



**MOVING
TOWARD
TOMORROW**

CELEBRATION OF POSSIBILITIES

MARCH 20, 2024

Words of

WELCOME

Welcome to the 14th Annual Celebration of Possibilities! We are glad you have joined us this evening.

Since the very first Celebration of Possibilities, things have changed. And they continue to change. Fourteen years ago, County Boards of DD provided many of the services available to people with disabilities. Today, we rely on a network of providers and community partners to provide those services. The way we support people with disabilities, and even the way we see people with disabilities, has changed and evolved.

Fairfield DD's dream is to build a community that recognizes the value of every person. We are committed to supporting people on their journey toward greater independence. To do so means we must continue to change and evolve. That's not always easy, but it is necessary.

We invite you to join us as we continue Moving Toward Tomorrow. Let's challenge the status quo. Let's challenge the way we do things. Let's challenge ourselves and the way we see people with disabilities. When we do so, there is no doubt tomorrow will be better and brighter!

Enjoy the show!



David Uhl
Fairfield DD
Superintendent



Sharon Scruggs
Fairfield DD
Board President

Tonight's EVENTS

Welcome

David Uhl

Celebration Award

Sara Kallenberg

Celebration Award

Opportunity Court

Celebration Award

Fairfield County Auditor's Office

Celebration Award

Center for Independence

John Pekar Legacy Award

John Wagner

Special Guest

Amy Bockerstette

Entertainment by

Sam Adams

MOVING TOWARD TOMORROW

About the EVENING



Friends of Fairfield DD's mission is to educate and advocate about the mission of Fairfield DD. They are proud to host the annual Celebration of Possibilities as a way to highlight the great work of our community.

CELEBRATION AWARD



**Sara
Kallenberg**

The highest honor in Girl Scouts is the Gold Award. To earn it, the scout must find an issue she is passionate about in her community and work to find a life-long solution. Sara, who spent many summers at Alley Park with Girl Scouts, wanted everyone to have the opportunity to experience the park. This led to the idea of creating an accessible and interactive trail for her Gold Award Project. Through time, leadership, and dedication, Sara connected with individuals, groups, and companies all over the county to create a fully paved trail. Now those with a wagon, stroller, gait issue, or a wheelchair can enjoy the woods in a way that wasn't previously possible. The trail includes activities throughout, allowing each person to use various senses to learn about nature.

In Honor of the Hartung Family

Art and Wilma Hartung helped form the Fairfield Council for Retarded Children in 1956. Its mission was simple: Help children and adults with developmental disabilities lead more useful, productive, and happy lives. Their grassroots work helped make support for children and adults with developmental disabilities what it is today. We honor their efforts by recognizing the Hartung family, including their son, Tommy, who passed away in 2009.



Fairfield Industries, Inc.



SITTERLEY LAW, LLC
ELDER AND ESTATE PLANNING

CELEBRATION AWARD



Opportunity Court

We all make mistakes, but learning accountability and changing your actions is important. Judge Fields and the Opportunity Court put this into action. Started in May 2019, the goal of the docket is to minimize repeat charges and build stronger community responsibility with participants. As a prevention docket, the program works from referrals and with the staff at Fairfield DD. Those assigned to this court appear before the Judge weekly for a period of 6 months where they discuss progress and review mitigating circumstances around the incident. In addition, participants attend educational sessions focused on topics of community responsibility that are tailored for current participants. When finished with the probation period, participants are acknowledged for their success. A direct correlation of decreased incidents is evident with each person who goes through the Opportunity Court. For many, it is an opportunity for a fresh start to achieve their goals and make positive contributions to our community.

In Honor of Deanna Kirwin

Deanna Kirwin set an example for people with disabilities that will live forever. She was the first person in the state to receive a Micro-Enterprise Grant to start her own business. She successfully operated her cross-stitch business for more than six years before passing away in October 2007.

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY
FOUNDATION

Building a Legacy in Our Community

Wendel Family Fund

CELEBRATION AWARD



Fairfield County Auditor's Office

Customer service is an integral part of the strategic plan of the Fairfield County Auditor's Office. Looking to broaden the idea of accessibility beyond physical access, three actions emerged. First, the team designed outreach specifically for Veterans considering their unique experiences. Second was the creation of sensory bags filled with clinically proven items to comfort and focus children who feel overwhelmed. Placed in shared areas, these have made an impact even when not being used by bringing awareness to all who see them. The third action was employee training to support those who are experiencing symptoms associated with dementia. The training helped employees have a deeper understanding and sensitivity about what it is like to live with cognitive impairment and sensory change. Employees now use strategies learned as they communicate with all customers. Auditor Brown and her team plan to continue the work of being accessible to all.

In Honor of the McGhee Family

The McGhee family has been an active supporter of Fairfield DD for many years. Family members have served on the Board, taught in the school, and volunteered, as well as given generously to Friends of Fairfield DD. We thank them for their endless support.

Sponsors:



CELEBRATION AWARD



FAIRFIELD CENTER FOR **INDEPENDENCE**

For 70 years, Fairfield Center for Independence has been a part of Fairfield County providing adult day services, in addition to medical appointment transportation, ramp and home modification, and an equipment loan closet. Beginning in the fall of 2022, the leadership began discussions on reimagining what their program might look like, focused on helping people find their true passion and being part of their community. Through creativity and collaboration, they are changing the structure of the program. They are working to create a unique experience for each person around their specific interests where they can be in the community, building relationships and making contributions. Previously called the Center for disABILITIES and Cerebral Palsy, they rebranded in 2023 to better reflect their purpose. Through many barriers, the team continues to move forward toward their new mission where every person receives the opportunity to live an independent, fulfilled life within an inclusive accessible community.

In Honor of Goldie Fields

Each year, we celebrate Goldie Fields Day at Forest Rose School to honor the commitment of our volunteers. Goldie was the consummate volunteer for our program, always with a hug, ready for generations of children, as well as countless teachers and support staff at the school. Goldie passed away in December 2008 after more than three decades of volunteer service to Fairfield DD. In recognition of that commitment, we are proud to dedicate this award in her memory.

Sponsors:



PETERMANN.



Facility Services by George

JOHN PEKAR LEGACY AWARD



John
Wagner

John Wagner served as the Physical Therapist at Forest Rose School. Known for having a unique ability to create devices out of a variety of materials, his creativity empowered countless students to sit, stand, or move comfortably where they could not before. He didn't stop there. John wanted to show each child how much their movement opened the world for them. He loved learning and trying new things and shared this knowledge with all to help them understand how and why something worked. While working with students, he also partnered with their families to help support their child's progress toward gross motor developmental milestones. His creativity helped whomever he was assisting have a better understanding, no matter the topic. He used kindness and patience to encourage steps toward mobility and independence. Mobility is a foundational skill of so much that we do. Everything that John did, day in and day out, supported the mission of empowering others to be more independent.

Tonight's award will be given posthumously in John's honor. He is not with us, but his legacy lives on through the many lives he impacted.

Amy

Bockerstette



Amy Bockerstette is an amateur golfer, disabilities advocate, and co-founder of the I GOT THIS Foundation. She is the first person with Down Syndrome to both receive an athletic scholarship to attend college and, as a student-athlete at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix, to compete in a national collegiate championship, the NJCAA Women's Golf Championship.

During a practice round with PGA Tour professional, Gary Woodland, at the 2019 WM Phoenix Open, Amy parred the iconic 16th stadium hole. The video capturing that moment went viral and currently has over 51 million views. Later that year, Amy and her family established the I GOT THIS Foundation to promote golf instruction and playing opportunities for people with Down Syndrome and other intellectual disabilities.

Sam

Adams



Sportswriter turned standup comedian. Keynote speaker. Author. Commercial actor. Master of Ceremonies. Sam gave his first standup comedy set in 2001, only a few months after his return from reporting on track and field at the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Eight years later at age 49, the longtime sports journalist took on comedy as a full-time professional career.

Sam's entertaining profanity-free comedy performances earned him high praise at the 2009 Great American Comedy Festival held in Norfolk, Nebraska. He won the festival's amateur competition, then was asked to compete in the professionals division as a last-minute replacement. Sam took the second place prize amid a field of two dozen national headline comedians. In 2018 Sam's popularity catapulted when the "True Color" clip from his 2017 Dry Bar Comedy special went viral – with more than 10 million social media views in less than 72 hours. Since then, the clip has reached more than 35 million views on Facebook alone.

Our SPONSORS

Event



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Sally Grimm Community Fund

Award

Embrace Healthcare
Fairfield County Foundation
Wendel Family Fund
Fairfield Federal Savings & Loan
Fairfield Industries, Inc.
Innerphase Video Productions

Park National Bank
Petermann Transportation
ServiceMaster Facility Services by George
Sitterley Law, LLC
The Savings Bank

Marque

ServePro of Fairfield/Lancaster

VIP

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Westside Support Services, LLC

Table

Art & Clay on Main/Square 7 Coffee House
Bay Food Market
Dave & Debra Smith
Edward Jones Lancaster, OH
Fairfield County Prosecutor / Kyle Witt
Fairfield Medical Center Police
Frank E. Smith Funeral Home & Crematory
Functional Training Services
Krile Communications
Lancaster Fairfield Public Transit
Lancaster Police Department DARE

Lancaster Rotary Club #375
Learning Never Ends
Mid West Fabricating Company
Modern Office Methods
Ohio University Lancaster Campus
Promotions By Design
United Way of Fairfield County
Walker's Shoe Center
Woodside Garage Door Company
WLOH-The Wolf 104.5FM

Food

Provided and Sponsored by Cheers Chalet

Special THANKS

Hosting the Celebration of Possibilities and Supporting the Mission of
Fairfield DD

Friends of Fairfield DD

Robert Lovell, Matt Hearn, Cathy Frederick, C.J. Roberts,
Rick Wilkins, Tracy Kelly

Continued Collaboration and Support

Fairfield County Commissioners

Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy

Tonight's Photography

Hannah Shaffer

Dinner Music

Steve Cox Quartet

Video Productions

Innerphase Video Productions

Award Presentation

John Pekar

Jordan Brown

Bookkeeping

Beth Seifert

Coordination of Dinner and Volunteers

Cathy Jumper

Laura Furry

Committees

Steering Committee

Susan Barnett, Bob Competti, Anne Mikan, Gaynor Pfeffer, David Uhl

Decorating Committee

Brooklyn Abebe, Susan Barnett, Milisha Dillon, Cathy Frederick, Angie
Kocher, Michelle Shugart, Tina Smith, Alison Woodside

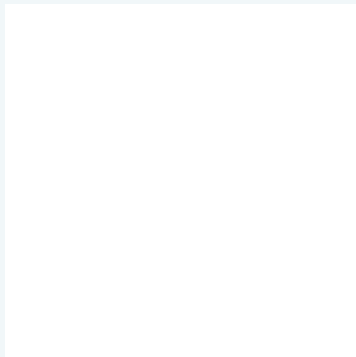


Without the hard work of our volunteers,
tonight would not have been possible.

Thank You!

Thanks for attending

For details of the evening, the digital program,
and pictures after the event, scan below.



Save the Date

15th Annual Celebration of Possibilities
March 26, 2025



The mission of Fairfield DD is to bring about a vibrant community where people lead lives of greater independence and make meaningful contributions.

www.fairfielddd.com