

October 2020

ABiLITY Connections

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, INC.

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Lori Schaedler
MS, BCBA



Notes from the Executive Director

Covid 19

We are working continuously to respond to the Covid 19 pandemic. Our understanding has grown on the preventative measures that should be taken. At this point, we should all be getting used to the restrictions and the added efforts it takes to be safe—wearing masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, being selective in our social outings, etc. I understand that it is wearying to remain at high vigilance for extended periods of time. However, as the holidays approach, with our community Covid positive numbers at an all-time high, I urge everyone to continue to be alert and refrain from situations in which you cannot practice Covid safety precautions.

BE SAFE!

Executive Director Transitions

I have fully assumed the role of executive director as September 30th saw the last day of work at ABiLITY for Darleen Hainline. She gave her time and talents to us for over 23 years for which we are grateful.

As I orient myself to this new role, my immediate focus is on making sure everyone at ABiLITY has supports to stay safe during Covid. After that, I am jumping in with both feet regarding advocating for the awesome people we serve, moving our offices to St. Clair & making connections with other community organizations for future collaboration.

I would like everyone to know that I fully support the open-door policy and encourage people to set times with me as they wish.



Lori Schaedler
Executive Director

Additionally, as I get to know Larry Ley, recently promoted to Associate Executive Director of ABiLITY, I know I can say the same for him!

Although we will not be having the traditional celebration for employee appreciation day this month, we hope to create opportunities to let everyone know how important they are to our mission!

ABiLITY Mission

ABiLITY is committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities through education and supports that foster social growth and opportunity.

What's Happening at ABiLITY

It's a Parade!

ABiLITY is excited to ring in the holiday season by participating in our community parades. Please be on the look out for the opportunity to sign up for the parades listed below. We plan on using a vehicle similar to the one pictured below. So thanks to Midwest Military Equipment, people will be riding in style!

Washington: Friday, Nov 27..6pm
 Union: Friday, Dec 11...6pm
 Sullivan: Saturday, Dec. 5, time TBD
 St. Clair: Saturday, December 12..6pm



Reaching for the Stars!



The date has been set for July 31st in the hopes that we will be well past the pandemic and can come together for a night of fun and giving!

Thank you for your interest and stay tuned for other opportunities to support ABiLITY in fulfilling it's mission.

Who's Who at ABiLITY

- Lori Schaedler, MS, BCBA. Executive Director**
- Larry Ley, Associate Executive & Financial Director**
- Teresa Barylski, Director of People Operations**
- Dennis Kramme, Community Relations Coordinator**
- Tom Beck, Director of IT and Facilities**
- Grace Garlock, Director of Support Services**
- Angie Smallwood, Assistant Director of Support Services**
- Clara Wilson, Director of Early Intervention**
- Sally LaVigne, Director of Behavioral Supports**

Funded in part by:





ABiLITY Spotlight

Michelle Straatmann chose to end her 10-year career as a stay-at-home mother of four boys during a pandemic and we are so happy she did! She started working as our accountant in March when all the Covid catastrophe was just starting. Prior to choosing to spend her time and energies raising her 4 boys, she had graduated from SMSU and then worked as an accountant in downtown St. Louis and more locally in Washington and Krakow.

Michelle is savvy about numbers and very kind. She was worried about making such a huge change in her and her family's lives and feels fortunate for what she considers an easy transition back into the workforce. Its because of the people at ABiLITY! She feels blessed to do meaningful work with such good people.



When Michelle is not crunching the numbers, she enjoys horseback riding, being on the water in their boat and spending time with her kids.

Welcome, Michelle!

Tin Man Award



ABiLITY has established an award called the "Tin Man Award" to recognize individuals who go beyond the norm to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities in Franklin County.

The inspiration for this award was the Tin Man in the film "The Wizard of Oz". This award has been presented to ABiLITY staff for their dedication to their consumers, co-workers, or community. If you know anyone who has gone above and beyond for you or your family please let us know so we can recognize them.

*Doing
All
Things
With*



THE TIN MAN AWARD

A Testimonial for an ABILITY DSFC, Inc. Good Deed Doer



Ted Coburn is one big guy with an even bigger humble heart, and very deserving of the Tin Man Award.

After retiring from many years with the Division of Probation and Parole, Ted opened a little pottery studio, along side of Artzy Wallz in Union, Mo. Many of our ABILITY clients took classes there and got to know Ted, while experiencing his teaching them some pottery techniques. After Artzy Wallz closed last year, Ted moved his studio back home to Villa Ridge and continued his creating.

Several weeks ago, a grandmother of one of our former Early Intervention clients contacted our program to let them know that her little grandson had passed away and she was in need of help securing a cremation urn. It turned out that a twin sibling had also passed shortly after birth. Connections were made between the grandmother and Ted and below is the result!

Death isn't a pleasant thought, but having beautiful memories, helps to heal. Thank you, Ted, for your generosity to this family and helping to make their day a little brighter!

Bourbeuse Valley Pottery

Ted Coburn's pottery has gravitated to alternative firing and preparation techniques. He will tell you he has taken the ingenious thoughts and creation techniques of the ancients and tries to develop his own ideas to enhance the sometimes crude, undisciplined, though elegant beauty of those that started in the beginning.

<https://www.bourbeusevalleypottery.com/>





Anniversaries

10/3; Darla Yates, 4 years

10/11; Ruby Eaton, 1 year

10/12; Patricia Schowe, 3 years

10/12; Sharon Montgomery, 2 years

10/15; Sharon Warren, 11 years

10/18; Melissa Moyer, 8 years

10/19; Debra Goade, 10 years

10/24; Amie Magruder, 1 year

10/25; Paige Bethel, 1 year

11/1; Cynthia Wedemeier, 8 years

11/4; Beth Weddle, 1 year

11/10; Delana Brooks, 10 years

11/17; Vicki Nantz, 4 years

11/19; Kelly Siess, 7 years

11/21; Darlene Gordon, 6 years

11/26; Elizabeth Williams, 2 years

11/28; Shawn Sullentrup, 2 years

11/28; Mackenzie Ray, 2 years

12/2; Pheobe McEnnis, 1 year

12/18; Bridgett Sanders, 3 years

12/22; Sherry Schneider, 12 years

12/22; Cynthia Fischer, 3 years

12/31; Erin DeBlue, 14 years

Birthdays

10/6 Deanna Wirt

10/7 Rose Gregory

10/11 Claire Alfermann

10/12 Drew Schupp

10/12 Paula Rayhel

10/13 Angela Smallwood

10/23 Meredith Breuer

10/29 Jonathan Glover

10/29 Megan Copeland

11/1 Delana Brooks

11/4 Susan Murphy

11/10 Amanda Stout

11/12 Austin Hiatt

11/16 Leo Carosella

11/18 Betty Sanders

11/21 Patricia Schowe

11/23 Bobbi Steele

11/24 Kelly Siess

11/25 Sha'Rona Daegeler

11/30 Nikki Pascoe

12/1 Judy Payne

12/2 Teresa Barylski

12/2 Georgina Hester

12/5 Amy Primeau

12/17 Mary Delia

12/18 Pheobe McEnnis

12/21 Dennis Kramme

12/21 Ruby Eaton

12/22 Zachary Gibson

12/26 Julie Novak-Eversole

12/27 Savannah Casey

12/31 Donna Hoekel