

IN THIS ISSUE

- **New Officers Elected for People First Group**
- **People First Learn Sign Language**
- **People First Spring Dance**
- **Summer Safety & Drowning Prevention Tips**

Our Mission

To ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have access to quality supports providing them opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in their community.

Our Vision

A community that respects and recognizes the importance and potential of all people.

Address

124 Putnam Pkwy, Suite D
Ottawa, OH 45875
Hours: M-F 8am-4pm
Phone: 419-523-0122

Website

www.putnamcountydd.com

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/PutnamCoDD

Inspire Change



PEOPLE FIRST SELF-ADVOCACY GROUP ELECT NEW OFFICERS!

The People First Self-Advocacy Group elected new officers at their March meeting. People First welcomes Jim Burkhart, President; Ashley Reindel, Vice President; Seth Johnson, Treasurer; and Jennifer Verhoff, Secretary. Jim Burkhart, Ashley Reindel, and Seth Johnson have previous officer experience. Jennifer Verhoff is serving as an officer for the first time. Meetings of the People First group are open to all members 18 years and older. The group meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every other month.



PEOPLE FIRST LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE

At the People First meeting on April 20th, Susan Brooks with the ESC presented information about American Sign Language. She taught attendees how to sign their name and how to count from 1-10. Members were able to learn some everyday signs to better communicate



with their hearing impaired friends. Some phrases learned were "hello", "how are you", and "what is your name". Sue also demonstrated signs for important people in their lives such as mom, dad, brother sister, etc.

People First attendees were able to sign with their peers to practice what they learned. Sue also explained that interpreters wear solid colored shirts so it is easier to see their hands for signing.



PEOPLE FIRST HAWAIIAN LUAU SPRING DANCE EVENT AT LEIPSIC COMMUNITY CENTER

On April 14, People First of Putnam County had a fantastic turnout for their Spring Dance of 2023! This year's theme was Hawaiian Luau, with music provided by DJ Alfie Flores. There were over 30 individuals that attended the event, having fun by dancing and socializing. Thank you to the Leipsic Community Center for partnering with People First to use the facilities and a huge thank you to all who came out to support the Spring Dance!



SUMMER SAFETY AND DROWNING PREVENTION TIPS

Summer is a great time to be outdoors. Staying health to enjoy the season means avoiding summertime health risks such as dehydration, heat-related illnesses, and food poisoning. Other summer safety topics include grilling, being in the sun and around water, summer camps, and hot vehicles.

Any source of water is a potential drowning hazard. This includes pools, rivers, lakes, hot tubs, bathtubs, and other bodies of water. Drowning can happen in seconds and can happen to anyone, any time there is access to water. It is important to know a person’s ability to safely navigate different environments, the risks, and what supports the person needs to be safe.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) provides Health & Welfare Alerts throughout the year.

- [Click here to view Summer Safety Tips from DODD](#)
- [Click here to view Drowning Prevention Tips from DODD](#)



PEOPLE FIRST EVENT UPDATES

Hello fellow advocates! Tentative upcoming People First meeting and events are below. Please check with a People First advisor for updates.

- Summer Picnic: August 17
- Pioneer Parade: September 10
- Synergy Conference: October 4-6
- Halloween Dance: October 27

PCBDD Event Calendar Link:

<https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/>



QUESTIONS?

For questions about People First Self-Advocacy Group, contact one of the advisors listed below.

Christine Leathem: Advisor
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cleathem@putnamdd.org

Morgan McPheron: Advisor
Ph.: 419-890-2119
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Melissa Hauter: Advisor
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Katie Cherry: Advisor
Ph.: 419-890-2234
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[Click here for more People First content!](#)

KNAP SACK UPDATES

KNAP Sack food distribution is on the third Wednesday of each month.

Location: Putnam County ESC
124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, OH

Time: 2:00-4:00pm (or until food is gone)

Visit their page for distribution updates: [KNAP Sack Facebook Page](#)



CHECK OUT THE EVENT CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND UPDATES WITH THE FOLLOWING LINK: [HTTPS://PUTNAMCOUNTYDD.COM/CALENDAR/](https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/)

**Please note that event dates are tentative and subject to change.*

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24/7 On-Call Phone	419-889-2980



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