

Spring Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Welcome Taylor Bohman**
- **People First Volunteer at HFH Fundraiser**
- **People First Attend Self-Advocacy Snowball Fight**
- **DD Awareness Proclamation**
- **People First Deliver Book Donations**
- **People First Speak at Kiwanis Luncheon**
- **People First Host Sign Language & Game Night**

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

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www.putnamcountyydd.com

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/PutnamCoDD

Inspire Change



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBER TAYLOR BOHMAN

Say hello to Taylor Bohman, our newest team member! She has a variety of talents she brings with her to Putnam County, including certifications in Early Intervention and Service & Support Administration. Taylor is excited to be with us and help individuals in our community! Welcome to the team, Taylor!



PEOPLE FIRST VOLUNTEER AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISER

On February 15, People First of Putnam County members volunteered at the third annual Habitat for Humanity Tool and Purse Bingo Fundraiser. The event was hosted at the Ottawa American Legion. Members that attended helped out by serving food to the guests. People First members shared they had a great time and are looking forward to volunteering again!



PEOPLE FIRST ATTEND SELF-ADVOCACY SNOWBALL FIGHT AND LEARN ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

On February 22, People First members attended Fulton County Board of DD's Annual "Come Together" Self-Advocacy Snowball Fight event. Participating with individuals from Defiance, Williams, Paulding, Henry, and Wood County, People First had a fun time! There was an indoor snowball fight using jumbo marshmallows, located at Henry County Board of DD's facilities.



Attendees also learned about technology from a presentation given by Wood County Board of DD. Wood County gave everyone an update on the many technology options available to individuals. People First members were informed how technology such as adaptive pieces, lending libraries, remote supports, and more can enhance the lives of so many individuals. Thank you Fulton County, Henry County, and Wood County for the fun event and learning about technology!



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HONOR THE PROCLAMATION FOR 2024 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH THEME "ALL MEANS ALL"

Thank you to the Putnam County Commissioners for meeting with individuals on March 5, 2024 to honor the Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. People First of Putnam County, and the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities have chosen "All means All" as the theme for 2024 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! They encourage all citizens to support "All means All" because the world is full of opportunities for everyone. "All means All" to celebrate people and work together to remove obstacles. "All means All" in a world where all people have the chance to thrive, do well, and succeed!

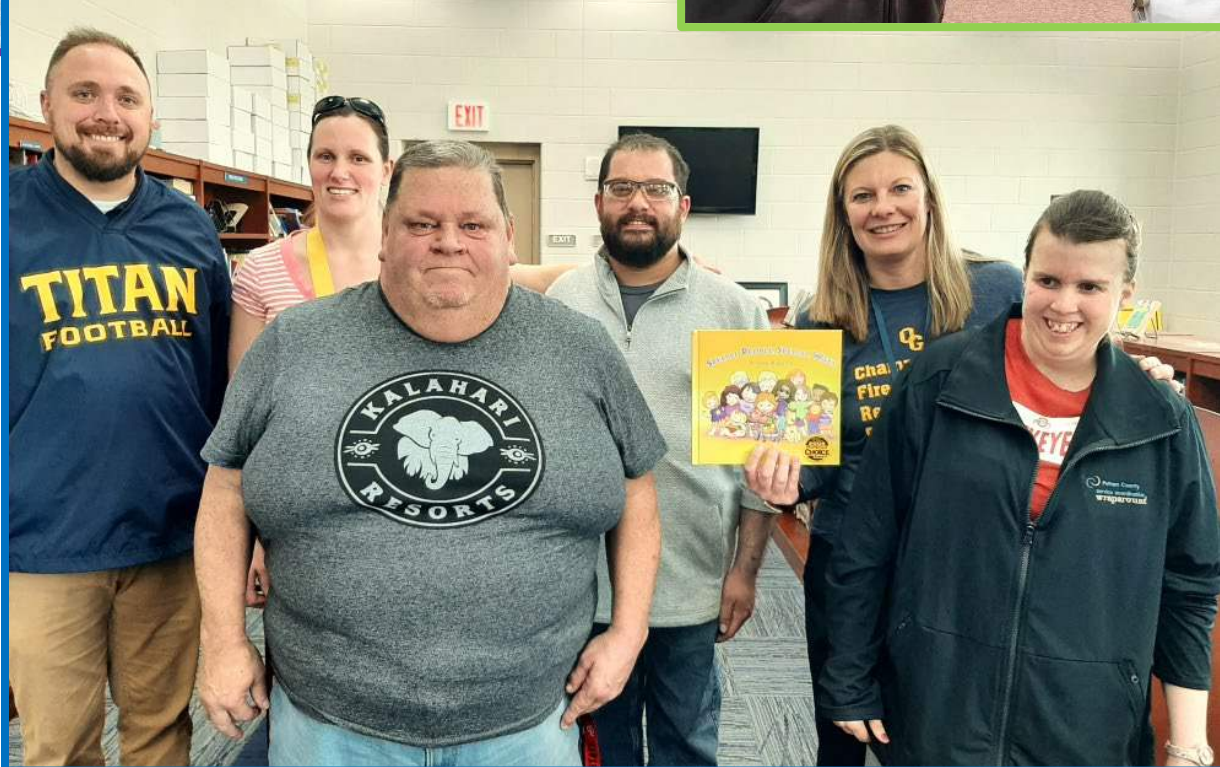
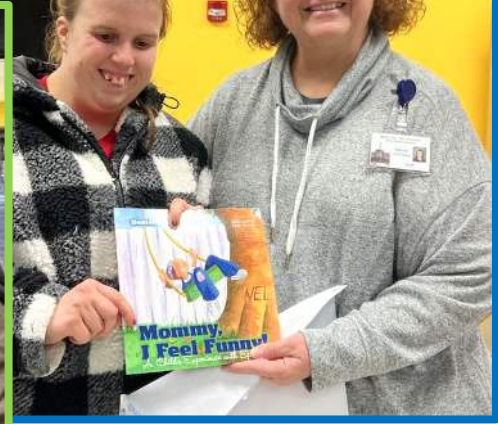
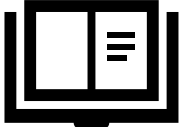


PEOPLE FIRST MEMBERS DONATE BOOKS TO HELP EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT VARIOUS ABILITIES

On March 15, members of People First Self-Advocacy Group donated books to elementary schools in Putnam County. This is in celebration of DD Awareness Month and a favorite giving back project of People First's members. Donating books has been a six-year tradition of People First as a way to help educate young children about various abilities.

Pictured are some of the schools that People First members delivered books to in person.

improve each child's basic skills... We believe all children can learn. Through our efforts, we hope our children can become responsible and contributing members of our community.



PEOPLE FIRST SPEAK AT KIWANIS LUNCHEON FOR DD AWARENESS MONTH



Officers of the People First Self-Advocacy Group were invited to speak at the Kiwanis Luncheon held on March 11 as part of March DD Awareness Month. Jim Burkhart and Ashley Reindel spoke about what People First is, their focus on self-advocacy, and giving back to their community.



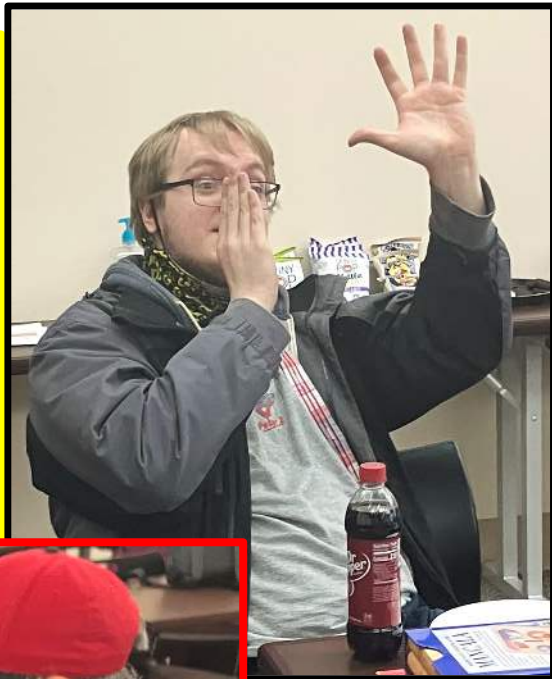
PEOPLE FIRST HOST SIGN LANGUAGE AND GAME NIGHT

At the People First meeting on March 21, Susan Brooks with the Putnam County ESC presented information about American Sign Language. She taught attendees how to sign the alphabet, common phrases, family members, and emergencies. Members were able to practice signing with each other through a group practice game called Sign Language Bingo. Individuals also practiced what they learned with their peers to better communicate with their hearing-impaired friends.



PEOPLE FIRST HOST SIGN LANGUAGE AND GAME NIGHT (CONTINUED)

After learning about Sign Language, individuals enjoyed playing tabletop games with each other. Everyone had a great time and appreciated learning from Susan Brooks!



PEOPLE FIRST EVENT UPDATES & QUESTIONS?

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

Christine Leathem: Advisor
Ph.: 419-890-2455
cleathem@putnamdd.org

Katie Cherry: Advisor
Ph.: 419-890-2234
kcherry@putnamdd.org



[Click here for more People First content!](#)

KNAP SACK UPDATES

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



Visit KNAP Sack online for the latest distribution updates:

[KNAP Sack Facebook Page](#)

CHECK OUT UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR: [HTTPS://PUTNAMCOUNTYDD.COM/CALENDAR/](https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/)

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

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