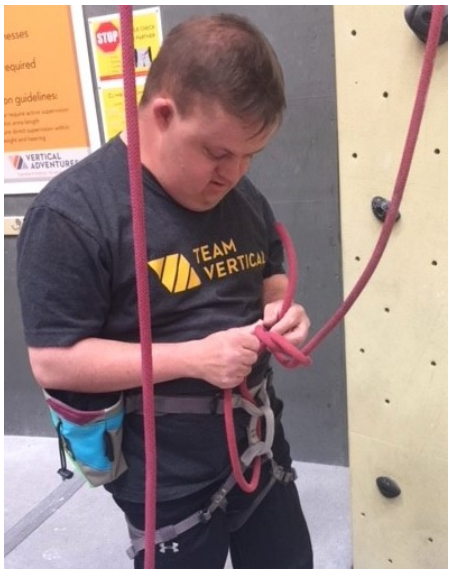
FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Bringing about a vibrant community where people lead fulfilling lives and make meaningful contributions.

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Worth the CLIMB



"I'm a rock star," said Matt Sears as he fastened himself into his climbing harness at Vertical Adventures in Columbus. "My arms and my shoulders look so good."

A member of the Adaptive Climbing Club for Adults, Sears has been scaling indoor climbing walls for over a year, something his mother Colleen never thought she'd see her son do.

"We didn't know he could climb," she said. " I honestly didn't think he was capable because there is so much problem-solving involved."

According to his mother, Matt, who has Down Syndrome, has difficulty with what she calls abstract thinking.

"He has trouble figuring out steps, what to do next. He struggles with concepts of time. If you show him necessary steps, he can complete tasks but he does not typically figure those steps out for himself."

However, when it comes to climbing, that simply is not the case for Matt.

Each climbing route at Vertical Adventures has a unique difficulty rating and is mapped out on the wall by a series of like-colored holds. Climbers must follow the route of green holds, for example, to make their way to the top of the wall—which may be 45 feet high.

"He doesn't quit," said his instructor and co-coordinator of Adaptive Ascents Christine Kessler. "He may get halfway up the wall and then stop while he assesses his next move. But that's great. He does figure it out and he won't come down until he's reached the top and is ready to repel."

The Sears credit Fairfield DD Individual Support Coordinator Dawn Busser with suggesting that Matt give climbing a try. Knowing that Matt enjoyed sports and socializing, she thought it would be a good fit.

Kessler, along with husband Jordan, work with children and adults of all ages and abilities in nine-week sessions and say the sport is not only rewarding for athletes, but safe.

"It's a lot safer that most sports because we mitigate risk by removing factors we can't control. The climbing systems are all tested by coaches who have very broad climbing backgrounds. We have children climbing who are blind, adults climbing who have no use of their legs, and people with developmental disabilities climbing who are achieving personal successes they didn't think possible."

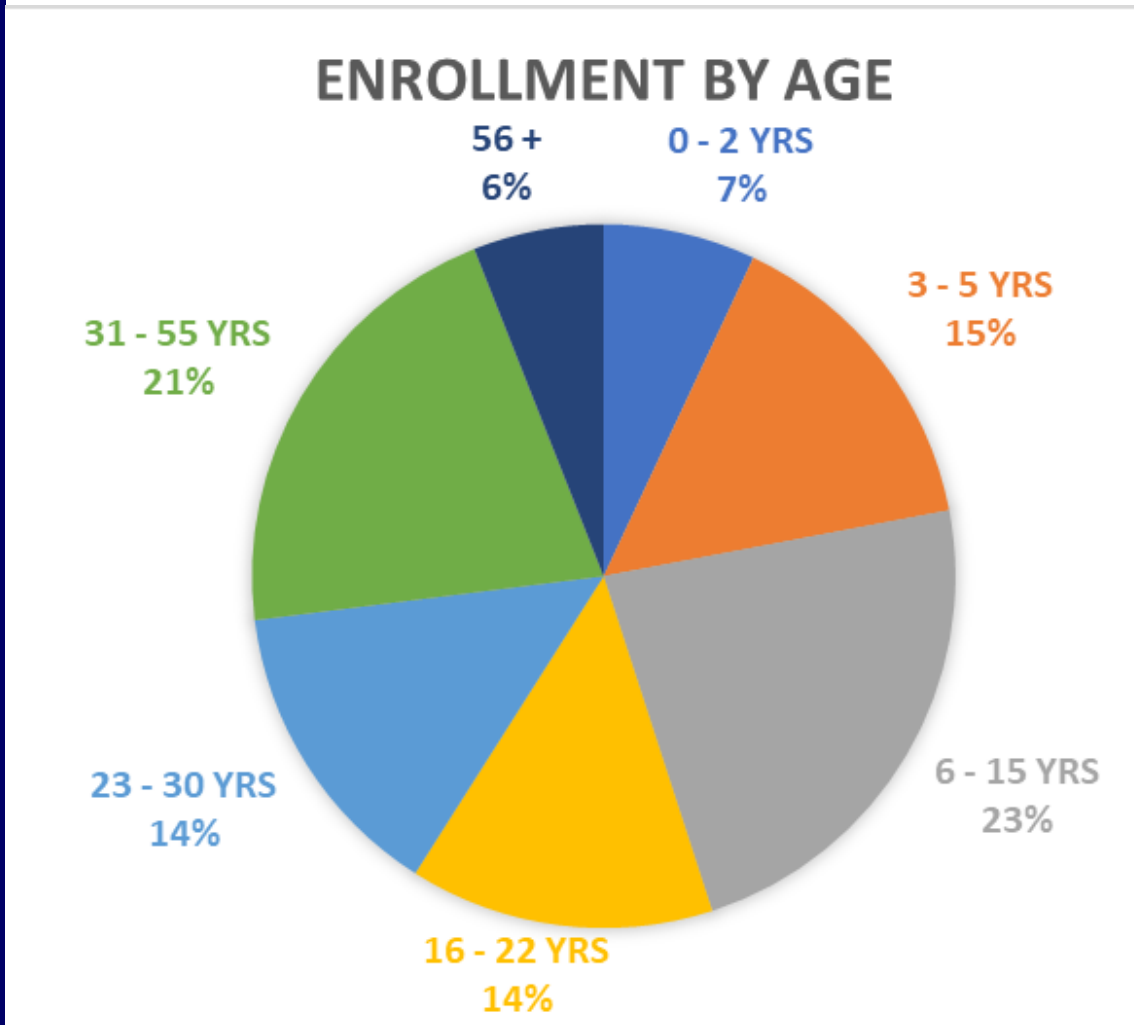
Matt, for lack of a better terms, is truly hooked on climbing.

"I like it so much," he said. "I'm not scared of heights. It's not scary to me. I always reach the top."

Mom Colleen agrees.

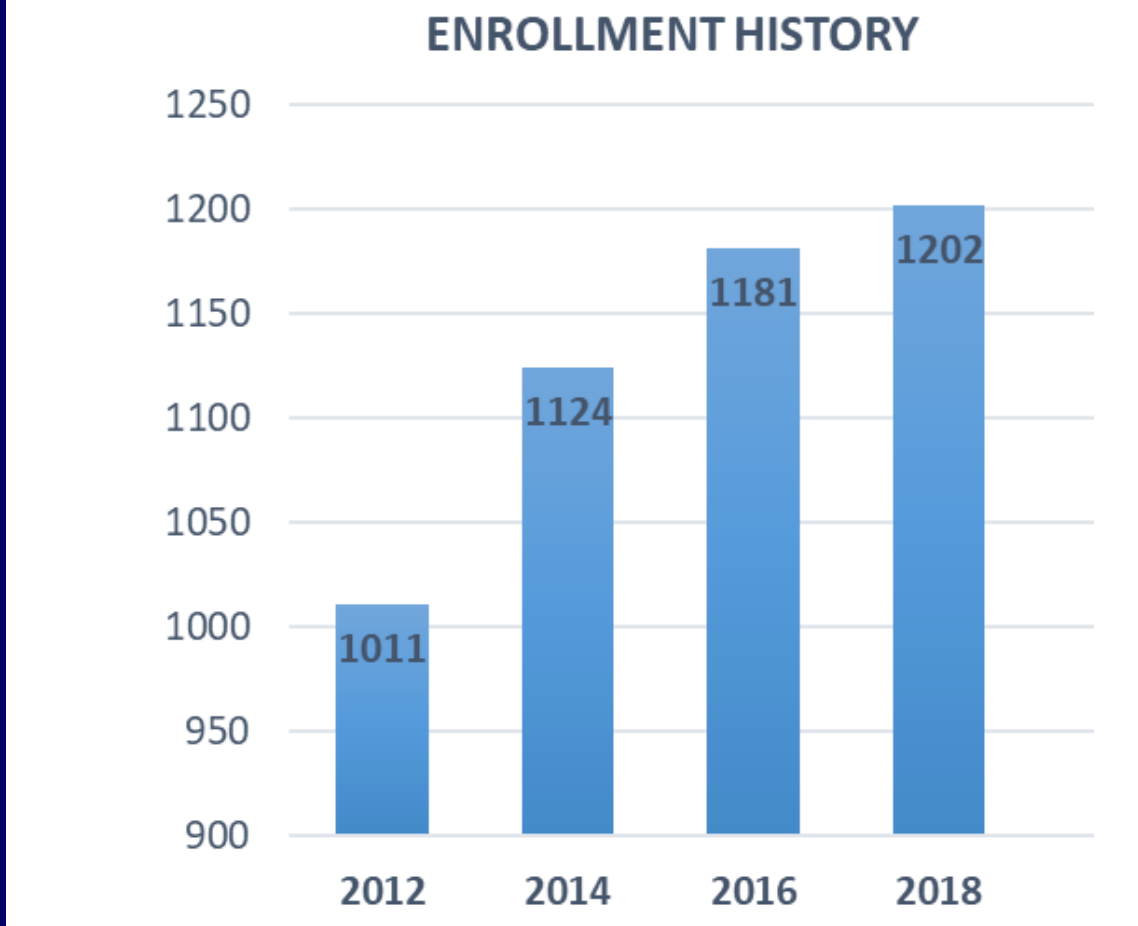
"I don't think he'll ever be happy if he's not climbing," she said. "He just won't quit."

Fairfield DD currently supports over 1,200 people with developmental disabilities, and their families, in Fairfield County.

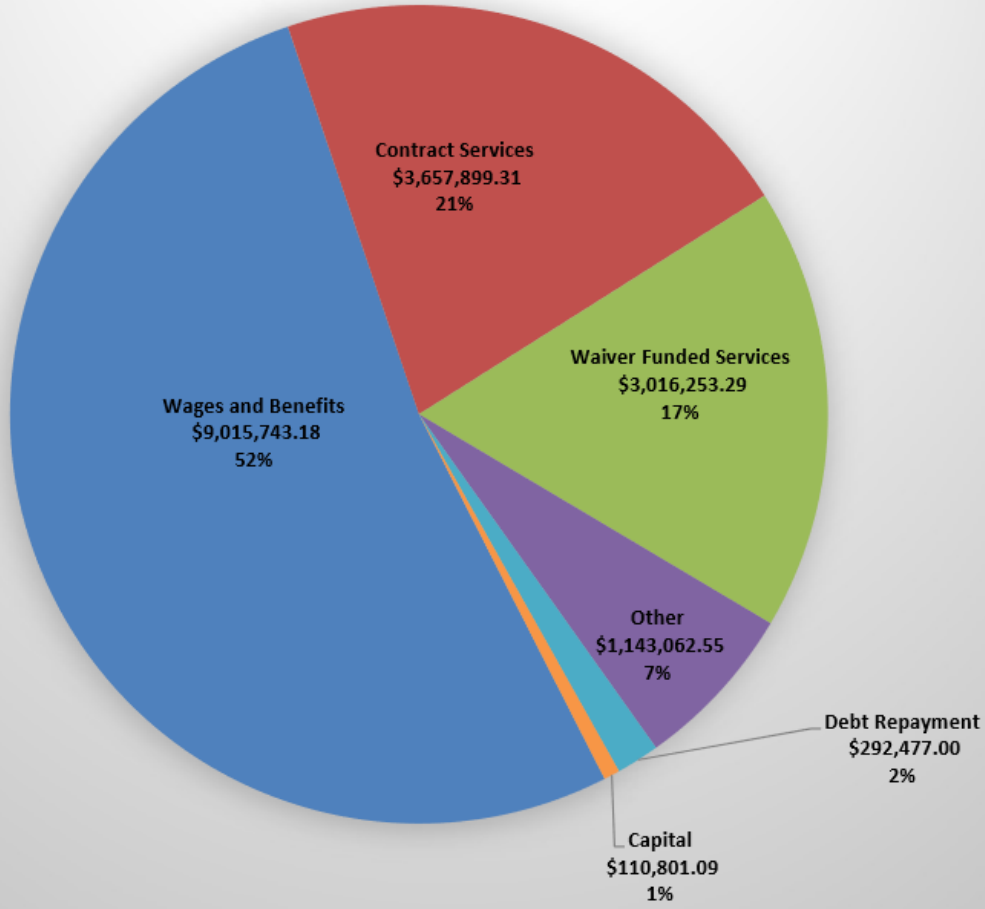


THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO LOOK AT THINGS UNTIL SOMEONE SHOWS US HOW TO LOOK AT THEM WITH DIFFERENT EYES.

- Pablo Picasso



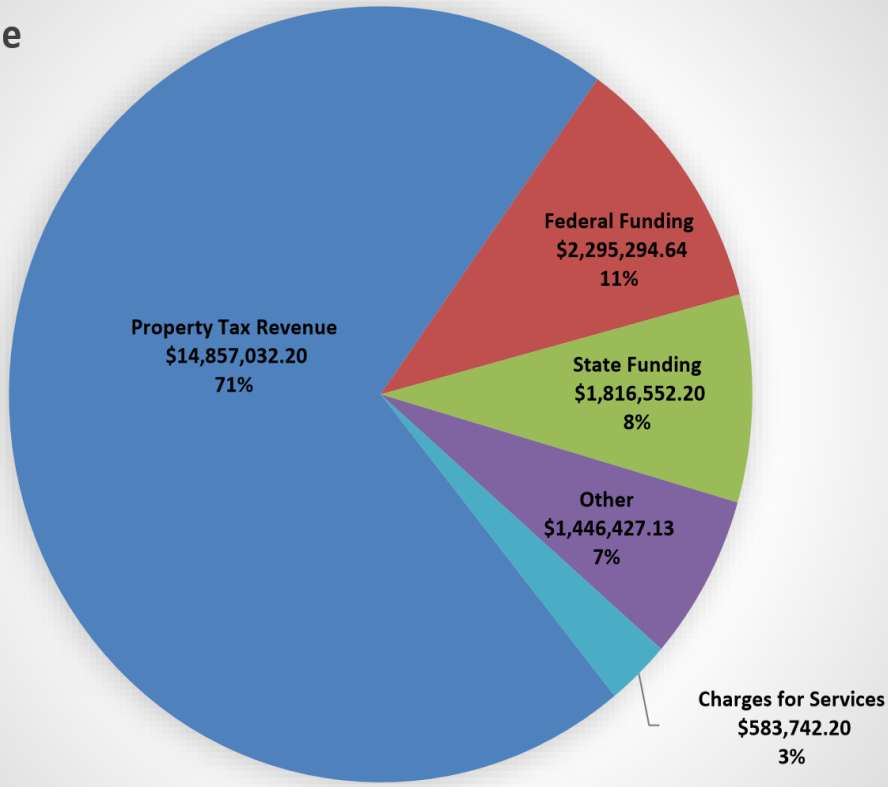
2018 Expenditures



YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TOMORROW BY EVADING IT TODAY.

- Abraham Lincoln

2018 Revenue



Brandon Muck—Artist in Residence, Art & Clay employee, Project Search Graduate.

Fairfield DD received 280
Eligibility Referrals in 2018.

This number does not include children ages 6 to 16 who went through the intake process to have their eligibility determined.

There are 987 people currently receiving services through Fairfield DD who also work with an Individual Support Coordinator (ISC).

Currently, ISCs are based out of Lancaster, Carroll and Pickerington. ISCs support individuals and families with planning, budgets, community connections, future life planning and much more.

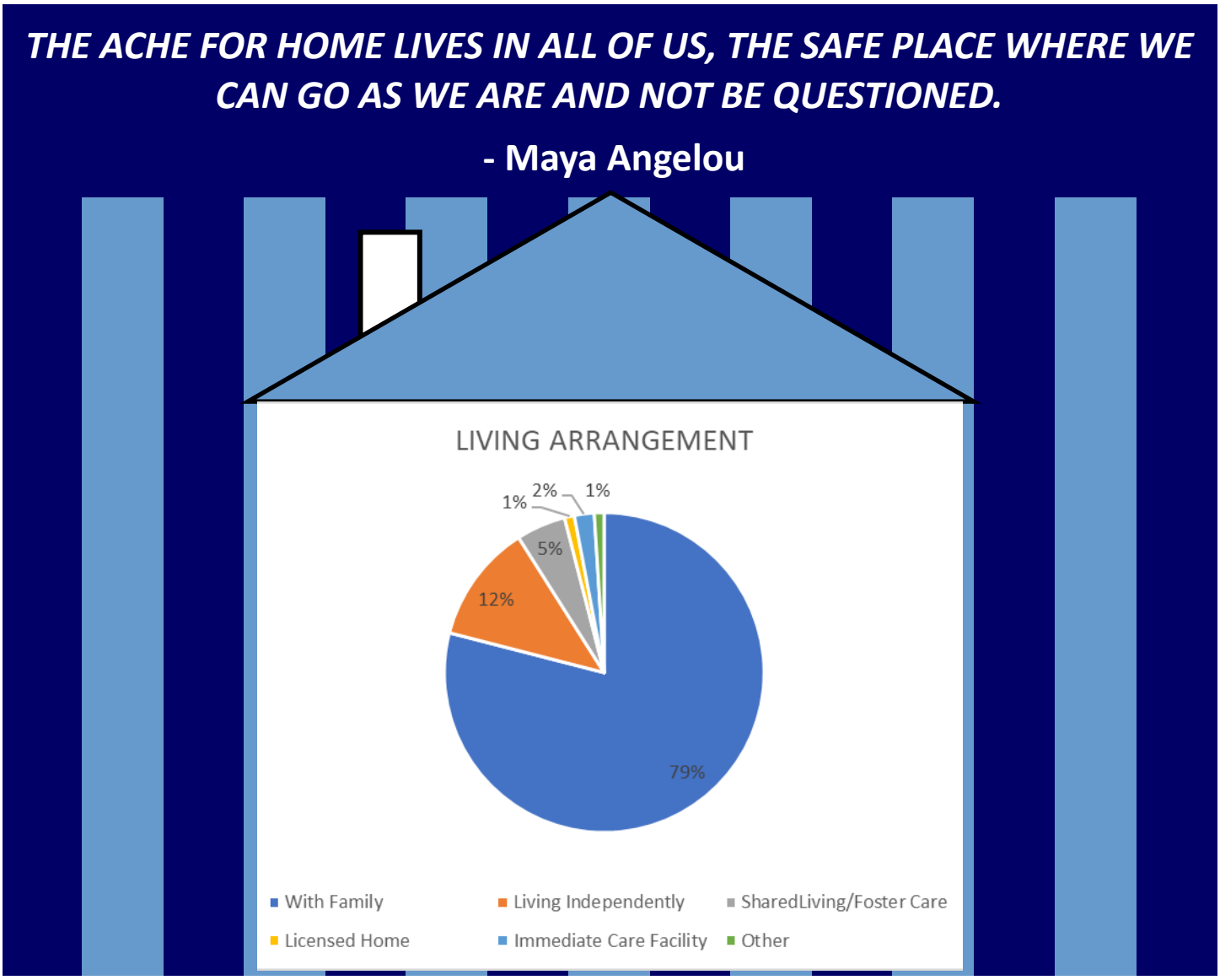
There are 185 adults who have received employment support in the form of education and/or navigation in the past year.

Fairfield DD strives to help people select a career path, not just a job.

At the 10th Annual Celebration of Possibilities 423 community members and business leaders gathered to celebrate the contributions of people in Fairfield County who best exemplified the Fairfield DD mission statement.

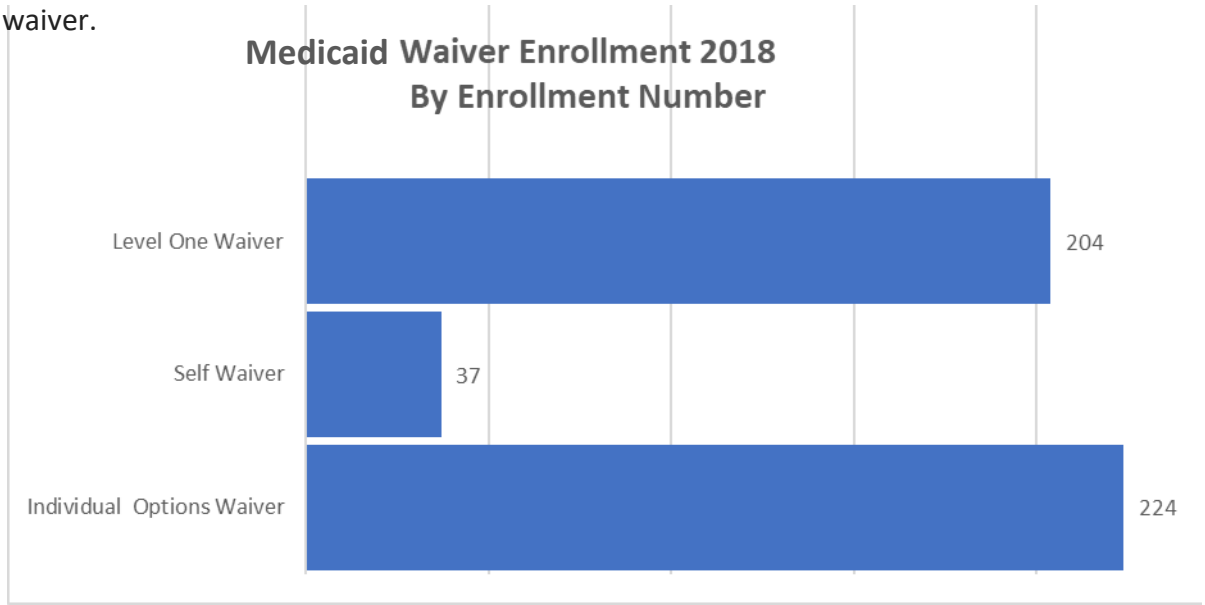
THE ACHE FOR HOME LIVES IN ALL OF US, THE SAFE PLACE WHERE WE CAN GO AS WE ARE AND NOT BE QUESTIONED.

- Maya Angelou



Waivers are one way to pay for services that help people with developmental disabilities live their lives. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities administers three different types of waivers. The Individual Options, Level One, and Self-Empowered Life Funding waivers each have different spending limits and offer some different services.

By braiding together multiple funding sources, such as local county board of developmental disabilities levy funds and Ohio Medicaid benefits, a person with developmental disabilities may be able to have their service needs met without a waiver.



Fairfield DD's Early Intervention Team worked with 333 children ages birth to <u>three, and their families, in 2018.</u>

Services support families with the ability to create learning and development opportunities for the children.

Four special events for children and their families were hosted around Fairfield <u>County and playgroups met 12 times.</u>

Early Intervention events encourage play as a primary form of learning, involving the entire family in the learning process.

IF A CHILD CAN'T LEARN THE WAY WE TEACH, WE SHOULD TEACH THE WAY THEY LEARN.

At Forest Rose School, there are 27 students enrolled who are between <u>the ages of 6 and 22.</u>

The school provides a curriculum based on functional living skills, academics and life experiences.

Forest Rose School's Integrated Preschool Program <u>currently has 29 students enrolled.</u>

There are currently 135 students in public schools <u>supported by the Transition Team.</u>

This team assists students as they progress from a student life into adulthood.

IT IS NOT HOW MUCH YOU DO, BUT HOW MUCH LOVE YOU PUT INTO THE DOING THAT MATTERS.

- Mother Teresa

Fairfield DD partners with providers throughout Fairfield County to ensure that people can choose from a wide range of high-quality services. This outstanding network of local service providers and agencies is critical to our system of supporting people with developmental disabilities. We strive to equip and empower providers to offer the highest possible quality of services through training, consultation, and oversight.

People are free to choose any certified service provider who can meet their assessed needs. In addition to helping these agencies raise the bar of quality, we empower families to find the right provider for their lives and make an informed choice.

Since 2016, we have expanded our efforts to support providers. Whether providing training, offering consultation or sharing resources and information, we collaborate with providers to align services with the person-centered plans.

Since May of 2016, Fairfield DD has hosted 28 Provider Meetings that feature various topics of discussion, guest speakers and networking opportunities.

Fairfield DD consulted with 19 providers this year to discuss training, compliance preparation and documentation review.

The Excellence Network

The Excellence Network is designed for our provider partners who support people every day. Fairfield DD will provide the technology, training and resources that will enhance all the great work provided by the members of The Excellence Network. As we work together, we will establish a culture of quality throughout the service network. Providers who participate must attend eight provider meetings or events throughout the year. These valuable gatherings focus on the latest updates from the field and best practices, as well as guest speakers and round-table discussions.

Levels of Excellence are awarded through the meetings and by maintaining benchmarks in training, quality and collaboration. In return for meeting agreed upon benchmarks of excellence, providers will benefit from website listing, compliance review preparation, basic provider coaching for compliance, business planning, multi-platform training and learning environment, staff recruitment, software tools, job postings, and staff training and support.

Fairfield DD envisions a network of providers and County Board staff that share a common desire to deliver exceptional service with the knowledge that we are employed by the people we support.

According to the United States Department of Labor Statistics, about 8 out of 10 people with a disability were not in the labor force in 2017 (people who are neither working nor looking for work).

Fairfield DD's JobFusion and its employment provider partners work with an average of 19 job-seekers monthly and average three new hires a month.

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ABILITY TO DO IT RIGHT, AND WORK HARD TO DO THE BEST.

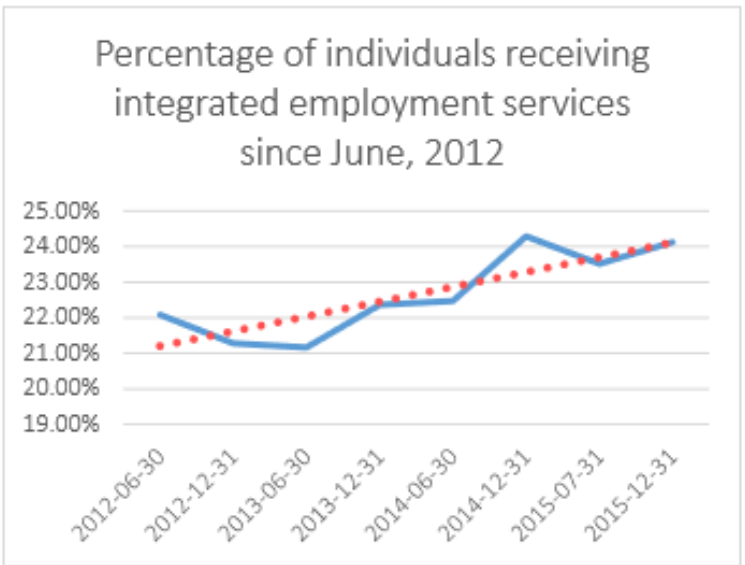
- Walt Disney

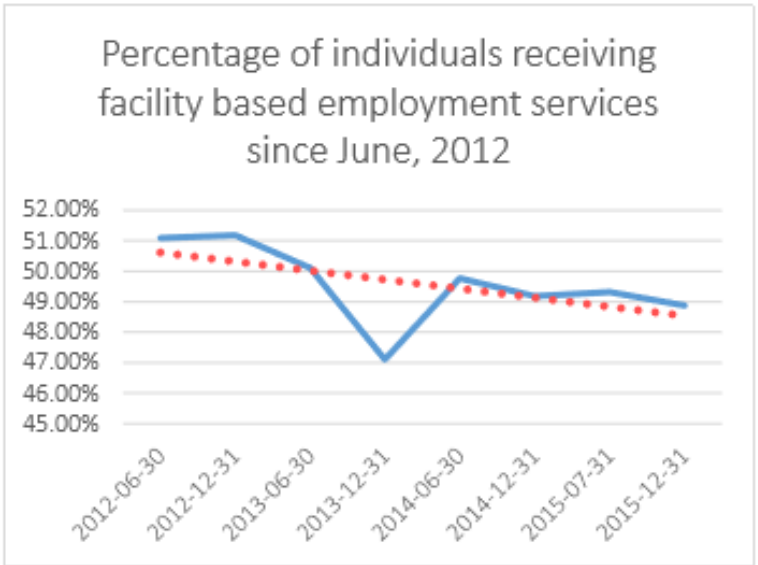
In 2018 there were 60 new jobs secured by people with developmental disabilities in Fairfield County.

There were 117 people working competitively in Fairfield County at the end of 2018 who had some level of support in their employment from Fairfield DD.

In March of 2012, Ohio changed the discussion of employment to presume every person can work. By starting the conversation, we promote the potential of people with disabilities.

Ohio Statewide Numbers





Source: Employment First Ohio

Social Impact Validated

Art & Clay / Square Seven became Social Impact Validated by the Better Business Bureau of Central Ohio in 2018.

Fairfield DD's Social Purpose Enterprises add VIBRANCY to the community by providing internship and employment opportunities.

In 2018, Art & Clay / Square Seven provided opportunities for 11 people to work, intern, and develop the skills and habits required in the business community.

57,647 people walked through the doors of Art & Clay / Square Seven in 2018, making the social enterprise Fairfield DD's front door to the community.

www.artandclayonmain.com

Columbus Parent Magazine Favorite Walk-in Art Studio [2016, 2017, 2018]

Columbus Parent Magazine Favorite Art Instruction [2018]

Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year [2017]

Remote Possibilities

Paul Hines, 52, lived in a variety of settings before moving into his own one-bedroom apartment several years ago. Most of the time, each home setting also meant round-the-clock staff occupying his home. So when Paul, who loves living alone, approached his ISC Kristi Dexter about the possibility of not having staff in his home in the evenings, Kristi and Paul's support team turned to a newer trend, remote home monitoring.

There are 8 people supported by Fairfield DD currently using some form of remote monitoring which includes a wide-range of electronic devices that can replace a home health worker in certain circumstances.

In Paul's case, two cameras are installed in his home—one in the family room and one in the kitchen, in addition to an interactive monitor that connects him to his remote monitoring service. On the other end of the monitor are employees who know Paul and can converse with him remotely.

"These systems are custom-built and tailored for each individual," Dexter said. "With Paul, there are sensors on his front door and on a kitchen appliance that notifies the monitoring agency whenever activated. His service is active from 7 pm each evening until noon the next day. During that time, no staff is in his apartment."

"I like it," Paul said. "It means no one has to be here at night. If I hurt myself they call me. It's working good. If someone comes to my door, they call me. Like if a stranger comes in. They call me."

He said the cameras in the home do not bother him and Dexter confirms that the staff of the monitoring system are familiar with Paul's support plan and the people who visit him. They even attend Paul's support team meetings.

This type of technology is an example of why former Governor Kasich recently signed an order making Ohio a Technology First State. Under the order, supportive technology will be prioritized when evaluating a person's needs. The order creates a 10-member Ohio Technology First Council that will make recommendations for better incorporating technology to assist individuals with disabilities. As of 2017, approximately 170 people in Ohio with developmental disabilities were utilizing remote monitoring, but the former Governor would like to see that number rise to closer to 600.

As for the finances, Paul has a waiver that covers the expense of the monitoring system. The only additional cost to him was the installation of internet service in his apartment.

"Paul is pretty happy that he only has staff in his home for 7 1/2 hours a day," Dexter said. "The sense of independence is important to him."

"I can be by myself," Paul said. "Have my privacy."

Paul, an avid Ohio State fan who has decorated his home in OSU memorabilia, feels pretty strongly about his independence. This fall, he will take his first trip to the ocean with money he has been saving for two years.

"I did it all by myself," he said.

Note: Paul uses a remote monitoring system by Wynn-Reeth, www.wynn-reeth.com.

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