

# UNITE. INSPIRE. BECOME.

ANNUAL REPORT

**2023**



**Defiance DD**  
County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
UNITE. INSPIRE. BECOME.

Enriching the lives and meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their community throughout their lifetime.

# Table of Contents

<b>DefiDoes.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Superintendent's Letter.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Financials.....</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Early Intervention.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Good Samaritan School.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Service &amp; Support Administration.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Defiance County Special Olympics.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Provider and Resource Agencies.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Lifetime of Supports.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Stories of Us .....</b>	<b>11</b>

---

## Our Board

The Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities volunteer Board is passionate about being the community's resource to invoke change in the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Our board is made up of community leaders and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, and they are appointed by the Defiance County Commissioners(5) and the Defiance County Probate Judge(2).

Board Members are appointed to four-year terms and are eligible to serve three consecutive terms. They receive no compensation for their service.

Attend one of our upcoming Board Meetings or Contact Us to share feedback with the Board.

Pictured from left to right: (Front Row) Jami Cameron, Ruby Schindler and Roberta Philipot (Back Row) Stephanie Meyer, Beth Headley, Clay Crates and Kim Hurtig.



# DefiDoes

Creating a community in which all of its citizens have a sense of belonging is a catalyst for opportunity.



We invite you to get to know us here at the Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DCBDD) and those that we serve. We believe that we are just one piece of the puzzle that makes this county and our communities within it a better place to live and learn.

We encourage you to invite us in, into your community events, parks, businesses, and employment. By doing so you are creating space for those individuals with developmental disabilities to create true friendships and put down roots.

We all aspire to UNITE together, INSPIRE change and BECOME all that we can be!

**In 2023 the DCBDD worked with our resource agencies, providers and communities to create opportunities and supports that will continue to make Defiance County a community without boundaries.**

- A Star Studded Evening
- Backpack Buddies Volunteers
- Border Battle Food Drive
- Children's Lantern Christmas Basket Program Volunteers
- Chocolate Walk Volunteers
- Community Presentations
- Defiance Night to Shine
- Defiance RibFest Volunteers
- Holiday Food Drive
- P.A.T.H. Center Volunteers
- Pull Together for Inclusion and many more!



## LEARN MORE



### Website

[www.defiandedd.org](http://www.defiandedd.org)



### DefianceCountyBoardofDD



### [defiancecountybd.ofdevelop426](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

# A Message From Our Superintendent



We have had another exciting year of growth and forward motion! As part of our strategic planning process, we are always seeking feedback on how to increase our effectiveness in serving the individuals of Defiance County.

Collectively, it is our mission to continue to create a culture of inclusivity, to engage with the unlimited partners throughout our county and beyond, and to uncover new resources to meet the needs of individuals and their families.

As the number of service recipients continues to increase, we are dedicated to ensuring they have access to the quality services needed to live independent and fulfilled lives. We know that having healthy relationships enhances the quality of life for everyone; therefore we continue to work on building a positive culture both within our agency and with the individuals and families we serve. Our commitment to transparency means we value communication and have an open door policy throughout our agency, and we welcome questions and comments from our constituents.

Thank you for your continued support! We appreciate you!

**Heidi Hull**  
**Superintendent**

## OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DCBDD) is to enrich the lives and meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their community throughout their lifetime.

# Financials

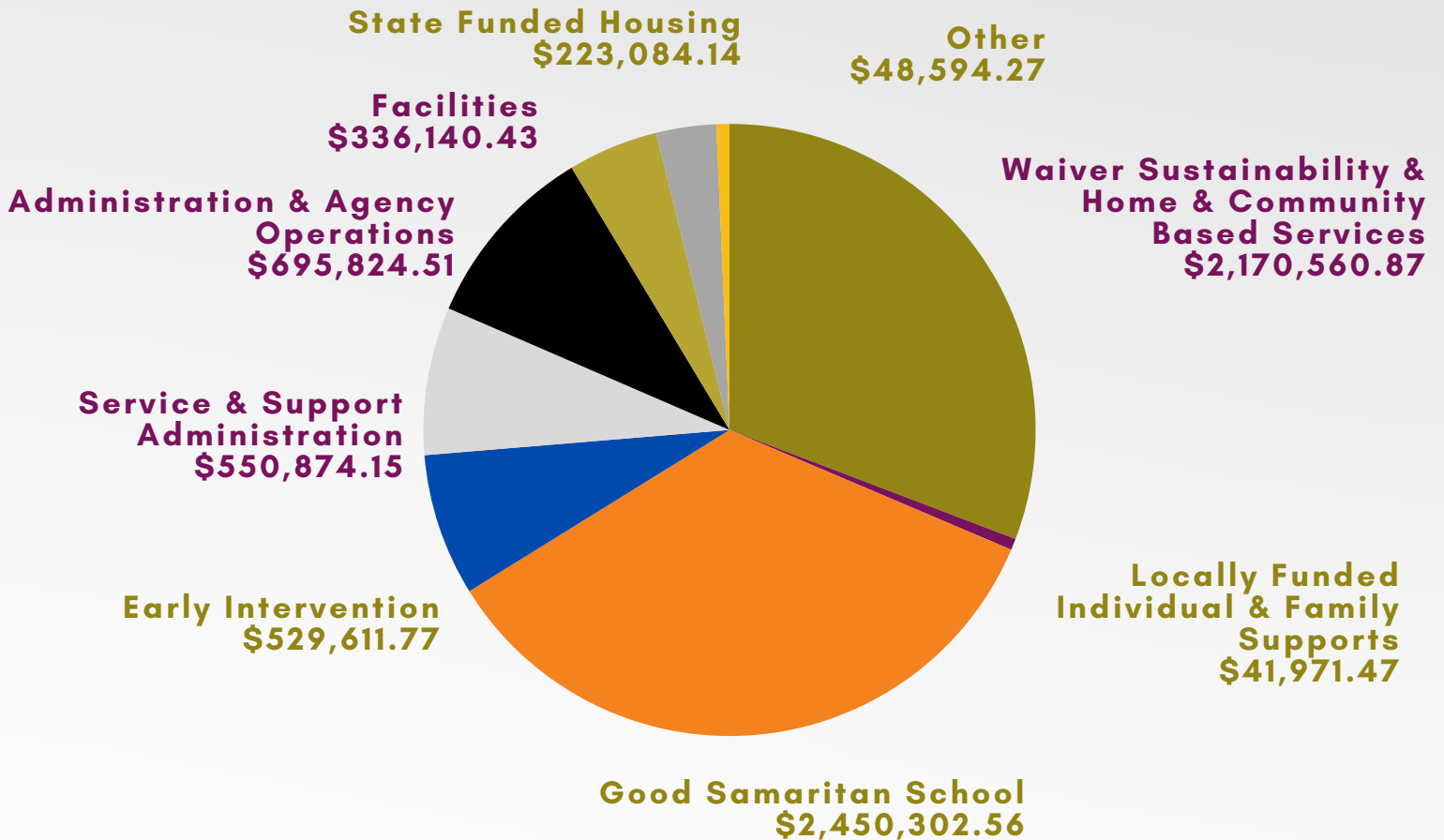
Defiance County Board of DD strives to be a good fiscal steward of our resources while always being mindful that the Defiance County taxpayers entrust us with public funds. Mandated Services per the Ohio Revised Code can be found by visiting, <https://dodd.ohio.gov/forms-and-rules/rules-in-effect/>

## 2023 Expenditures for Mandated Services per O.R.C. 5123-4 & 5123:2-1

**Mandated: \$3,753,399.96**

**Non Mandated: \$3,293,564.21**

**Total: \$7,046,964.17**



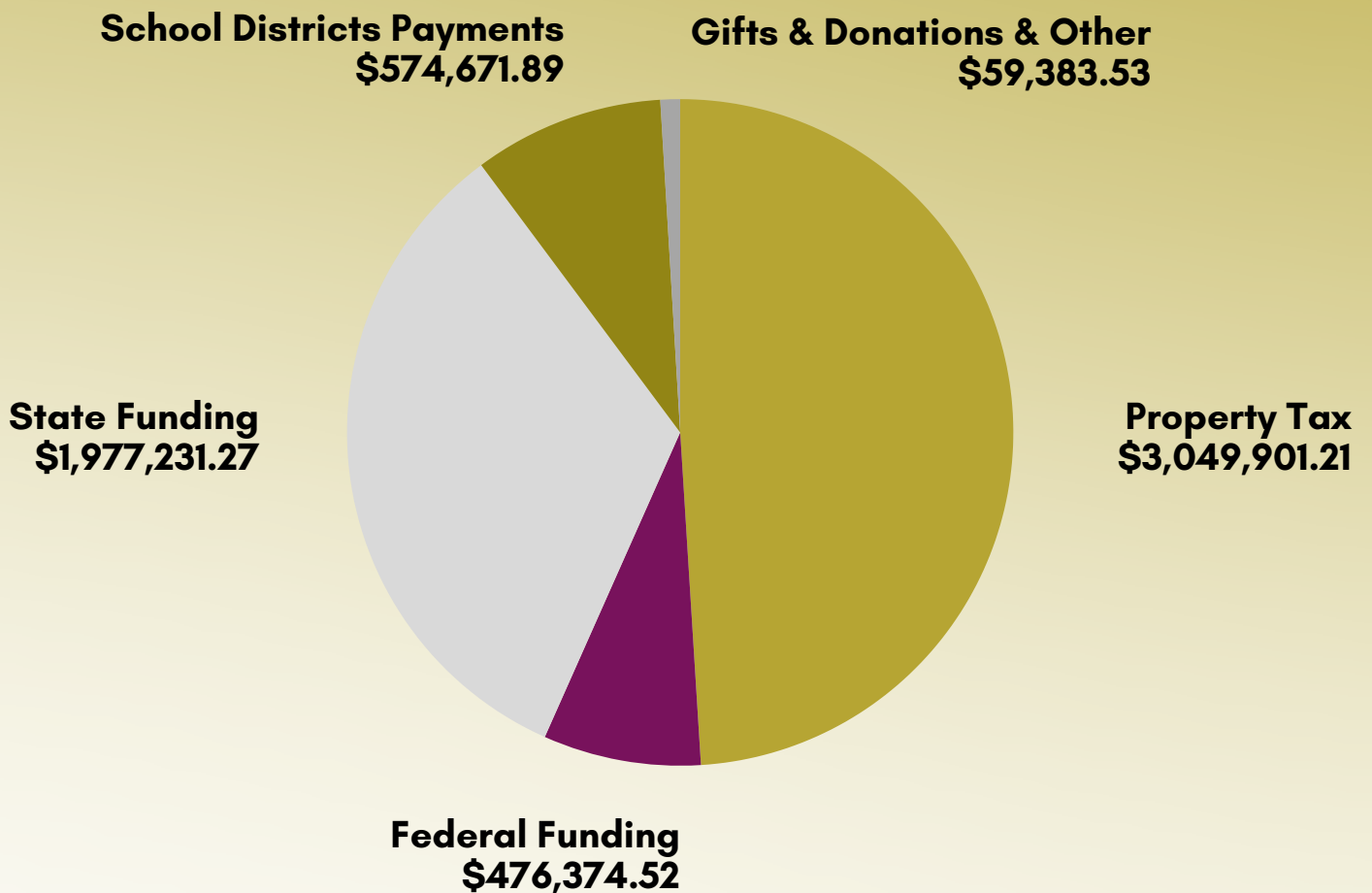
**Mandated Costs**  
**Non Mandated Costs**

# Financials

Defiance County Board of DD strives to be a good fiscal steward of our resources while always being mindful that the Defiance County taxpayers entrust us with public funds.

Along with local dollars the DCBDD receives Federal and State funds.

## 2023 Revenue Total: \$6,137,562.42



# Early Intervention



Early Intervention is a statewide system that provides coordinated early intervention (EI) services to families with children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) establishes EI programs in all 50 states. In Ohio, the Department of Children and Youth serves as the lead agency for the EI program.

The DCBDD EI team works with you in your home or other places you and your family spend time to develop a coordinated plan, using your existing supports and resources—and will build upon them—to learn to enhance your child’s learning and development.



### Number of Children Enrolled

2022: 84  
2023: 108



### Therapies Offered

Occupational  
Physical  
Speech

### Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters

The P.L.A.Y. Project® is a parent implemented, intensive early intervention program for young children with autism that is evidence-based.

### Proud Partner of



## Early Detection! Meet Beau

When Beau was born he showed signs of tension. He'd been able to hold his head up but he favored only one side when rolling or curling up, and he experienced symptoms of severe colic.



With the help of the family pediatrician, Beau’s family was connected with the EI team! He is making great progress due to Early Intervention and therapies.

Mom said, “EI helped make all of this possible and whenever we have the chance, we tell any and every one to trust EI with their child's developmental needs.”



**Thankful  
For**



Good Samaritan School provides educational services for students with significant needs, ages three through twenty-one. Students are enrolled through the school district in which they live. Good Samaritan School follows guidelines and regulations from Ohio Department of Education. The law requires that an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) which outlines goals, objectives and services for each student be developed. Student progress is reported quarterly with an annual review of the child's individualized education program (IEP). Students who attend Good Samaritan School are alternately assessed. The curriculum utilized by Good Samaritan School is The Unique Learning Systems Curriculum. This curriculum adheres to the Ohio Content Standards (Extended). All teachers are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and staff participate in professional development.

**Number of Students**  
*Preschool*  
24  
**School Age**  
38

## Succeeding in School



Khloe started Preschool at Good Samaritan School the day after she turned 3. She had behaviors, was nonverbal and did not tolerate any type of physical contact AT ALL.

Khloe is now 9. She still attends Good Samaritan School and has received Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy over the past 6 years. Her accomplishments are remarkable as her behaviors have decreased, she loves to talk to people and even gives out hugs. "Our family has been blessed to have Khloe attend Good Samaritan school where her Therapists, Teaching staff, and Nurse have helped shape our life for the better. They have helped Khloe gain independence in many areas and care for and teach her, even on her hardest days. They meet Khloe where she is and that is what is most important", stated Mom.



# Service and Support Administration

Defiance County Board of DD's Service and Support Administrators, or SSAs, coordinate and connect people with developmental disabilities to individualized supports in their community. SSAs get to know individuals and families and help them identify dreams for the future.

Service and Support Administrators (SSA) assist with connecting individuals with developmental disabilities to local resources while being their support for questions and services. The SSA works with those that we serve along with their providers, loved ones, and caregivers to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP). This plan is the guidebook that outlines the individual's goals and the plan formulated to get them there. The SSA responds to the needs of those that receive services all while supporting them in their goals to help them succeed. They are caseworkers, advocates, a resource guide and overall support.

## Services Coordinated

### **Service and Support Administration**

- Assistive Technology Services
- Case Management
- Individual Support Services
- Provider Services Coordination
- Remote Support
- Respite
- Residential Support
- Therapy Support
- Transportation
- Vocational and Employment Support

### **Community Services**

- Defiance County Self-Advocacy Group
- Community Integration Opportunities
- Healthy Relationships
- No Limits
- Volunteer Opportunities

### **Investigative Agent Services**

- Ensuring Health & Welfare

## Resources Rock



"After being referred by Defiance City Schools at the age of 14 we started working with the Defiance County Board of DD and it was obvious that they care about us and all of the individuals that they serve. Our SSA Kevin, has helped us access available supports within our community.

He checks in regularly about our needs and other ways the Board can help. He is always making us aware of resources that we can utilize such as Kaitlyn's Cottage and events that are going on. We have been connected with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities to figure out employment options to meet our goals.", stated Karin Litchfield, Avigail's Mom.



**Our SSA's have  
around 30  
individuals on  
their caseload.**



**Our SSA  
Department  
serves over 285  
individuals.**

# Defiance County Special Olympics

The mission of Special Olympics Ohio is to provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Through successful experiences in sports, individuals gain confidence and build a positive self-image which carries over into their home, job and community. Special Olympics aids in the physical, social and psychological development of the athletes.

**Special Olympics**  
Ohio



## **Sports Offered**

- Basketball
- Bocce Ball
- Cheerleading
- Flag Football
- Softball
- Track & Field



**Over  
50  
Athletes compete  
in Defiance  
County Special  
Olympics Sports!**

## **Activities Offered**

- Athlete Leadership
- Baseball/Softball Clinic
- Bowling League
- T-Ball



## **A Place of Belonging**

In 7th grade, Ambree received a flyer for Defiance County Special Olympics Basketball and her mom was reluctant due to Ambree's epilepsy but then gave in to letting her play. That's when her whole world changed. When she started basketball she was slow to talk to and interact with coaches and the other athletes. Over the season she slowly emerged and by the second year she was excited for practice and would run into the gym.

Mom says, "Since joining Special Olympics and being in every sport possible, I have watched this once struggling girl emerge into a shining star who at every practice runs off to her teammates as I hear them yell "Hey Ambree". They slap hands, hug or just smile and laugh together!"



# Provider and Resource Agencies

The DCBDD is proud of what we are able to do to help assist our individuals served to lead a life as independently as possible. We know that none of this would be possible without the support of our provider agencies.

Along with these resource agencies, we strive to provide the resources and services necessary to promote skill building. By creating these opportunities, it opens the door for our individuals served to become productive and active members in their community which leads to a more inclusive community for all who call Defiance home.

These providers employ Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who are the direct support resource for the individual. They assist in providing residential services, day services, grocery shopping, transportation and so much more.

## **Homemaker Personal Care Providers**

2Daughters, LLC  
ARC of Ohio  
CRSI- Champaign Residential Services Inc.  
Easy Living  
Filling Home  
Gentle Hearts-Helping Hands  
Genacross  
Independent Provider-  
Aaliyah Reyes  
Kaitlynn Reardon  
Kalieb Hanicq  
Kristy Rippetoe

## **Day Habilitation Providers**

ActiveDay  
Filling Home Community Center  
Northwest Products  
PC Workshop  
PeopleWorks  
Quadco Stryker  
Soaring Arts Studio  
Trinity Place  
We are Limitless

## **Other Resource Providers and Agencies**

Courageous Community Services  
Epilepsy Center of NW Ohio  
Henry County Transportation Network  
Kaitlyn's Cottage  
Partners In Employment  
Triangular Processing

# A Lifetime of Supports

- The DCBDD provides a lifetime of supports to individuals with developmental disabilities, from Early Intervention through retirement and beyond. The focus is to meet each developmental challenge with state of the art support and innovation.
- The DCBDD believes in helping find the least restrictive, most meaningful outcomes for individuals as they move through the transitional stages of life.
- The DCBDD believes in investing in the early years, through Early Intervention, preschool and school age programs, to help shape children to be empowered and strong adults.
- The DCBDD believes in safe places for children and adults to learn, to work, and to grow, cultivating self-worth, acceptance, and self-determination.
- The DCBDD believes in fostering strong connections with families, friends, and natural and paid supports, so that resources can be shared to benefit all.
- The DCBDD believes in being an active and important partner in the community by participating in its workforce, its growth, and its equality of all citizens.
- The DCBDD believes that all individuals have the ability to be self-determined when given proper supports and guidance, through planning that is individualized and person-centered.
- The DCBDD believes it should be a good steward of tax dollars by meeting the needs of the community in the most economical manner possible, without jeopardizing services to any individual.
- The DCBDD believes in speaking with one voice on behalf of all individuals with disabilities, with advocacy, passion, and respect.



# Advocacy Matters

When we think of what a Self-Advocate is, someone who speaks up for their rights and ensures they have access to services and life-long opportunities not unlike people without disabilities. Colleen is the face that comes to mind.



As a child who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy she has faced adversity throughout her life all while having a smile on her face. In this chapter of her life she keeps busy completing her goal of walking 1,000 steps a month. She also works diligently completing her household chores by folding washcloths and handkerchiefs and washing dishes. Colleen is the founding member of the Defiance County Self-Advocacy Group. She not only speaks up for what is best for herself but all those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities here in Defiance County.

Her faith has been her foundation. She regularly prays the rosary and when a friend calls in need she is always happy to say the 9 hour prayer. Colleen is a daughter, sister, friend, and a Defiance County Self-Advocate!

## DefiDoes



“When we were first connected to the Defiance County Board of DD we started working with our SSA Jean who helped link us up to various services and supports including Defiance County Special Olympics. Since her retirement, our new SSA Kevin has kept us informed of any and all services and supports that are available to Riley.

Kevin has helped us access things such as community events and activities to make our summer more enjoyable for the whole family.”

# Contact Us



UNITE. INSPIRE. BECOME

## Eligible for Services?

To see if you are eligible for services, contact  
(419) 782-6621

## Contact Us



**Phone Number**  
(419) 782-6621



**Fax**  
(419) 784-5199



**Address**  
195 Island Park Ave., Defiance, OH 43512



**Website**  
[www.defiancedd.org](http://www.defiancedd.org)



**DefianceCountyBoardofDD**



**[defiancecountybd.ofdevelop426](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1)**

