball batting and pitching cages for local youth to use for training and practice. *The store is located at 1106 Washington Ave., Washington Court House, Ohio. Phone (740) 333-7303.*



Cutting the Ribbon

Chuck Stackhouse, employee of Double Play Sports and participant at Fayette County Board of DD (with ribbon cutting scissors) is shown with DODD Director John Martin, Fayette County Commissioners Jack DeWeese and Tony Anderson, members of the Fayette County Board of DD and the Fayette Progressive Industries Board of Trustees, and the County Board's Superintendent Fred Williams, Adult Services Director Mark Schwartz, and Administrative Assistant Vicki Clay.

From: Lucas County – Thankful for A Growing Experience

The Manos Community Garden links people, nature, and plants. In Lucas County this urban garden area is a team effort of the Toledo Metroparks/Toledo Grows, LCBDD/Adult Options “Wild Connections” Club, and many community neighbors. Community gardens across Toledo encourage neighborhoods to grow fresh produce, while working together to make vacant lots useful and attractive. Theresa Athaide-Victor, Adult Options Manager at LCBDD says simply, “People walk by and just smile ... it's such a welcoming garden spot.” If you want a great fried green tomatoes recipe, Theresa will share it! Email her: TATHAIDE-VICTOR@lucasdd.org



Darryl & Duane at the Manos Community Garden in Toledo

This summer and fall, tomatoes and peppers hung from vines; sunflowers turned to welcome visitors, and colorfully-painted raised beds brimmed with herbs, lettuce, and nasturtium.

Also in Lucas County: Thankful for A 'Birding' Experience

Lucas Co Board of DD thanks Cornell Lab of Ornithology for awarding LCBDD/Adult Options' participants a \$375 *Celebrate Urban Birds* grant that assisted in integrating gardening and the creation of a bird habitat at the Manos Community Garden. In October, the Manos Garden was certified as an official *National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat* site, recognized for protecting and nurturing birds in community spaces.

From: Knox County – Thankful for Expanded Employment Opportunities

Several Knox County businesses were honored for providing employment opportunities for local citizens with disabilities at the fifth annual Employer Recognition Breakfast last month, hosted by New Hope Industries at The Dan Emmett Conference Center. Opening remarks by Knox County Board of DD Superintendent Steve Oster included this:

“We serve almost 500 individuals with disabilities in Knox County, and it’s because of the people in this room today that these people have jobs and can give back to the community. Thank you for everything you have done in making employment opportunities available.”

Read more: Local employers honored by NHI / Mount Vernon News

<http://www.mountvernonnews.com/local/11/10/27/local-employers-honored-by-nhi#ixzz1c5cJzYQi>



Employer of the Year awards were presented to Sanoh, Jeld-Wen, and The Laurels. Front row, from left: Norma Johnson, housekeeping employee at The Laurels; Deb Amore, director of housekeeping; Vicki Carney, human resources manager at Sanoh; Darrell Finck, assistant plant manager at Sanoh; and Terri Pribonic, New Hope Industries (NHI) community employment services manager. Back row: Bill Kershner, NHI production manager; A.J. Stout, administrator at The Laurels; and Brad Hunter, general manager at Jeld-Wen.

From: The Next Chapter Book Clubs – Thankful for a Place in the Community

Tammy Bailey, Coordinator of the *Next Chapter Book Clubs*, writes, “As coordinator of the *Next Chapter Book Clubs*, I had the pleasure of visiting the Sports Club a couple of weeks ago and I really enjoyed myself. The Sports Club is a *Next Chapter Book Club* that meets at the Target store at Easton Town Center, Columbus, on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.. They discuss current events in the world of sports. This group is lead by Gil Foeller (Franklin County’s ARC North) and he brings Club members from ARC North, where they meet Rocky Krause, son of Bob Krause, who was the previous co-facilitator for about five years. Gil and Rocky facilitate the group and it runs like a well-oiled machine! My son, Adam, recently joined the Sports Club, and really looks forward to it. Gil says that the Easton Target is a friendly and welcoming site for their club. While I was visiting I saw for myself how friendly the staff and customers were.” She adds, “One customer stopped by and said,

‘This sounds like my house when my husband and sons get together
and talk sports.’



We are thankful to businesses like the Easton Target that help make *everyone* feel like part of their communities.”

*Contact: Gil Foeller (614) 436-4800; Tammy Bailey (614) 949-1310
More about Next Chapter Book Clubs in Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009 pp. 8-9;
www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx*

From: New Avenues to Independence – Thankful for New Opportunities to Serve

New Avenues to Independence (Cuyahoga County) recently was selected Ohio’s 2011 *Social Entrepreneur* by the Entrepreneur and Small Business Division of the Ohio Department of Development. *New Avenues’* Buckeye Industries, a business enterprise of the organization, was

honored for its efforts to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to become more independent and productive members of society. The award recipient must have a Mission that creates and sustains social value, such as identifying a situation that causes exclusion, or marginalization of a segment of the community that lacks financial means or political clout to achieve positive transformation or benefits. The recipient also must demonstrate a solution that creates or promotes earning potential, or eases economic issues for the targeted group, ensuring a better economic future and stronger community. Buckeye Industries provides vocational training and guidance to 75 individuals, the majority of whom earn wages through meaningful vocational experiences. Services focus on sustainability, and positively impacting the environment.

For more information: www.newavenues.net; contact Karen Knavel, (216) 481-1909 ext. 224.



New Avenues – New Award!

Shown are New Avenues' Chris Loehrke, Vocational Services Director; Jane Lewins, Executive Director; Karen Knavel, Community Relations Director; and, Bruce Sherman, Ph.D., Board President.

From: Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI)– Thankful for Marian Bowers

Marian Bowers turned 85 years old on September 29, and her favorite color is red. One of the 'most senior' individuals at CRSI, Bowers has been a participant since 1983, when she was referred to the agency by the Champaign County Nursing Home. She is the daughter of a former County Probate Judge who passed on in 1951. Her mother died in 1977, and it was clear that Marian did not belong in a nursing home. Bowers shares a common bond with the agency's CEO Than Johnson, who arrived at CRSI just one month before she did, in 1983. Says Johnson,

"I was in my first few months at CRSI when I first met Marian. She was 'a corker!' Always had numerous sayings and offered advice, which I quickly learned to accept with gratitude."

Bowers now resides in a group home equipped to serve her daily needs and is provided personal care services and transportation to and from the agency's Adult Day Services program where she enjoys leisure activities, including painting pictures in art class, and enjoying the view from the rocking chair beside the huge fish aquarium. Staff at CRSI are thankful for people like Marian Bowers, as the agency celebrates 35 years of providing services for people with disabilities, who over the years have become like family.



Marian Bowers – Wearing her signature color, red, Marian enjoys an art class.

From: Midwest Innovations, Stark County – Thankful for great employees like Edwin

Reader Request - Bringing this one back from 2010!

Last year, Midwest Innovations opened an adult services location in the Carnation City Mall in Alliance, in collaboration with the Stark County Board of DD. Local newspaper, *The Review*, noted several interesting points about the new location and highlighted some of the employees, including Edwin Blasiman. What is especially impressive about Edwin is that he wrote a list of the *Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments* for all employees to keep in mind! Thank you, Edwin -- and Midwest Innovations' Tom Rickels -- for bringing this to our attention:

Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments for Employees

1. Decide before you enter the building to have a nice day;
2. If I make a mess, I'll clean it up;
3. 'Sorry' is OK only if you mean it;
4. Don't bother the boss if she's working or talking;
5. Keep working;
6. Show respect to self and others;
7. Show honesty;
8. Be careful to be honest even when you're upset;
9. Help when asked – not only when you want to;
10. Trust goes a long way!



**Edwin, practicing what he preaches ...
Shown practicing Midwest Innovations' Commandment #5.**

Thankful for Opportunities to be a Community Resource

Ohio Developmental Centers Support Their Communities

From: Ernie Fischer, Superintendent at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC)

"To provide each person opportunities to grow, gain independence, and enjoy life"

--MVDC Mission Statement

Excerpted from the Superintendent's Column in the November 2011 MVDC Beacon newsletter:

Over the past several years, 'our world' has been challenged by a number of factors which we cannot ignore. Changes in social policy, far-reaching federal court decisions, and budgetary issues have made us look at how we provide services. It has knocked us out of our comfort zone, into a place that is foreign and less comfortable to us and our way of doing business. Not surprisingly, some staff and families are concerned about the future of our Centers and their loved ones that live in them.

The ironic thing is, our mission statement (above) is just as appropriate and meaningful today as it was when it was developed. Our mission is to provide opportunities for residents to enhance their lives. The only difference is that now we realize and pursue those opportunities that may exist outside of MVDC. In fact, there are probably more opportunities available for persons with developmental disabilities in the community now, than ever before. We have a responsibility to make families and guardians aware of these opportunities and encourage their consideration.

And we are thankful for that opportunity. *Contact: Ernie.Fischer@dodd.ohio.gov; More information: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Developmental-Centers.aspx>*

Thankful for Artistic Talent

Artists Across Ohio Create in Studios, Galleries, and Homes

Thanks to the hundreds -- probably thousands -- of Ohio artists with disabilities throughout the state who share their talents with their communities, and elsewhere around the state. At DODD we are thankful that the opportunities to do so are growing, and we encourage support of the many art and craft venues sponsored by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and other agencies in the state's disability services community. There is much to be enjoyed at such events, (see the OACB event in *Pipeline PostScripts*, below) and, in many cases, attendees have opportunities to meet the interesting and talented artists who have created the original work.

Representing Artists, Statewide – VSA Ohio

From the VSA Voice, Nov. 2011

Erin Hoppe, Executive Director, VSA Ohio (Very Special Arts) writes, "I am thankful for the creativity and passion I see every day from our artists across the state ... the inspiring dedication of teaching artists and educators who work to make learning more fun and effective through the arts and universal design ... a wonderful staff ... a great group of volunteers and board members who give their time and talents to enhance the services we provide ... and the advocates across Ohio standing up for what they know will improve their communities and lives. I am also thankful for knowing that I am lucky to be in a position that allows me to learn from all of you and foster connections that spark and advance creative opportunities." More at www.vsao.org

From Rendville to Granville ... Again!

For the sixth November in a row, the Rendville Art Works artists packed up samples of their art in Perry County, and drove north to Granville, Ohio, to display their work -- ultimately drawing a packed gallery at the beautiful Bryn Du Mansion. There's probably no more receptive a community in which to stage an art show! Director of Rendville Art Works, Joel Yeager, explained that they opened the doors on Friday night, the first day of a two-day show, to a crowd of people, and just like last year, sold most of the work that first night! He comments, "What more can we aspire to? This place is wonderful, and every year it just keeps getting better." All proceeds from art purchases go to the Rendville artists, themselves. *These artists were featured in the Spring 2008 Pipeline Quarterly:* dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx



Rendville Artist Joseph Baggs, and his work.

Joe pauses to enjoy a sugar cookie at the Rendville Art Show this past weekend at the Bryn Du Mansion in Granville. His work is mixed in on the display panels at right, showing his specialty – girls with long hair. More at: www.rendvilleartworks.org/Rendville_Art_Works/Artists/Entries/2010/2/24_Joseph_Baggs.html

**"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."
~Thornton Wilder**



An Original Story for Pipeline **The Thank You Note**

by Sherry Steinman

Most parents over the age of 40 had to write Thank You notes when they were small, to show their appreciation for gifts from relatives and family friends. The writing of a Thank You note was then, and is now, generally met by small school-age children with some whining, some procrastination, and more than a few scratched-out or discarded Thank You notes with mistakes. As my own son attained the Thank You Note Writing Age (old enough to hold a pen and make reasonable facsimiles of printed letters), I decided that Thank You note mistakes were not a big deal, and worrying about them made kids unhappy about writing them. So, my approach was

that it was the act of putting your thoughts on paper that counted. Plus, most people enjoy getting Thank You notes from children, regardless of a misspelled word or two.

The Three-Sentence Directive

In order to make the process easier and yet provide a teachable moment as to why one should write a Thank You note, I engaged my son Cliff, then age 8 or 9, in a conversation before one such Thank You Note Writing Opportunity. It went something like this ...

Mom: “Cliff, Grandma sent you a nice t-shirt for your birthday, and she put a lot of thought into getting one she thought you would like and wear to school. Please say something specific in the note about the shirt and why you like it.”

Son: “Like what?”

Mom: “Three sentences will do. Thank you for the what-ever-it-is. Here’s what I like about it. And thanks again for always being so thoughtful, generous etc. OK?”

Son: “Yeah, OK -- three sentences.”

Shortly thereafter, a Thank You note was thrust under my nose at the dining room table for a quick review before Cliff sealed it up for sending to Grandma in Phoenix. (all spelling and grammar errors from here on out are authentic.) The note card came from a boxful with a bold Thank You in script on the front.



It read...

Hi Grandma!

I love you and thank you very muck for the shirt. I like the color and will ware it to school, but probaly inside out becuze I don’t like Spongebod so much any more. Thank you for always sending me something.

Love, Cliff

For some reason, “Thank you very muck” was almost too funny to get past, but I was under the watchful eye of Cliff, who was bent on demonstrating that he had followed ‘The Three Sentence Directive.’

I said, “Honey, this is very nice. I think Spongebob has a ‘b’ at the end, and it looks backwards here, like a ‘d’, but no matter, Grandma won’t mind. Go ahead and put it in the envelope, and thank you for getting this done. You know how Grandma loves to get your notes!”

Several years later I was cleaning out a cluttered drawer in the hutch in the living room and came across a Thank You note shoved into the back of the drawer. On it was only this ...

Hi Grandma!

I love you very much and thank you for the shi _t . I will
(The underline wasn't there, but *Pipeline* is a family publication!)

That explains why I had one extra envelope left over in that boxful of Thank You notes. It also shows that he had *distilled into one sentence* a complete 'thank you' and yet realized that there are some misspellings that aren't OK to send to Grandma. In the true spirit of thankfulness, however, he had his priorities straight. "I love you, and thank you for ... everything!" It probably couldn't have been more perfect, and is a fine exception to the 'Three Sentence' rule.

Now 23, Cliff still writes thank you notes to our relatives. Only now I'm sure they demonstrate better spelling, and if he uses such language, it's intended! No, I don't proof them anymore – but I'll bet he always gets the thankfulness message across. Maybe you will want to put your thankfulness down on paper this year?



for reading Pipeline!

**A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue,
but the parent of all the other virtues. ~Cicero**

Pipeline PostScripts

Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Convention, Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

The annual OACB Convention is November 30 – December 2 at the Hilton Hotel at Easton, in Columbus. A variety of informational and professional development tracks are scheduled and may be reviewed at www.oacbdd.org. *Again this year, the Association will hold a Vendor Show & Sale, displaying art and other products made by individuals with developmental disabilities from around the state.* The Show & Sale will be after sessions are over on Thursday, December 1 -- a great time to shop for holiday gifts while enjoying the company of other conference attendees! Conference registration is on-line, and when the space is full, registration will close and the on-line option will no longer operate.

For more information: www.oacbdd.org

Mark Your Calendar!

Statehouse Kickoff Event, DD Awareness Month, March 1, 2012

Ohio Public Images (OPI), DODD, and partnering organizations around the state again will host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event* at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, on March 1, 2012. *Pipeline* will provide updated information as the date gets closer. Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board

may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone Sherry Steinman at (614) 644-0262.

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