

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 TINA KNISLEY

Say hello to Tina Knisley, our newest team member! She has joined our agency as a Business Manager. Tina is excited to be with us and help the agency succeed at supporting individuals to live their best lives in our community! Welcome to the team, Tina!



DD AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION WITH COMMISSIONERS

Thank you to the Putnam County Commissioners for meeting with individuals on March 3, 2026 to honor the Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. People First of Putnam County, and the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities have chosen "The Power of WE" as the theme for 2026 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! They encourage all citizens to support "The Power of WE" because there is power supporting each other. "The Power of WE" to celebrate community and family inclusion, accessibility, and advocacy to help each other success. "The Power of WE" 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 HOST POTLUCK AND LEARN ABOUT DAY PROGRAMS AND HEALTH INSURANCE

On Wednesday, March 4, 2026, members of People First of Putnam County hosted a Chili and Soup Potluck. Guest speakers, Jodi Hundley and Jennifer Gast with RMS of Ohio, shared details about their new second shift day program starting soon. Another guest speaker, Kari Johnson, Health Insurance Advocate, discussed health insurance benefits, options, and changes that could affect individuals with developmental disabilities. Afterwards, Katie Cherry, an SSA (Service and Support Administrator) of the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities and People First Advisor, discussed the Blue Envelope Program and how it serves as a communication awareness tool between law enforcement and community members with developmental disabilities. Thank you to all attendees and guest speakers for your presentations and participation!



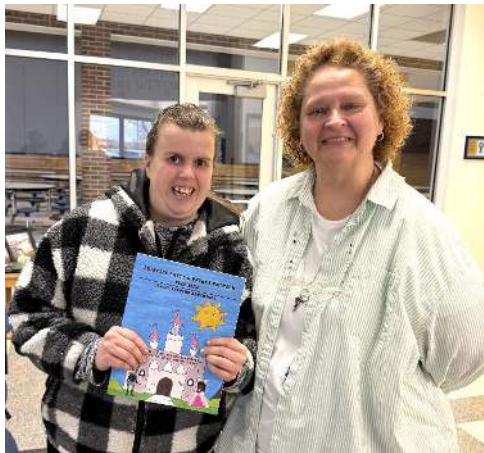
PEOPLE FIRST VOLUNTEER AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISER

In celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Putnam County's theme "The Power of WE", was evident at the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser on Thursday, March 12, 2026. People First Officers and members volunteered their time to help make the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser a success. People First was in charge of running the kitchen and making sure food was stocked for the guests to self-serve themselves. This has been a 5-year partnership between People First and Habitat.



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 "Princess Patty & Prince Patrick Feel Mad: An EFT Tapping Adventure", written by Melissa Schroeder and illustrated by Mariam Dunbar. The book focuses on persons with disabilities and how to process big emotions!



PEOPLE FIRST ADVOCACY AND MOVIE NIGHT COMING MAY 6



People First Advocacy and Movie Night will be held on May 6, 2026, 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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Service & Support Administration.....	419-523-0115
24/7 On-Call Phone	419-889-2980



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