

DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

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March 7, 2018

Ohio Statehouse



2018 Developmental Disability Awareness & Advocacy Day

Every year people with and without disabilities celebrate March as National Developmental Disability Awareness month. This year's theme is, "COMMUNITY." People with and without disabilities working, going to school, playing and participating in their communities together as one.

Putnam County Board of DD has celebrated in several different ways. First, on March 1, 2018, Advocates from People First and Representatives from the Putnam County Board of DD met with their local Commissioners to attend the official proclamation of March being Developmental Disabilities awareness month. The Advocates discussed issues that are important to them which included better assessments for people who purchase guns, better transportation options in Putnam County and what the commissioners are doing for those in the flood prone areas of Ottawa. The commissioners shared that they support all citizens and even though they may not have all the answers right now, they are listening to their concerns.

On March 7, 2018 to celebrate the "kick off" of DD Awareness month, the State House in Columbus hosted a gathering of advocates, from all over the state of Ohio, coming together as one united group. The morning was filled with motivational speakers who shared their stories of triumph and success with their disabilities. Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Director, John Martin, concluded the morning celebration by addressing the advocates as leaders and thanking them for their leadership within each of their communities. The afternoon was spent meeting with State Representatives and Senators. Advocates from People First of Putnam County took advantage of this opportunity and met with State Representative Hoops and Senator McColley. The advocates asked questions to both men. Topics included gun control, higher wages for people

working with the developmentally disabled, and improved transportation assistance in Putnam County. The advocates are pictured with State Representative Hoops and Senator McColley.

On March 15, 2018, People First held their 3rd annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser to celebrate DD awareness. Advocates and County Board Staff worked side by side to serve 120 meals. Meghan Marie Lasher, from Crime Victim Services spoke to the audience about Life Lessons and Leadership.

The last week of March the People First advocates will be going to local schools to donate books to several elementary schools. The books will focus on people with special needs, bullying, being good friends, etc. These books are to help educate students that people with special needs are just like everyone else. These books are given in honor of their peers who have passed away and donated to the elementary school they attended as a child.

Putnam County Board of DD supports all individuals with Developmental Disabilities. To learn more about the services provided by Putnam County DD please visit our website at putnamcountydd.com.