

UNITE. INSPIRE. BECOME.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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.

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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.



Who We Are

Employees

Employees: 56

Contracted: 4

Substitutes: 10

Office: 4
Early Intervention: 7
Facilities and Transportation: 3
Operations: 3
Good Samaritan School: 34
Service and Support Administration: 9



Services

Early Intervention

Ages 0-3

Good Samaritan School: Preschool and School Age Services

Ages 3-22

Service and Support Administration

3- Lifespan

Other DCBDD Services

Caring Connections Support Group

Defiance County C.I.A. (Community Inclusion Action) Group

Ages 14 and Up

Defiance County Special Olympics

Ages 8 and Up

Individual Support Services

No Limits

Ages 14 and Up

Recreational Activities

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 2025 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
- United Way of Defiance County Backpack Buddies Volunteers
- Border Battle Food Drive
- Chocolate Walk Volunteers
- Community Presentations
- DCBDD Chili Cookoff
- Defiance Night to Shine Sponsors
- Pull Together for Inclusion
- United Way of Defiance County Hot Air Balloon Festival Volunteers and more!

LEARN MORE

Website

www.defiandedd.org



DefianceCountyBoardofDD



[defiancecountybd.ofdevelop426](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC426...)



A Message From Our Superintendent



The Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities entered 2025 with a clear focus on strengthening safety across all environments in our agency. A major initiative this year was the planning and preparation for a new, fully integrated public-address system that will reach every room of our agency and Good Samaritan School. This upgrade will allow staff to communicate quickly and effectively during emergencies, reinforcing our commitment to protecting the people we serve and the professionals who support them. Our emphasis on safety reflects our broader dedication to proactive planning and continuous improvement.

Across all programs, growth and momentum remained strong. Early Intervention, Good Samaritan School, SSA services, and Special Olympics each continued to expand, offering more opportunities, individualized supports, and community engagement than ever before. These programs thrive because of the dedication of our staff and the trust families place in us. Their progress demonstrates the impact of coordinated teamwork and a shared belief in helping every person reach their fullest potential.

One of the most meaningful additions this year was the launch of Caring Connections, a new support group designed for parents and caregivers. This space allows families to come together, share experiences, exchange resources, and build relationships with others who understand their journey. To ensure caregivers can fully participate, we provide on-site care for their loved ones during meetings. Caring Connections has quickly become a valued part of our agency's commitment to strengthening families and fostering community.

Above all, 2025 reaffirmed what makes our organization exceptional: a culture rooted in compassion, collaboration, and respect. We take pride in supporting one another just as wholeheartedly as we support the individuals we serve. Our staff consistently demonstrates empathy, professionalism, and a willingness to go above and beyond. This culture is the foundation of every accomplishment we celebrate and every goal we pursue.

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

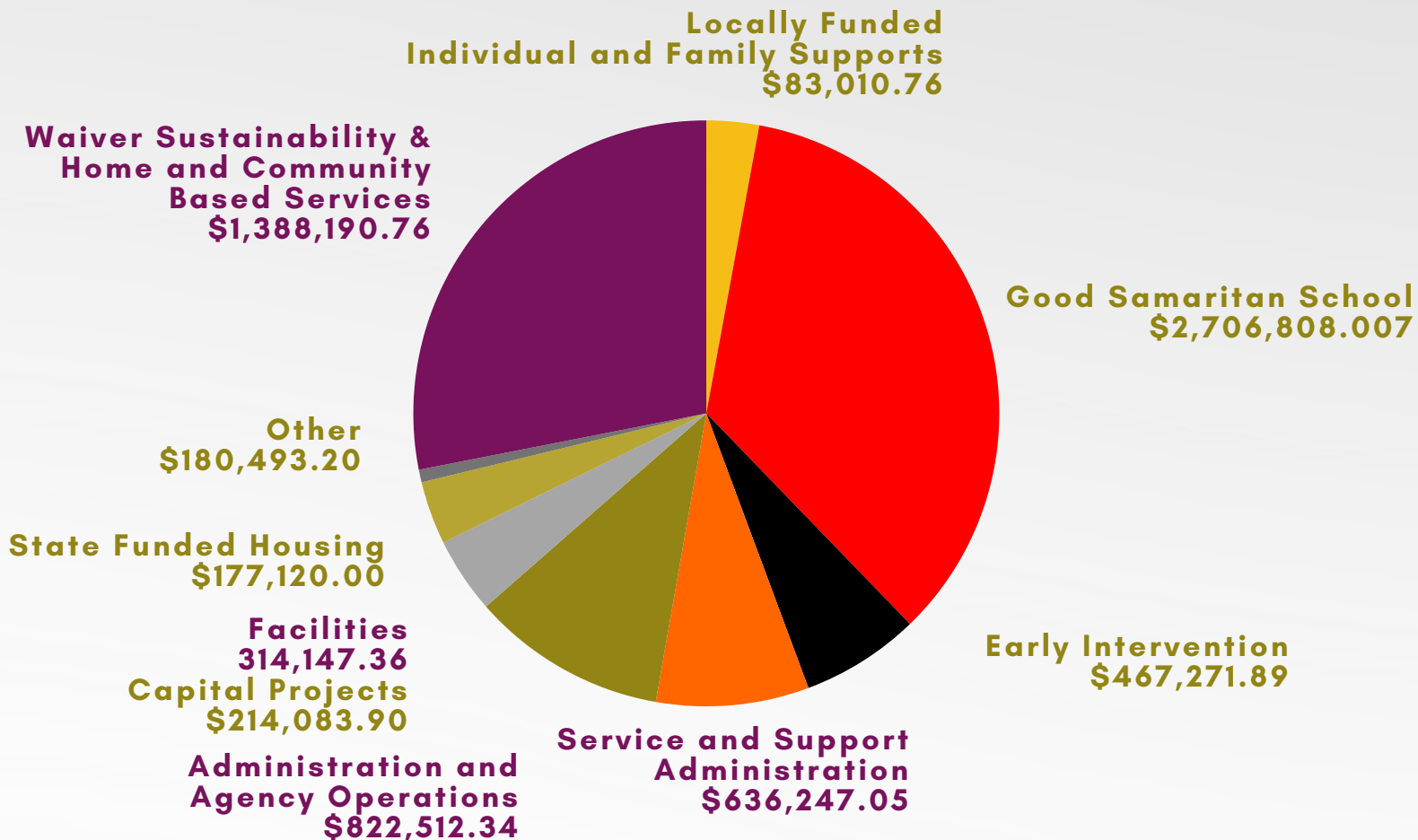
Defiance County Board of DD strives to be a good fiscal steward of our resources while always being mindful that the Defiance County taxpayers entrust us with public funds. Mandated Services per the Ohio Revised Code can be found by visiting, <https://dodd.ohio.gov/forms-and-rules/rules-in-effect/>

2025 Expenditures per O.A.C. 5123-4 and O.R.C. 5126.131

Mandated: \$3,161,097.51

Non Mandated: \$3,828,787.75

Total: \$6,989,885.26



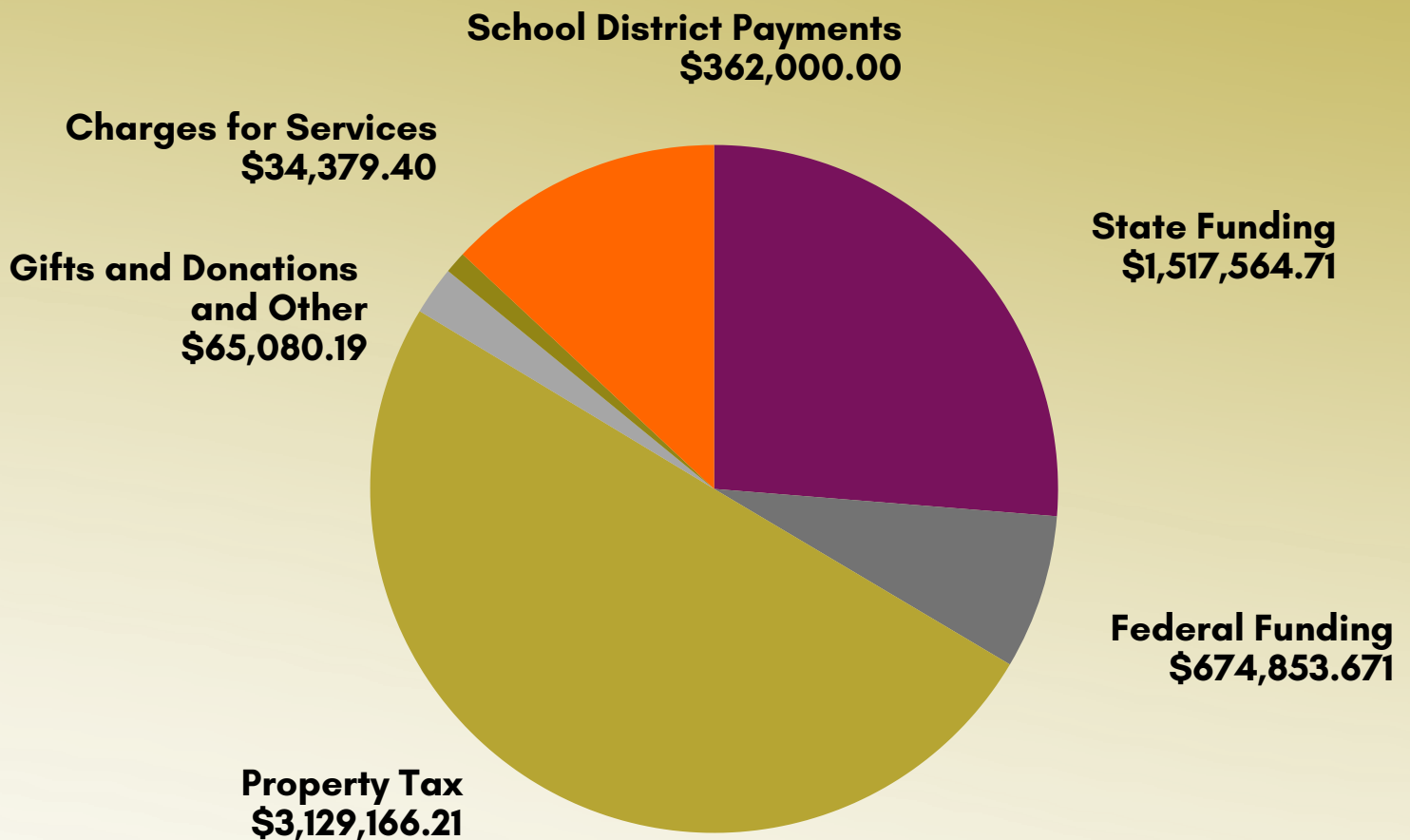
Mandated Costs
Non Mandated Costs

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.

2025 Revenue Total: \$5,783,44.18



Early Intervention



**Department of
Children & Youth**

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
2024: 94
2025: 91

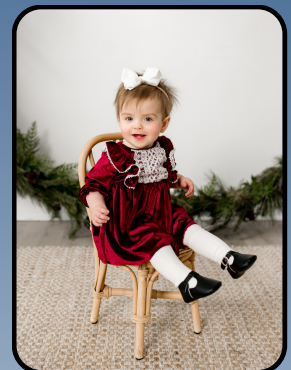


Therapies Offered

Occupational
Physical
Speech

Milestones in Motion!

Ellie was behind in her motor skills, she struggled to crawl and would roll to get where she wanted to go. You could see the frustration in her, knowing her mind wanted to do more than her body could. With the guidance and



support she went from rolling, to crawling, to pulling herself up, to walking and now she’s running.

Miss Katie has played such a meaningful role in Ellie’s progress and in my growth as a parent. What once felt overwhelming and helpless has been replaced with confidence and empowerment. We continue to use their services as we navigate dietary challenges, potty training

and all the everyday milestones of toddlerhood. EI has given us the tools, knowledge, and confidence to guide Ellie into becoming the happy, capable toddler she’s meant to be.

Contact Us or Make a Referral

Go online and
visit
www.northwestohioearlyintervention.org
or
call us at
(419) 665-3322.

Proud Partner of



**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 and Workforce. 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
23

School Age
37

Where Learning Meets Possibility



Emberly started off at Defiance City Preschool and as time progressed we started seeing some setbacks and we were referred to Good Samaritan School. We were put through to a Service and Support Administrator (SSA).

Once enrolled, things started to change. She has opened up to different people, as well as being more attentive and cuddly. Our SSA, Kevin was able to get her a pod swing to use at home for sensory input as well as self regulation. He has assisted us with numerous community inclusive opportunities all of which we would have never had if it wasn't for this program.

I honestly don't know what I'd do without this Agency and School, the opportunities that are provided for us, the Teachers, the Staff and our SSA we can't thank you all enough.

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
Individual Support Services
Provider Services Coordination
Remote Support
Respite
Residential Support
Transportation
Vocational and Employment Support

Community Services

Defiance County C.I.A. (Community Inclusion Action) Group
Community Integration Opportunities
Healthy Relationships
No Limits
Volunteer Opportunities

Major Unusual Incident Coordination

Ensuring Health & Welfare

Watch Her Shine

Born with microcephaly, doctors said Jaelyn might never walk or talk. They were so wrong! We are so incredibly thankful for the Defiance County Board of DD and Good Samaritan School. From Early Intervention until age 22, the amazing, passionate staff gave her the guidance and acceptance she deserved. We never had to worry about her care.

Now 29, she still receives excellent services from her SSA, Craig, and proudly competes in Special Olympics cheerleading and bowling! Jaelyn lights up every room she enters. We can't thank DCBDD enough for being such a huge part of her growth and inclusion.



**SSA
Caseloads**
Adults: 30
Children: 62



**Our SSA
Department
serves over 250
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 and Field



**Over
75**

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

Activities Offered

Baseball/Softball Clinics
Bowling League
T-Ball
Weight Training/
Powerlifting



Hope, Healing and Gratitude

When our daughter Ellie suffered a traumatic brain injury at just 10 months old, our family faced an uncertain future. Through every step of her journey, the Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been by our side.

Early Intervention gave Ellie and our family the tools, therapies, and hope we needed as she learned to walk and grow. At Good Samaritan School Preschool, speech, occupational, and physical therapy helped her build confidence, communication, and independence. Nurse Hellen's unwavering support through Ellie's epilepsy journey and our SSA's guidance have been invaluable. Today, Ellie is thriving in middle school, and Special Olympics has given her lasting friendships, confidence, and opportunities to shine.

As both a DCBDD employee and Ellie's parent, I've experienced firsthand the compassion and dedication of this incredible team. Their support has transformed our family's story into one of resilience, growth, and hope, and we will always be grateful.



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 County 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
COD Healthcare
CRSI- Champaign Residential Services Inc.
Easy Living
Filling Home
Gentle Hearts-Helping Hands
Independent Providers-
Aaliyah Reyes Heather Meenan Kristy Rippetoe
Angela Gamble Jeff Monroe Lois Iliff
Bonnie Downey Julie McGough Michelle Shackow
Darlene Doan Kalieb Hanicq Michelle Vogelsong
Theresa Rodriguez Barb Grant Kaitlynn Reardon

Day Habilitation Providers

Active Day
Filling Home Community Center
Northwest Products
PC Workshop
PeopleWorks
Quadco Stryker
Soaring Arts Studio
Triangular Processing
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.

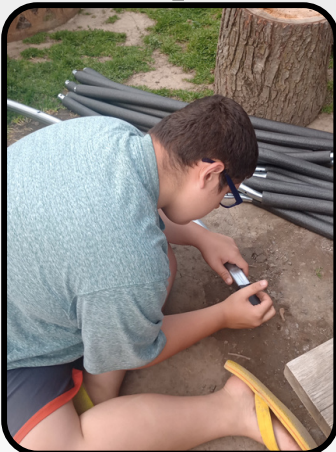


Growing Stronger Together

Early Intervention has been a great resource for Enzo and our entire family. We've worked with Help Me Grow for a year now and have noticed so much improvement in his play and communication. Not only is EI teaching him skills in ways that resonate with him, but teaching us as parents how to connect with him better.



Always Advancing



My son Antonio is one of the sweetest kids you could ever meet. He is very loving and extremely super creative. He also loves to sew and make his own stuffed animals, he loves to swim in our pool and watch SpongeBob. Antonio lives with us, his twin brother Anthony, a brother named Reese and a sister named Selena, a turtle named Schmurrtle and a dog Karma. He also has an older brother named Jonathan who lives his fiancé Tiffany and a baby girl Selena. Antonio had gone to Good Samaritan School for about 7 years and has received services through the Defiance County Board of DD. When my son started receiving services he was completely non verbal and had a rough time adjusting to being in a classroom or just sitting still for that matter.

He's had many successes but the most exciting success has come from this last school year as he transitioned to Defiance High School. Our Service and Support Administrator, Kate Blakeley has helped our family so much with this change. She set up visits so both of our boys could visit the class before making this huge decision. She has absolutely gone above and beyond for our family and is there whenever we need her. Any time we needed help with resources, she has been there to help guide us. She has also helped us recently to get a trampoline for our children so that they can self regulate better when upset and get out the extra energy as well as exercise.

We look forward to the progress he will make in the future but we celebrate the progress he has made in the past. This is due to the work that Kate and the Good Samaritan school staff have put in over the years.

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



DefianceCountyBoardofDD



[defiancecountybd.ofdevelop426](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC426...)

