

Spring Newsletter

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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](https://www.facebook.com/PutnamCoDD)

Inspire Change



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBER MAGGIE VORST

Say hello to Maggie Vorst, our newest team member! She has joined our Service & Support Administration team. Maggie is excited to be with us and help individuals live their best life in our community! Welcome to the team, Maggie!



DD AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION WITH COMMISSIONERS

Thank you to the Putnam County Commissioners for meeting with individuals on March 4, 2025 to honor the Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. People First of Putnam County, and the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities have chosen "There's so much more to me than my disability" as the theme for 2025 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! They encourage all citizens to support "There's so much more to me than my disability" because each person is unique. "There's so much more to me than my disability" to celebrate each person having a job, friends, and family inclusion. "There's so much more to me than my disability" in a world where everyone has talents, are members of organizations, and volunteer in their communities!



If you would like to learn more about Developmental Disabilities and spreading awareness, check out these resources!

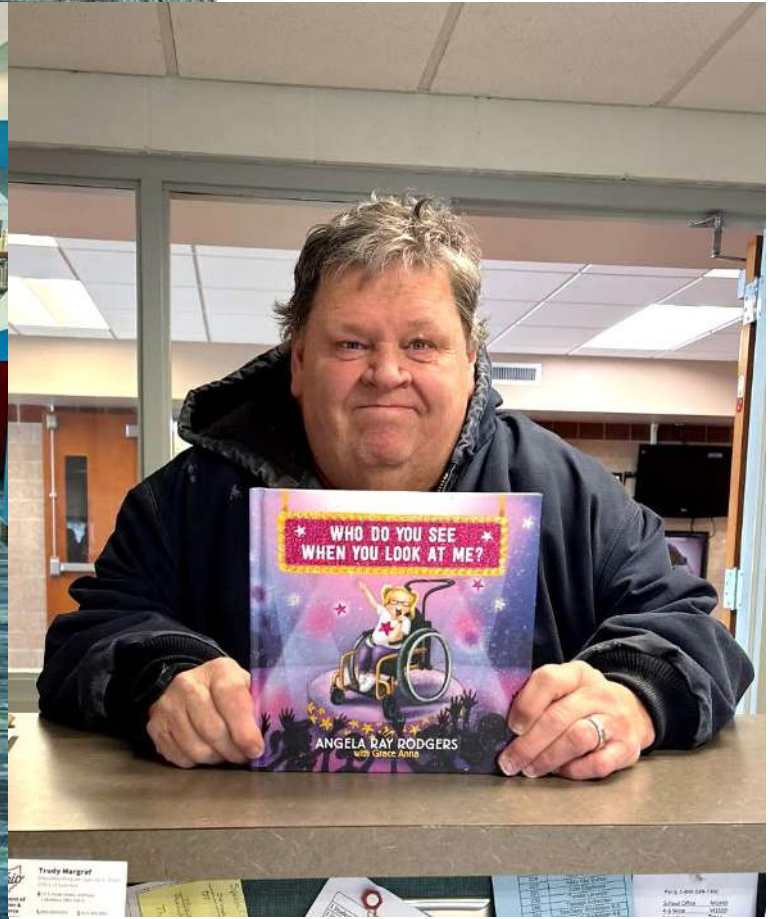
Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities website: <https://putnamcountydd.com/>

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/home>

PEOPLE FIRST DONATE BOOKS FOR DD AWARENESS MONTH



March is Developmental Disability Awareness month and in celebration of this, Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities People First Officers presented their annual book donations. Visits were made to all the Putnam County schools libraries as well as the Putnam County main branch library. The books donated this year were "Who Do You See When You Look At Me", by Angela Ray Rodgers and "You Are Enough", by Sofia Sanchez. The books focus on persons with disabilities and the things they can do rather than focusing on their disabilities!



PEOPLE FIRST HOST NINJA WARRIOR COMPETITOR AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AT EVENT

At the People First meeting held Thursday, March 20, 2025, to celebrate DD Awareness Month, Michelle Warnky Buurma, inspirational speaker and 11-time Ninja Warrior competitor, shared her knowledge about becoming your best self with discipline and strength.

Part of self-advocacy is speaking up and having a voice, not only for yourself but also for those that struggle to speak up. Michelle shared her passion about helping other people strengthen their inner warrior so they can overcome temporary obstacles and focus on what matters most.

A huge shoutout and thank you to everyone that attended the event, and to Michelle Warnky Buurma for her motivational speech!



PEOPLE FIRST ANNOUNCE NEW OFFICERS FOR 2025

People First announced new officers for 2025 during the People First Meeting held on Thursday, March 20, 2025. Self-advocates voted on individuals running for various positions, and the election results are as follows.

President: Ashley R.

Treasurer: Tanisha L.

Secretary: Jennifer V.

Vice-president: Eric M.

Congratulations to the election winners! A huge thank you to those that voted and participated in running for election!



PEOPLE FIRST SPRING DANCE COMING MAY 9



"Hop Into Spring" Dance will be held on May 9, 2025 at the Leipsic Community Center, and People First of Putnam County invites you to join them!

Check out the website event calendar and Facebook page using the links below for details and how to RSVP.

Come and have a good time!

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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Superintendent	419-523-0123
Business Office	419-523-0122
Early Intervention	419-523-0124
Intake	419-523-0122
Service & Support Administration	419-523-0115
24/7 On-Call Phone	419-889-2980



PUTNAM COUNTY
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Address: 124 Putnam Parkway, Suite D, Ottawa, OH 45875

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