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2009 Appreciation Awards

Saluting a Lifetime of Achievement

As individuals, Willie and Eva Artis have spent their lives showing that people with disabilities can be active, contributing, tax-paying members of the Madison County community.

As a loving married couple, the Artis family has shown that, with minimal supports, they can hold jobs, and persevere in their lives together. Their lifetime efforts, determination and self-sufficiency have assisted in paving the way for others with disabilities.

On Thursday (March 12), that commitment was honored as Willie and Eva were presented with the Dorothy Allison Lifetime Achievement Award. Named after Madison County Board of MR/DD's founder, that presentation was the highlight of the 19th annual appreciation awards, coinciding with March's statewide MR/DD Awareness Month.

The Lifetime Award recipients were presented with proclamations from the office of State Senator Chris Widener, while Madison County Commissioner Mark Forrest presented a similar citation on behalf of State Representative Bob Hackett.



This year also marks the 50th year of services within Madison County for individuals with disabilities. On February 16, 1959, the first class for students with MR/DD began for 12 children in a small four-room house donated by the First Presbyterian Church of London.

Now, half a century later, the Madison County Board of MR/DD continues to strive. This was exemplified by Tuesday's event. The event, held at Fairhaven School with an enthusiastic crowd numbering close to 300 strong, honored those individuals and agencies that have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

A 10-minute musical video/photo presentation, developed by MCBMR/DD Organization Services staff members Jordan Buschur and Jeff Gates, provided an opportunity to reflect, rejoice and remember.

From the opening comments by Reverend Tom Timmons, it was apparent it was a night to celebrate. The father of a son with disabilities, Timmons voiced the respect he has for those who make various advances in the field during the past five decades.

It was through that ongoing respect by which the following annual recognition awards were presented. MCBMR/DD Board Vice-President Blaine Brockman conveyed that Superintendent Jim Canney was making wonderful strides in his recovery from recent surgery, and sent his best wishes to all in attendance.

Making this year's awards even more special were they were designed by Sue Messina, a woman with disabilities. Messina made the design through Sky High Arts, a program affiliated with MATCO Services.

See list of award winners and photos on page 2

And the winners are ...



CONSUMER
Waymond Harris
Laura Cotton
Michael Dillon



Award Artist
Sue Messina



INDIVIDUAL
Robin Cunningham
Monica Price
Wanda Rueppel
Andy Doty
Rebecca Miesmer



STAFF
Joan Bogdue
Jessica Gordon
Jordan Buschur
Vicki Thompson (not pictured)



ADVOCATE
Geoff DeLong
Liz Blakeslee



FAMILY
Brittini Myers



ORGANIZATION/AGENCY

- * Tolles Career & Technical Center — Business Professionals of America Club
- *Coughlin Automotive
- * One Source Lawn Care
- * Jonathan Alder High School FCCLA — Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- * Eberle Fisher Funeral Home (not pictured)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

First United Methodist Church

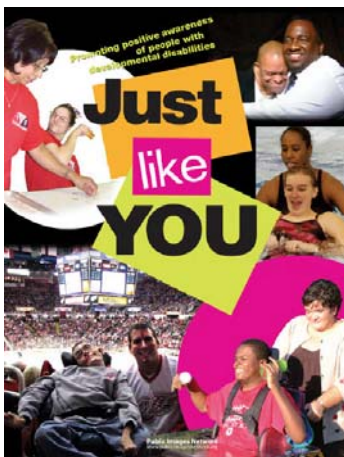


DOROTHY ALLISON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

EVA & WILLIE ARTIS

In recognition of your lifetime efforts, determination and example of self-sufficiency that has assisted in paving the way for others with disabilities

Getting a helping hand from the Governor



Four-year-old Kristin Kuebler is all smiles as she makes friends with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland Thursday, March 5. Kuebler was one of more than a dozen children and adults served by the Madison County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities who were on hand at the Ohio Statehouse to celebrate March as MR/DD Awareness Month. Governor Strickland was one of the featured speakers for the kickoff event.



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Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities**

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Madison County Board of MR/DD
Monthly Board Update
by Betsy Dodds

- The Regular Monthly Board Meeting was held Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Blaine Brockman, Julie Brand, Sue Mosier, and Mary Hopkins.
- The Board was informed that the Ohio Public Images MR/DD Awareness Month Kickoff event will be Thursday, March 5 at the Statehouse in Columbus.
- The Aladdin Shrine Circus is Thursday, March 19 at the Ohio Expo Center.
- The Board approved the final 2008 Annual Action Plan. The Board also adopted the 2009 Annual Action Plan.
- The Board authorized the Superintendent of Pickaway County Board of MR/DD to act as an Alternate Superintendent as needed while Superintendent Jim Canney recovers from his surgery.
- The Board moved to designate the directors of Children Services and Organization Services to sign enrollment, reporting, and eligibilities until further notice
- The Nineteenth Annual MCBMR/DD Appreciation Awards will be held Thursday, March 12 at Fairhaven School.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting of the Madison County Board of MR/DD will be held Thurs, March 19, 2009 at the Administrative Office at 4pm.

Police Dog Visits Classroom

Recently, the students in Fairhaven School's multiple disabilities classroom at London High School enjoyed a visit from Deputy Liska (front) and his dog Rolph of the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Rolph works hard in Madison County sniffing out drugs and controlling crime. Learning about Rolph were (second row, left) Britney Eades, Hillary Brown (third row, left), Briana



Keaton, Michael Long, Tiffany Kendall, Seaira Chapman, Jillian Barton, Leah McCarter, teacher Mary Atchison, Michael Parthemore, Tyler Casey.