

# Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## 2018 Annual Report



8919 US 50

Hillsboro, OH 45133

**Phone Number:** 937-393-4237

**Fax:** 937-393-5871

**Website:** [www.highdd.org](http://www.highdd.org)



*Follow us on social media*

**Our Mission:** "Ensuring effective systems are available to assist people in achieving their life goals."



## Welcome to the 2018 Annual Report

We would like to begin our introduction to our 2018 Annual Report by thanking the community for the wonderful partnerships we have established over the years. Without this support, we would not have been able to provide the services and supports to the infants, toddlers, children, youth and adults, who make up close to the **500** individuals and families being served by HCBDD.



Every year it seems our service recipients grow in numbers and we must make every precious tax dollar work “over-time” in order to provide services. Throughout this report, you will see all we are offering to help Highland County residents be all they can be.

Again, we would like to say thank you to our community partners and to all the citizens throughout the county for your support.

# Early Childhood Services

## Help Me Grow

HCBODD Help Me Grow home visiting program focuses on a baby's early experiences as they are the building blocks that shape how the brain is built and create the foundation for success in life. Help Me Grow program serves families who have children that are prenatal to age three. It is a home visiting program that is voluntary and provides family support, education and advocacy for pregnant women and new parents. Help Me Grow is offered in every county of the state and the HCBODD provides this service in six counties; Adams, Brown, Clinton, Highland, Pickaway and Ross.

In 2018 HCBODD served **96** children in the program, an increase of **27** families. HCBODD collaborates with our Regional Central Intake Agency (Butler County Educational Service Center) to help promote the program in all counties. During 2018 the home visiting team continued to partner with the EI teams in Highland and Clinton County to help promote social development through play groups. The HCBODD Help Me Grow home visiting team consist of seven home visitors, one supervisor and one program manager.



## Early Intervention (EI)

The Early Intervention team works with children and their families to enhance the child's development through every day learning opportunities and routines. Early Intervention includes services and supports to infants and toddlers birth to 3 years who have a diagnosed medical condition or developmental delay. Early Intervention services are provided in the child's natural environment and are centered on the interest, strengths and priorities of the child and family. The children can be referred for services in a variety of ways and are assessed and evaluated for eligibility both to enter the program and as they transition into preschool.

The Board of Developmental Disabilities works collaboratively with many agencies as well as the 5 school districts. In 2018, the Board employed an early intervention team consisting of developmental specialists, an occupational and speech therapist and contracted physical therapist. The team served **110** children, up 30 children in one year, and coached families to build confidence and competence. The board also employs service coordinators to serve eligible children with a delay. Playgroups add social interaction with peers, an opportunity to enjoy new activities in the center and organized planned outings with the developmental team. Continued success in programs offered include aquatic therapy and the PLAY project. A new offering in 2018 is the NBO, Newborn Behavior Observation; please contact us if you have any questions about your child's development or would like to request an evaluation.





# The Preschool

Hills and Dales Preschool is home to an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed Special Needs Preschool Program. As required by this licensure, typically developing peers and children with developmental delays on Individual Education Plans (IEP's) learn side by side.

This model helps both children with and without special needs learn from each other, develop social skills and creates friendships which follow them as they move into public education.

Hills and Dales offers fun activities using The Creative Curriculum, Learning Without Tears, as well as guided gym activities, art appreciation sessions, literacy enrichment, our sensory room, and American Sign Language (ASL) for students and staff. iPads and upgraded technology support classroom instruction.

In 2018, **56** children ages 3 through 5 attended the preschool program preparing for Kindergarten.



## Service and Support Administration

The Service and Support Administration provided eligibility determination and service coordination to over **220** people in 2018. We continue our commitment of ensuring that people receive services that enhance the quality of their lives while promoting person-centered choices. This work is accomplished through services provided that include but are not limited to: assessment, person-centered planning, referral, linkage and monitoring services.

Over the last year, the SSA department continued to enroll individuals on the Level 1, Individual Options and Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waivers. The waivers provide funding for in home supports for those individuals living on their own, or in shared home settings, in addition to day program supports. 2018 has been a true picture of helping people with developmental disabilities reach their personal goals. Our department was instrumental in moving 12 people from facility-based homes to living in their community.

The Service & Support Administration Department is also responsible for the identification of trends and patterns involving major unusual incidents and identifying preventive measures for cases involving abuse, neglect, misappropriation and unscheduled hospitalizations.

The SSA Department is excited to report that provider options for individuals continues to increase, both agency and independent, allowing for choice of services in day to day lives.

Through Service and Support Administration, people are connected to services offered by the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities and other community partners.





# Special Olympics

In 2018 Highland County had approximately **91** athletes that participated in Basketball, Unified Softball, Track and Field, Flag Football, Bowling, Unified Golf.

This year HCBDD had **3** basketball teams due to more athletes taking interest in the game. The Wildcats' basketball players displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season and ended with an overall record of 13 wins and 15 losses.

This Spring the Wildcats' bowling team was involved in several bowling tournaments- Area 7 Regional Individual bowling, Area 7 Bumper/ Ramp bowling, Bowl-A-Thon, and Fayette Bowling Invitational. The bowlers set and exceeded a goal to bowl a 100 every game.

The Wildcats' unified softball team consisted of 8 softball players and 6 volunteers.

Wildcats' football team won the State in 2017 in our division and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2018. Winning the State title was a very good experience for the team, something they'll never forget.

The track and field team competed at the spring, summer and local games. The spring games were held at Rio Grande University. In this event, the Wildcats had **45** total athletes who participated in this event including **24** adult athletes, **12** athletes from Lynchburg High School, **8** athletes from Hillsboro High School, and **1** from Leesburg High School.



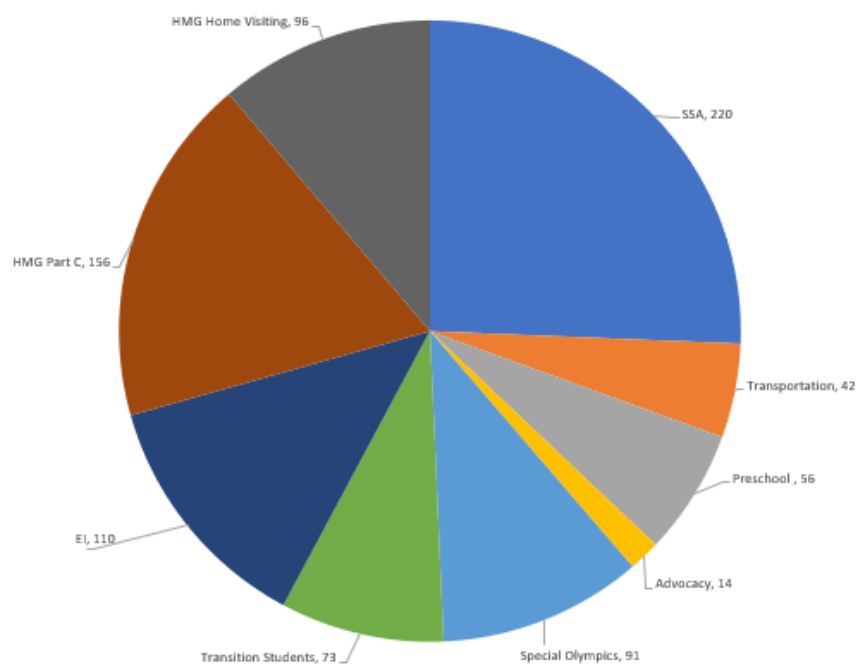
# Operations

In 2018, the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities continued updating technology, mechanicals and infrastructure on the Hills and Dales campus. The transportation department replaced two of the older school buses with new smaller buses that will support the Hills and Dales preschool program, transporting **42** children daily.

The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities has continued our partnership with Community Action in completing a new home build project in Greenfield. HCBDD has developed additional properties throughout communities in the County providing housing options for individuals we serve. In 2018, **12** individuals were assisted finding new housing in Highland County.

## Service Data

Highland County Families Served in the following areas:





# Community First

The Community First division is comprised of services including the Transitional Youth Program, Special Olympics, the People First Advocacy Group and the Up and Beyond Art Studio.

The Transitional Youth Program is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and in 2018, **73** youth were served, an all-time high. Students ranging from 14-22 years old from Bright Local, Hillsboro City Schools, Greenfield McClain, Fairfield, Lynchburg-Clay, FRS Connections, Hillsboro Christian Academy, Laurel Oaks, Southern Hills CTC and home-schooled students participated in pre-employment skills training.

This training consisted of Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Work Based Learning, and Counseling on Post-Secondary Options. Transition Coordinators work with each student to complete the modules with the ultimate goal of working in the community or attending additional educational experiences leading to a career.

Each student is connected with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and upon completion of the Pre-Employment Transition Services, support remains to seek a job in the community.



## Up & Beyond Art Studio

The Up & Beyond Art Studio would like to introduce a few of our artists to you. The studio is made up of creative artists with developmental disabilities and is currently located at the Highland County Board of DD offices. Last year the art studio attended multiple shows in the hopes of selling art pieces that range from wooden wall plaques from the artists' own drawings to colorful phone stands and magnets. The artists receive 90% of all sales and 10% goes back into the studio for supplies.

Our top seller of 2018 was Monica Burlett. She has been coming to the art studio since 2015 and has been a huge part of its growth and success due to her adorable pictures of animals. Monica blew up the art scene with her top heavy unicorn design which she sold 23 of during the season last year. People see it and just fall in love. Monica enjoys drawing but she also paints like a pro. She has a way of using colors on pieces that at first don't seem that they will work, but when the piece is done, it is amazing. Monica sold 112 pieces last year and plans on breaking that record in 2019.

D.J. Green came to the art studio about half way through the season last year, but he quickly moved into our 2<sup>nd</sup> top seller space. His drawings of cartoon animals and vehicles became a hit very quickly at the festivals and people especially loved the giant eyes he draws for his animals. D.J. spends about 3-4 days a week in the studio while also holding down a full-time, 3<sup>rd</sup> shift job. Although his time with us last year didn't start until around August, his whimsical wooden wall plaques flew off the shelves, leaving him with a total pieces sold of 76. D.J. also loves to do pencil drawings of different important buildings. His favorite piece is his depiction of the Ohio Stadium (the Horseshoe) in Columbus Ohio. It took almost 2 months to finish the piece but D.J. knows that eventually the right person will see it and just have to buy it.

Larry Wheatley is a newer artist to the Up & Beyond Art Studio. He doesn't come to the studio, but instead proves his artistic abilities through his woodworking at his own woodshop located at his home. Larry recently started creating birdhouses for the studio to sell. Larry builds the birdhouses and then sends them to the studio, where another artist paints them and prepares them for sale. Larry has been known to make many different wood products from his home, and the studio looks forward to working with him during the upcoming years.

If you would be interested in learning more about the Up and Beyond Art Studio or are interested in purchasing any of our pieces, please contact Jordan Freeze at 937-393-4237 Ext. 137



# Highland County Board Members



<b>Karen Adams-President</b>
<b>Elizabeth Fryman- Vice President</b>
<b>Cheryl Lyle-Secretary</b>
<b>Charles Robert Fulton</b>
<b>Michael Richards</b>
<b>Matthew Roberts</b>
<b>Paul Pence</b>

## Highland County Administrative Staff

<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Debra Buccilla</b>
<b>Executive Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>Sherry Burns</b>
<b>Business Director</b>	<b>Lori Moore</b>
<b>Operations Director</b>	<b>Larry Gray</b>
<b>Service and Support Administrative Director</b>	<b>Kelli Williamson</b>
<b>Early Childhood Director</b>	<b>Suzie Janasov</b>
<b>Human Resources Director</b>	<b>Liz Brennfleck</b>
<b>Nurse</b>	<b>Becky Pollard</b>
<b>Educational Supervisor</b>	<b>Jamie Roe</b>
<b>Educational Coordinator</b>	<b>Chelsey Seeling</b>
<b>Community First Director</b>	<b>Kraig Walker</b>
<b>MUI Investigative Agent</b>	<b>Jennifer Goodwin</b>