



November 2015-  
February 2016

This and past newsletter issues also available online at [www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY:**

418 South Broad Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Phone: 740.689.1494  
Toll Free: 1.888.957.6245

Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**HOCKING COUNTY:**

1369 East Front Street  
Logan, Ohio 43138

Phone: 740.380.1475

Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm



[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org) [Facebook](#)

**SOCIL Mission Statement**

Our mission is to offer opportunities to consumers with disabilities that will maximize their choice to live in accessible communities.

We are dedicated to eliminating all barriers to access in the community, including housing, employment, transportation and recreation.

**Ohio Transition Support Program**

What is the Ohio Transition Support Program (OTSP)? The Ohio Department of Education and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) are partnering to improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities, beginning at age 14. This innovative collaboration will change the nature and impact of transition services for students with disabilities in Ohio. The new model will help students with disabilities get a head start on becoming job ready and better prepared to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to be successful in today's workforce.

Who is eligible to participate? Students with disabilities ages 14-21, who are receiving services under an IEP, meet OOD eligibility criteria and who demonstrate a need for VR services are eligible for OTSP.

For more information, contact your local OOD office, State Support Team (SST) Transition Consultant or SST Career Technical Planning District Consultant working in your region.

OOD - <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BVR/Regional-Offices>

ODE - <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Improvement/State-Support-Teams>

**Earlier FAFSA, Easier Process**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) schedule has been altered to give students more time to gather the information needed to make wise college enrollment decisions.

The new FAFSA schedule enables many students and their parents to complete the form beginning October 1, 2016 for the 2017-18 academic year at the same time they fill out their college applications. To facilitate this change, students and their families will be able to use their previous year's tax return when applying for financial aid, rather than being required to wait to submit the application until after they have completed the current year's return. This in turn will enable colleges to send out financial aid notifications earlier, and students to have more time to make informed decisions about their college choices.



## DISABILITY AWARENESS

### Disability Awareness Training for Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts can earn a badge for disability awareness and SOCIL can provide group trainings to meet the requirements for this badge. One such training was held in August and was well received. SOCIL is available to conduct these group trainings for boy scout troops in Fairfield and Hocking Counties. The following link provides the requirements for the badge and these requirements are met via the training that SOCIL provides. <http://www.scouting.org/scout-source/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/Merit-Badges/mb-DISA.aspx>

Contact Scott Campbell at SOCIL, 740-689-1494 ext. 15 or [scsocil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scsocil@sbcglobal.net) for more details or to schedule a training.

### Accepting People with Disabilities into the Church

Is your church accepting of people with disabilities? Do you think your church could do more in this area? SOCIL can help provide training. This training identifies barriers to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the church and offers solutions for these barriers. Contact Scott Campbell at SOCIL at (740)689-1494 ext. 15 or [scsocil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scsocil@sbcglobal.net) for more details or to schedule a training.

## RESOURCES

**Functional Aids** - located at 890 Oakland Park Avenue in Columbus, provides an alternative place to purchase specialty items for people with visual impairments or who are blind. Such as bump dots, canes, magnifiers, books, toys, braille lablers, voice recorders just to name a few.

Contact them at **614-265-2520** for more information.

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has [utility assistance](http://www.occ.ohio.gov/publications/factsheets-assistance.shtml) publications on programs such as HEAP, PIPP, Lifeline, HWAP, etc. visit their website at <http://www.occ.ohio.gov/publications/factsheets-assistance.shtml>

**Ohio Here to Help** - provides a list of assistance programs from housing, food, healthcare, education & training, and more. Visit their website at <http://ohioheretohelp.ohio.gov/> for more details.

## EXPANDED TRANSIT ROUTES

Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit has added a new **West Loop** which will include stops along West Sixth Ave, West Fair Ave, Cedar Hill Rd, Olivedale and more.

There will now be three continuous hourly loop routes Monday-Friday. The **West Loop** will operate from 6am-5pm; the **East End Loop** from 7am-5pm; and **Memorial Express** from 8am-4pm.

To utilize these routes look for posted bus-stop signs and make certain you are at the stop at least 2 minutes prior to posted stop times...the bus is not required to stop if there isn't anyone waiting at the stop.

Fares are \$0.50 for general public, and \$0.25 for mobility riders with a \$0.10 fare for transfers between routes. Exact fare is required when you board the vehicle, or you may purchase a 31-day pass (\$30.00) for unlimited rides on all three routes.

For detailed route descriptions and schedules, visit [www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/242/transit](http://www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/242/transit) or call 740-681-5086.

## APP CORNER

### Welcome to App Corner!

This section will feature highly recommended apps for under three dollars. Look for these in your devices app store.

**myIEPmeeting** helps parents and guardians effectively participate in their student's IEP. The tools include:

1. Before, During and After meeting checklists and questions to help gather and organize information.
2. A quick and simple tool to keep track of any behavior.
3. A calendar to create simple reminders to follow-up on your child's progress.
4. A To Do list.

5. Create and store photos, videos, audio files and PDFs.
6. A contact manager for all your team members.

Price: \$1.99 Device: iPhone, iPod Touch

**iWriteWords** teaches kids how to write uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet, numbers up to 20, and simple words. If kids diverge from the tracing lines, the app requires them to start over. Since the process uses a follow-the-numbered-dots approach, it helps if kids already know how to count and read numbers up to 10. The letter, number, or word is labeled and spoken, and kids' tracings can be replayed for them to watch.

Price: \$2.99 Device: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

# ADVOCACY



*...is an advocacy group empowering individuals to focus on their Abilities. We offer peer support and instruction to members on how to be independent, to self advocate and be active members of their community.*

## **New Day and Location for AU meetings Wednesdays at Hocking College, Logan Campus, 30140 Iles Road - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

### **Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

Good Food & Good Friends  
(Food Drive Continues)

### **Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

Banquet & Awards Ceremony  
(time and location to be announced)

### **Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

Kick the Blues - Change Your Mood

### **Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

The Journey to a Healthy Happy Life

Contact Mary Clark at 740-380-1475 with questions or to register to attend.



I am amazed with the two youth leaders in the Abilities United Advocacy Group. We have worked so long and hard on teaching self-advocacy and we now have

Morgan Brausey and Tyler Clark that have stepped up to the plate and are taking leadership to a serious level. Morgan wants to reduce bullying in the schools and the community and begin a SIBS group locally. She is the Vice President of the Abilities United Advocacy Group and a member of the Youth Advisory Council in Hocking County. Morgan is a social media person and has concerns for people with different abilities with cyber bullying and safety on the internet. To lessen her concerns and help her peers, she produced a PowerPoint presentation and conducted "How to Surf the Internet Safely" training at an Abilities United meeting. Tyler continues to be the assistant coach of the Hocking Adaptive Sports Program of which he co-founded. He is the President of Abilities United and a member of the Youth Advisory Council of Hocking County. Tyler also co-developed a leadership training and presented it at an Abilities United meeting. These two are an amazing team and will take Abilities United to the next advocacy level.

Denver Gray is a true blue advocate that speaks straight from the heart and soul of the disability world. Denver came to me one day sharing that he is a representative for Hocking Valley Industries and Abilities United, AU. As a representative and a person with disabilities, he dislikes the words "handicap and disabled" "those words make him feel as though he cannot do things and he "CAN" do things. Denver wanted to use a different word but was not sure what to use. After some discussion with me he came up with the phrase "People with Different Abilities", "That is what I will use at the meeting" he said to me. We shared Denver's story at AU and the group adopted the phrase "People with Different Abilities". The group removed the phrase "people with disabilities" from their mission statement. AU is now open to all individuals that want to learn to be advocates. AU always shares the quote from their AU member Denver Gray "I am not handicapped, I am not disabled, I am a Person with Different Abilities!"

Submitted by Mary Clark, SOCIL ILS/AU advisor

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## **Youth Leadership Forum**

There is a wonderful opportunity for high school junior and seniors with disabilities every August called the Ohio Governor's Youth Leadership Forum. It is a gathering of juniors and seniors with disabilities from all over the state of Ohio for one week in Columbus. Students attend a series of sessions geared toward independence and leadership. By the end of the week they develop a personalized leadership plan. There are also sports opportunities, a dance, a trip to the state house, and the opportunity to talk with professionals with disabilities representing different career fields. **Food, lodging & registration is free.**

For more info check out <http://gcpd.ohio.gov/YLF>. Applications for 2016 will likely be available on the website around January and will be due around March.

Videos of past events can also be found on their Youtube page. Search Youtube for "YLFohio".



## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

418 South Broad Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

SOCIL is funded by a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) grant, Administration for Community Living. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the policy of DHHS and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

## ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

### Gift of Time - Holiday Fun and Activities



**Saturday, December 5th  
10am-2pm  
At Lancaster High School**

Again this year, prior to this event from 9am-10am... SOCIL, Gift of Time Volunteers and Santa will provide **children with sensory challenges** and their families a magical time together with Santa. There will be an opportunity to have a photo taken with Santa and some of the activity stations will be open early for the children to enjoy.

To keep this event quiet and relaxing, attendance is limited, so **reservations are required to attend.**

Contact Lisa at SOCIL, 740-689-1494 ext. 10 to register your child.

### Adaptive Sports Program

This program will provide youth with paralysis and mobility impairments access to sports and recreational activities. By participating in these programs individuals with disabilities will improve physical and emotional health as well as increase confidence, independence and social connections.

5 new sportschairs were recently purchased with funds received from the Christopher & Dana Reeves Quality of Life Grant and SOCIL is looking for athletes to fill them!!



If you or someone you know is interested in participating, contact Lisa at **SOCIL at 740-689-1494** or [lsocil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsocil@sbcglobal.net) to get your name on the list to receive future updates on adaptive sports opportunities in Lancaster and surrounding areas.