

# Weekly Focus

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

*The mission of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.*

## BE Opens New Facility

The Business Enterprise (BE) program's mission is to create and support career opportunities for entrepreneurs that are blind who operate businesses throughout the state. Recently, four new micro-market locations were opened at the Defense Supply Center and the Defense Finance and Accounting Services in Columbus.



*Checking out the new vending machines*

In August, BE was asked to relocate a convenience store in one of the main buildings from the third floor to the first floor to replace a cafeteria which had closed. Yvette Shackleford, the operator, was excited to have this new opportunity to expand her business. The assigned Business Specialist, Lisa Taylor, took on the challenges of the transition. The facility was given a fresh look



*Checkout at the BE convenience store*

through the addition of new fixtures, coolers and maple cabinetry which is one piece of the new branding strategy for BE convenience stores. Yvette sells fresh and frozen food, pastries, snacks, beverages and sundry items and is in the process of adding hot soup for the fall and winter season.

During the first month in the new location, Yvette experienced a 68% increase in sales over the same month last year. This is one example of how the Business Enterprise Program performs its mission and is helping create career opportunities. Other BE locations are planning on visiting this newly renovated site to see if this model is something they wish to replicate.

## Employment First Counselors Start at OOD

This week saw new employees start their orientation by spending time learning about OOD and more specifically, the role and responsibilities that they are each going to have in eliminating the Waiting List and assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. The elimination of the Waiting List and providing services to individuals with disabilities continues to be a top priority of the agency and these new employees are going to help us achieve these goals. Welcome to OOD!



*Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin addresses new staff that will assist moving individuals with disabilities from sheltered work to integrated employment.*

## Holiday Food Baskets



Throughout the month of November, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities will be participating in the Mid-Ohio Foodbank's Holiday Food Basket Campaign. Our DDD and VR Director's Advisory Groups (DAG) will be leading this campaign.

This holiday season help provide meals for those struggling in your community. Every \$1 received can provide four meals.

There are four ways to get involved:

- Bring in food items and drop off in each area to help fill the Mid-Ohio Foodbank pantries.
- Tax-deductible donations are needed to help purchase fresh produce, meat, dairy and bread. Each year, 36% of the food distributed is fresh produce. You can drop off your donations to volunteers in the 400 building or Abbie Frase in HR of the 150 building.
- With a \$5 donation, you can wear jeans any TWO Thursdays from October 31 through November 28. When donating, please indicate which two Thursdays you will be wearing jeans.
- There will be a breakfast sale on November 7 and a pie sale on November 21. Watch your e-mail for more details!

## Go Vote

Ohio's General Election is next week. On November 6, 2013, polling places across the Buckeye State will open at 6:30 a.m. and remain open until 7:30 p.m. One of the great privileges and responsibilities we hold dear as Americans is the right to vote. Voting is taking an active step in helping to shape the direction of our state and nation. Regardless of whom you choose to vote for or issues you support, I hope that you take the opportunity to vote this year.

## Daylight Savings Time Ends

Like it or not, Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday morning at 2:00 a.m. It is time to "fall back" an hour thus allowing us to gain an extra hour of sleep this weekend.



The main purpose of Daylight Saving Time (called "SummerTime" in many places in the world) is to make better use of daylight. We change our clocks during the summer months to move an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. The idea of daylight saving was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin during his travels as an American delegate in Paris in 1784, in an essay, "An Economical Project."

Under federal legislation enacted in 1986, Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. began at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of April and ended at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Revisions to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. beginning in 2007, though Congress retained the right to revert to the

1986 law should the change prove unpopular or if energy savings are not significant. Going from 2007 forward, Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of March and ends at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of November.

Bottom line: We get to enjoy the hour of sleep we lost last April on Sunday morning.

For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1476.

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**Number of Individuals with Disabilities on Waiting List**

