

Pipeline Quarterly

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"The club runs like a well-oiled machine."

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Director's Column

SELF, SELN, and Transformational Change

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As a Department within Governor John Kasich's Cabinet, and as a partnering agency within the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT), DODD is working toward transformational change in Ohio's overall health and human services delivery system.

Transformational change for our system means achieving our mission by continually increasing opportunities and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Some exciting news came our way this quarter with the federal approval of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, which you'll read about in this issue. The SELF waiver is a much-awaited opportunity that allows individuals to determine *how* and *where* they receive waiver supports.

After many years of dedicated support, hard work, and input from stakeholders across our system, it is gratifying to see this waiver—and the independence it brings—come to fruition. We anticipate enrollment to begin in July.

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Ohioans See Transformational Changes



Clockwise from top left: Debbie's lettuce, Clark County; NCBC Sports Club; Mission Kitchen, Mahoning County; Hannah and her Mom.



Transformational change. Ohio's leaders are talking a lot about it, and creating new opportunities for *all citizens* to explore. What characterizes progress or success for Ohioans with or without developmental disabilities is different for each individual and family. It is by looking for new ways to achieve steps forward that DODD and Ohio's developmental disabilities community approaches 2012.

It will be the year of the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver, (p. 8) and new services supporting individuals to be more independent. 2012 also will see the continuation and creation of partnerships to drive economic improvement. Ohioans are persistent, creative, and dedicated to 'getting the job done.' We'll learn more about these people in this issue. ↻

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"Ask. Ask Again.
Be firm ..."

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The 'Sports Page' of the Next Chapter Book Clubs

"The Owls? Yeah, that's Temple University. You know, owls are predators -- that's a good name for a team." - Gil Foeller, NCBC facilitator

"You could see it building up ... I did. Did you?" asked one hard-core sports fan to another at the Wednesday a.m. *Next Chapter Book Club* (NCBC) at the Target store near Easton Town Center in Franklin County.

They were talking about a college basketball game that was recently suspended due to a brawl instigated by trash-talking on the court. Following a colorful discussion of what constitutes good sportsmanship, the seven participants and their facilitator, Gil Foeller, set about reviewing sports of the past week, using newspapers and magazines, and multiplying each others' considerable enthusiasm.

Tammy Bailey, coordinator of the local *Next Chapter Book Clubs*, had invited DODD to attend one of these spirited club meetings (*More about NCBC's on p. 3 sidebar*) explaining, "I had the pleasure of visiting the Sports Club a couple of weeks ago and really enjoyed myself. The Sports Club is a *Next Chapter Book Club* that meets at the Target store at Easton on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m.. My son, Adam, recently joined the group, and really looks forward to it.

She continued, "Club facilitator, Gil, who works with all of the guys at The Arc North, (part of the Franklin County Board of DD), says that the store is a friendly, welcoming site. I saw how friendly the staff and customers were as we enjoyed the comfortable atmosphere of the Starbucks shop within the store."

"If I want to know what's going on with the games next week, I come here!"
-Target customer



A rare pause in the nearly non-stop sports talk ... Seated, l. to r.: Bernie Estepp, Jason Ford, Scott Swick. Standing, l. to r.: Rocky Krause, Abbas Yusuf, Jeremy Ford, Helen, Gil Foeller, Adam Bailey. The poster at forefront features – what else? – Buckeye sports!

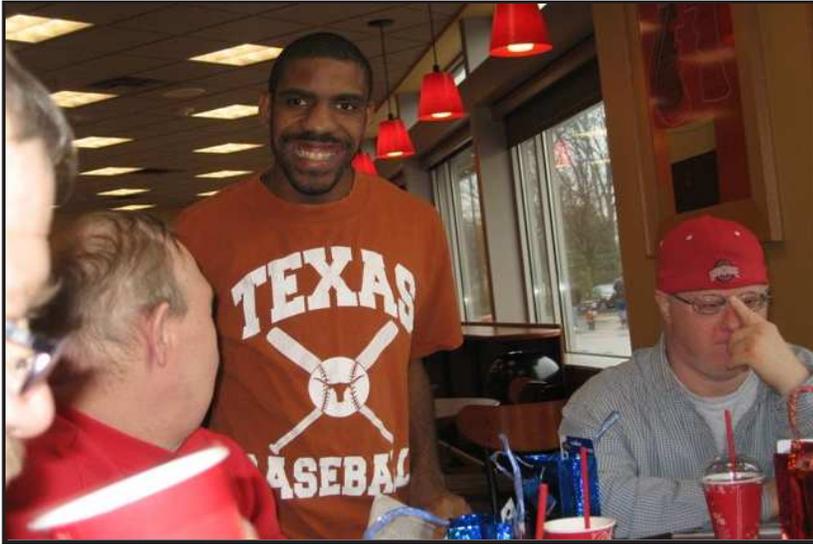


Way to go, guys! ... Helen, one of the group's longtime fans, prepares to leave following her surprise distribution of holiday gift bags for each of the men. The small bags (see photo, p. 3) contained a football-shaped night light, candy, and a crisp dollar bill.

Gil Foeller takes care of transportation for the club members except for Rocky Krause, who's retired, and takes the bus. Rocky is the son of Bob Krause, who recently stepped down as club co-facilitator after about six years. Bob was in his late 80's and wanted to 'slow down a little.'

(cont. on p. 3)

Next Chapter Book Club *(cont. from p. 2)*



What team do you like, Jason?
He'll stand up and show you immediately, while citing plenty of related facts and statistics, all with that great smile.

So now, Gil and Rocky facilitate the club, and it runs like a well-oiled machine. For nearly ten years (no one agrees on exactly when it formalized as a sports club, according to Eric Berquist, Arc North) the members get together weekly, and the hour zooms by with talk of basketball, football, baseball, soccer -- in fact *every* sport is delved into by these fans, who listen to, watch, and read about sports *all the time*. One wonders how they have time to collect so many cool hats (Bernie) or talk to so

(story ends on p. 10)

**"This sounds like my house when my husband and sons get together and talk sports."
-Target customer**

"There are now Next Chapter Book Clubs in more than 100 cities, in 23 states, and 5 countries. In Ohio, 30 of the 88 counties have Next Chapter Book Clubs, and the majority are operated by local County Boards of DD."

- Jillian Ober, OSU*



Scotty makes sure Gil is properly recording the groups 'picks' for the week. Gil's voluminous NCBC Book Bag rests on the floor, out of view. He accesses it often, pulling out sports books and magazines.



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NCBC, Looking Back to 2009



Getting on the same page ...
Jillian Ober and Vicki Graff book-signing at Barnes & Noble. The two received numerous autograph requests from NCBC readers.

A model community literacy program for people with intellectual disabilities, the Next Chapter Book Club published in 2009 its own book, aptly titled, *The Next Chapter Book Club*. Authors Tom Fish and Paula Rabidoux, with Jillian Ober and Vicki Graff, hosted a book-signing event, then, at Columbus' Easton Town Center, celebrating a new chapter in the life of this great program.

The NCBC book explains how to form and sponsor a club, find and train facilitators, select books, and virtually everything needed to get a new club running. The book is available at Barnes & Noble stores.

Learning is a lifelong experience for all people, including people with developmental disabilities. It is a key objective of the Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) -- a nationwide network of more than 130 clubs, offering adolescents and adults with disabilities the opportunity to read, discuss books, and socialize in natural community settings such as coffee shops and libraries. Members represent varying levels of reading ability. Benefits to club members include improved literacy and social skills, and community inclusion.



Community Engagement

Developmental Centers Showcase Many Community Options

Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC) recently partnered with two neighboring County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, Mahoning (MCBDD) and Trumbull (TCBDD), to organize a bus tour featuring a wide array of community residential and vocational services and supports for parents and guardians of individuals currently residing at YDC.

The bus tour was planned to showcase additional community-based options to individuals and families, many of whom have relied on YDC for years as their choice for residential and vocational support.

And, in fact, all DODD-operated Developmental Centers have been working closely this year with individuals and families/guardians to more fully explore services available in their local communities, and determine what options would best fit their interests and needs -- in addition to or in place of a Developmental Center.

In Mahoning County

In October, staff at YDC worked with MCBDD to provide families and guardians a tour that would provide a lot of information in an interesting way. Mahoning County supplied a bus and a driver for the group of 15 people who signed up for the tour. Private providers such as *New Leaf* allowed the 'tourists,' to explore the well-kept homes and ask questions. Tour participants also noticed that each home and apartment setting, including *Gateways for*

Better Living, 'customized' the environment for the residents -- for example, *Accessible Home Services, Inc.* uses equipment including a ceiling-mounted track and lift system for individuals with mobility challenges. Some other providers that serve individuals who are able to leave a home independently for work and social activities, have made sure those activities also could be managed as safely and naturally as possible.

Vocational options in the Mahoning County area were quite diverse. There were private providers, such as *Rae Arc*, that offered art activities and fitness opportunities. Some providers, such as *Purple Cat*, offered clerical work, a beautiful farm environment, and *Golden String Radio* -- a unique concept which allows individuals to participate in the production of internet radio programming!

At midpoint, the tour stopped at the *Mission Kitchen* in Youngstown, where they enjoyed lunch and dessert. *Mission Kitchen* employs individuals with developmental disabilities, and they did a great job of preparing the meal and serving their guests.

(cont. on p. 5)



Above: In Mahoning County, YDC Staff and Pearl Street's *Mission Kitchen* crew, who prepared lunch for the group.



Left: The Mahoning County tour group, near the pond at the *Purple Cat* at Farmer Casey's Ranch.

DC Options *(cont. from p. 4)*

During drive-time between sites, MCBDD Assistant Superintendent Kris Hodge, and SSA Director Toni Scurpa, answered questions and presented information on the ways waivers can be obtained. They also answered specific questions about each site visited.

Participants agreed it was a full day, remarking on how much they had learned on this trip. Their comments included:

"I was surprised and pleased by what is offered in Mahoning County. There is so much more than you can imagine."

"An eye-opening tour. Great to hear of community improvements. Good fun!"

"Very informative and educational. I had no idea of the services available."

Clearly, the time was right to get the word out on residential and vocational options and opportunities for those affiliated with YDC, helping individuals and families exercise their right to informed choices, and new choices.

In Trumbull County

Following the success of the Mahoning County trip, YDC partnered with the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD) to offer another group of families an opportunity to see homes and vocational settings operated by providers in that county.

Provider, *Leeda Northeast*, showed the home of three very busy men. The moment the group entered, it was noted that the individuals in that house shared a great passion for trains. Scale model railroad engine cars and track could be found tastefully displayed everywhere ... including two complete train layouts assembled in the basement.

Better Living Now showed the Trumbull County group a very large home with plenty of space for residents, including a suite-style layout for one man who dreamed of having a living space all to himself. (How many of us have wished that from time to time!) And, a home in Brookfield, operated by *Kaleidoscope*, is located right next to a golf course -- which gives the men there many 'shots' at improving their game.

Vocational settings included *Creative Learning Workshop* in Warren, which was just beginning to hire employees, and *It's all Fine*, a consignment shop employing individuals who were hard at work with plenty of merchandise. The tour also included a stop at the *Tony Tomaski Center*, a County Board workshop where employees were engaged in a new job involving information management.

(cont. on p. 6)



Above: In Trumbull County, the group enjoys a walkthrough at a home operated by *Better Living Now* in Warren, Ohio.

Left: In Mahoning County, a visit to a large home in Canfield.

Mahoning County photos courtesy of Paul Iden, MCBDD; Trumbull County photos courtesy of Mike Irwin, YDC; Special acknowledgements to John Trevelline, YDC reporter.

A Family Perspective on How to Get Things Done "It was the most wonderful thing."



Hannah and her Mom, Hollie. Hollie says that to assure your child has opportunities and options available to them in school and in the community, a parent has to ... "Ask. Ask again. Be firm. Keep on asking. It's your right, and theirs."

The November 2011 meeting of the DODD Family Advisory Council* (FAC) was packed with information for families, and included a presentation by Hannah Wackernagle and her Mom, Hollie, who told their story of Hannah's participation in several activities at Central Crossing High School in Grove City.**

Hollie's reflections as a parent included 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.

She commented, "Any parent has these worries about their child being accepted and cared about, especially in high school. All parents worry about a lot of the same things."

DC Options *(cont. from p. 5)*

Lunch at the Trumbull County Service and Support Office offered an opportunity for two moms to give personal accounts of their positive experiences working with the County and their respective providers. Families also asked questions and offered feedback to management from YDC and

It turns out there were some challenges in the public school system. Yet, Hollie said that once she began asking school administrators for opportunities and options for her daughter, and was firm in seeing to it that the school gave Hannah a chance to try things, "And I mean lots of different things!," her world changed. She added, "Trying things and failing is normal, and so is trying things and having success. All young people should be allowed to at least try."

For example, once Hannah was provided an opportunity to try out for and be a part of the cheerleading squad, she worked hard to keep up her energy level and learn the moves. Her cheerleading peers accepted her wholeheartedly. Hollie shares, "It was the most wonderful thing. One day, after Hannah had been involved 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. It dawned on me that from where I was sitting, I couldn't tell which one she was..."

"I could not tell Hannah from any of the other girls. Not by what she was doing, or wearing, or anything. She was a natural part of everything. It was just wonderful."

And what did Hannah have to say about all this? After a short pause to consider her options, she belted out a song for the meeting attendees, complete with a star's stage presence and cool moves (she's in the school's Drama productions, too). Then she confirmed, "I'm a cheerleader, I sing, and I can act ..."

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

- Hannah Wackernagle



* More about FAC, contact DODD's Family Advocate, Peggy Martin (614) 466-8706 or peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

** *Columbus Dispatch*: Leading the Cheer for Acceptance, 9-1-2011

the County Boards. Comments on the Trumbull County tour were just as enthusiastic as those of the Mahoning County group, including this ...

"There were a lot of opportunities and services for residents that I did not know about! Thank you for the insight."



Cuyahoga County's Just-A-Buck Store #2, Now Open for Business

Bucky says,
"We 'SAW' a second store
in our future ..."



George says, "Oh, come on Bucky!"

At the Just-A-Buck Store #2 Grand Opening, December 2011: (l. to r.) Tim Clemens, president, Solutions at Work (SAW) Inc. Board; County Councilwoman Sunny Simon; South Euclid Mayor Georgine Welo; Just-A-Buck employees Jeremy, Darrin, Brittany; CCBDD Superintendent Terry Ryan; and store mascot, Bucky.



In 2009, the first 'Just-A-Buck' store was opened in the Midtown Shopping Center in Parma, Ohio. It was the result of about two years of planning by the Cuyahoga County Board of DD (CCBDD) and its non-profit partner agency, Solutions at Work (SAW) Inc.. During that time, they analyzed a variety of franchise options before selecting *Just-A-Buck*. According to CCBDD Director of Communication Lula Holt-Robertson, the store was a 'first-in-Ohio' franchised retail operation through SAW, employing 15 individuals with developmental disabilities ...

"Our goal was to employ as many people as possible, in a community location, where they could sample and build as many skills as possible. Just-A-Buck was just the right choice for us."

Just-A-Buck store #2 now has opened in South Euclid, in the Maymore Plaza. Also owned and operated by SAW, Inc., the new store, like store #1, employs 15 individuals who have developmental disabilities, a store manager, three shift managers and a job coach. The workers handle stocking and receiving merchandise, cleaning, check-out, and bagging ... nearly everything!

For more information: Lula Holt-Robertson, CCBDD; (216) 736-2691; www.CuyahogaBDD.org
Also see: South Euclid: 'Just-A-Buck' opens second store here (Cleveland WKYC-TV FOX 8 © 12/28/2011)



In 2009 at the Just-A-Buck Store #1 Grand Opening, Karen (seated) and Andrea got no rest as the greeting cards nearly flew off the racks. Read the 2009 story at: dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx

Just-A-Buck is a New York-based national franchise that includes more than 40 stores. Merchandise, all no more than a dollar, includes balloons, cards, party supplies, health and beauty aids, food, and much more. SAW Inc. is one of the largest employers of people with developmental disabilities in Ohio, employing about 2500 individuals who work at many community businesses, and on contract work at centers operated by CCBDD.

SAW has been so successful in this new employment venture, that Store #1 was the national chain's top-seller, dollar-wise, during its first few weeks of business! That's a tough challenge for the new South Euclid store. SAW Executive Director Rich Hoban notes, "Many of our customers have asked for an East Side location. City officials and local Mayor Georgine Welo have been extremely helpful and enthusiastic about our arrival." And now, employees say it's time for customers to do their part!

The New SELF Waiver ...

Self Empowered Life Funding Means What It Says

FACTS ABOUT THE SELF EMPOWERED LIFE FUNDING WAIVER (SELF)

Initial Start-Up ...

Approval was received in December 2011, and enrollment is slated to Begin July 1, 2012. Waiver capacity will be up to 500 individuals the first year, accumulating to 1000 by the second year, and 2000 by the third year. Part of this waiver capacity includes 100 children with intensive behavioral needs who will receive a state-funded waiver.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet approved ICF/DD 'Level of Care' needs, and be willing and able to participate in *self-direction*. A pre-screening tool will be completed prior to enrollment. The 100 children with intensive behavioral needs must meet the criteria outlined on a 'Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs checklist' in order to receive one of the state-funded waivers.

Flexibility in Budgeting and Predictability in Funding

One of the unique features of this waiver is that ...

Individuals self-direct where and how services are provided. Annual cost caps are \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults, with some service-specific limitations built in to the waiver, as well.

Annual limits will be re-evaluated after the waiver becomes operational, to determine appropriateness.

Supports Community Integration with Employment First and Community Inclusion Services

Under the SELF waiver policy, an explanation must be provided when an individual chooses an Adult Day waiver service that is not an employment service. Community Inclusion services available with the SELF waiver support an individual's full participation in his or her community, such as personal assistance in the home, or with life activities in the community.

Participants Receive Budget Authority and/or Employer Authority

Everyone on the SELF waiver will be required to engage in *participant direction*. Two components of participant direction are offered on the waiver: *Budget Authority* and *Employer Authority*.

More at: dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx

Budget Authority allows an individual to allocate their budget to waiver services however they choose, and to manage their budget accordingly. An individual must choose *budget authority* for at least one of the applicable services they select.

Employer Authority allows the individual to hire, fire, direct, and otherwise manage their staff. The person may serve directly as *employer of record*, or, enter into an arrangement whereby a third party (e.g., *provider agency*) is *employer of record*.

Self-Direction Supported and Enabled via Two New Waiver Entities

Two new waiver entities incorporated into the SELF Waiver are: *Support Brokerage* and *Financial Management Services (FMS)*. Both new entities exist to assist an individual in directing their own services



and budget: A *Support Broker* provides representation, advice, and assistance in coordination of overall services, and helps an individual understand responsibilities related to acting as an employer of those providing services. A *Support Broker* also will help select providers and negotiate rates within a range. To serve as a *Support Broker*, training and qualification standards are required.

*FMS entities** have experience meeting financial obligations involved in employing someone to provide services, such as taxes and insurance. *FMS* allows the person to focus on services by helping to manage budgets, and withholding necessary taxes to ensure state and federal employment requirements.

**FMS* will be paid as an administrative activity contracted by DODD, and will not be funded using individuals' waivers.

Partnerships Yield Employment Opportunities

Growing More Than Lettuce



Debbie's Lettuce ...
is really TAC's lettuce ...
is really Springfield
Schools' lettuce.

The TAC Greenhouse supplies about 400 lbs. of lettuce each week for Springfield City Schools' lunch program, serving 6000 students at 17 different locations.

At the TAC Enterprises *Town & Country Farms' Greenhouse* ribbon-cutting ceremony in October in Springfield (Clark County), Superintendent of the Clark County Board of DD, Jenny Rousculp, summed up the event and the environment, saying,

**“ We're growing more than lettuce here!
We're growing jobs - we're growing relationships.”**

TAC is a non-profit stand-alone 'day service' agency which grew out of its beginnings with the Clark County Board. The Grand Opening event for the greenhouse was the culmination of about two years of work that had its start with 'a couple of conversations,' leading to several partnerships, and a great deal of momentum.

Town & Country Farms hydroponically (without soil) grows various kinds of lettuce and culinary herbs for local schools, chefs, and restaurants, under the 'Spring Field Fresh' brand. The greenhouse was formed to create sustainable and meaningful community-based jobs for people with disabilities, most of whom have worked at TAC Industries, the county's workshop. Through a clean and environmentally-friendly design, the Greenhouse grows quality fresh produce, handled in a safe manner. It is an expansion of a successful cooperative pilot project started in 2010, between TAC and Springfield Schools.

The greenhouse currently employs six individuals and one supervisor in a 3024 sq. ft. greenhouse. Mary Brandstetter, CEO at TAC, noted, "To all who imagined, championed, and built this greenhouse, we say 'thank you.' To all who will work here, we know you will be learning a lot more than how to grow lettuce." 

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Director's Column

SELF, SELN, and
Transformational Change

(cont. from front cover)

Other exciting news includes the work we've begun as a member of the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN), which brings states together to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

This fall we completed an assessment through SELN, to help us measure the strengths and weaknesses of our system in terms of community employment. We see that there is opportunity for improvement.

Ohio National Core Indicators (NCI) data shows us that only 18.4% of respondents have *integrated employment* as a goal in their service plans, and that almost 53% do not have a job in the community, but would like one.

These numbers tell us there are too many barriers and disincentives to community employment in our system, and DODD is committed to acting upon the opportunities we have to turn that around.

It's too important to miss—as NCI data also shows us that 'quality of life indicators' are significantly higher among those individuals employed in their communities.

In 2012, we look forward to continuing to work with Ohio's developmental disabilities community on these efforts, and on many other transformational goals.

-Respectfully, John Martin



More about SELF, SELN, and NCI
at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Next Chapter Book Club *(cont. from p. 3)*

many young ladies (Scotty) or play basketball with the Worthington Stars Special Olympics team (Adam). In fact, each member has special interests, just like any sports fan. And Abbas, who recently passed his U. S. citizenship exam with flying colors, (way to go, Abbas!) reminds everyone that he *cannot wait* for the Superbowl, and is eagerly anticipating how Urban Meyer pans out as coach. Does he have an opinion on that? What do you think! "I call those radio sports shows all the time. During basketball season one year I even asked for an autographed picture of Thad Matta. They sent it."

What's especially great about this community-based coffee shop? These gentlemen have made it THEIR sports hangout, and they're perfectly in tune with the rhythm of the store and the staff who run it.

As the Sports Club members prepare to leave, everyone slides the chairs back into place and tosses beverage cups into the receptacles. The discussion turns to football concussions. And no 'concussion discussion' was ever more well-researched than this one! In the words of one shopper,

"This sounds like my house when my husband and sons get together and talk sports." - Target customer



Photo courtesy, Sue Sprang, CaDC

Speaking of Sports!

If Brian Watts lived closer to Columbus he would DEFINITELY be a member of the NCBC Sports Club.

Brian, who lives at Cambridge Developmental Center, and CaDC staff member Cory Phillips, attended the Nov. 26th OSU vs. Michigan game at 'The Horseshoe' – OSU stadium. They totally enjoyed the full experience of 'Buckeye Fever' with the tailgaters and vendors in Columbus. Tickets were donated by Dave Lynch, retired CaDC H.R. Director. Although the Buckeyes lost, Brian and Cory were both very grateful for the tickets and had a GREAT time at the game. Brian sent a thank you note and a photo of himself at the game (left) to Dave to show his appreciation. A huge Buckeyes fan, Brian said, "It was a dream come true."

Pipeline Quarterly

Published four times annually (*fall, winter, spring, summer*) by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DODD) Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications, *Pipeline Quarterly* focuses on people, highlights topics of interest to the developmental disabilities community, and reinforces DODD core concepts and philosophy.

We thank all who have allowed us to speak with them for this issue, and all who have contributed to its preparation. Reader comments, ideas, and feedback are welcomed!

Submit ideas for *Pipeline Quarterly* to editor Sherry Steinman: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, or call (614) 644-0262. *Pipeline Quarterly* and the twice-monthly *Pipeline* are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>



^ What individuals with developmental disabilities want to earn more of in 2012.