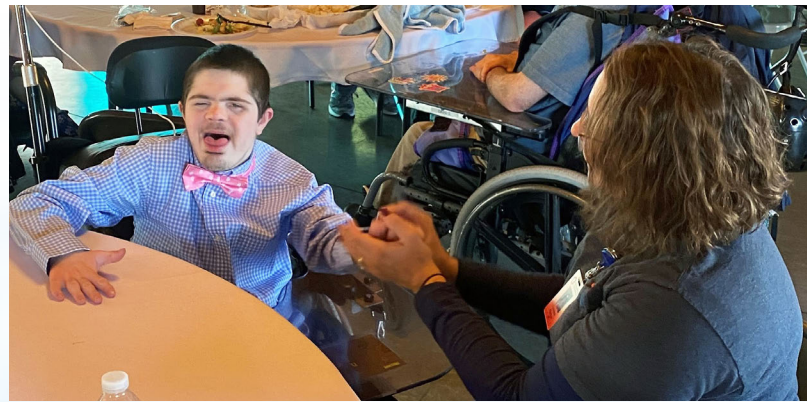
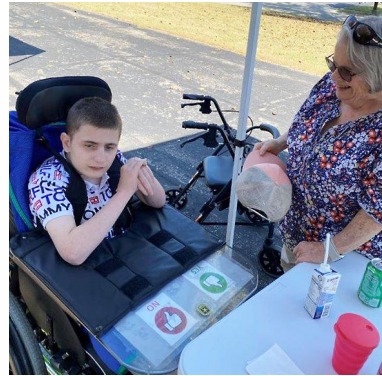


THE COMPANION

Volume
Twenty Two
Issue Two



TOGETHER AGAIN

After three years we were excited to have the Annual Family Picnic at Heinzerling Community at the end of September. We had a beautiful day to be together and share stories and meet with our resident families. Over 100 family members joined with their loved ones in our shelter house and outdoor sensory park, including

parents, grandparents, and siblings. It was so nice to come together again! Thank you to everyone who came and the Heinzerling Community staff who helped to organize this special opportunity. We look forward to many more picnics in the future!

Director's Corner



Several years ago, the words "Together Again" seemed like such a distant concept. Fast forward to 2023 and this year has brought us back to being together again in so many wonderful ways. The pages of this issue of *The Companion* showcase how much this has been made possible. From

residents and staff attending community outings to volunteer groups visiting Heinzerling residents, in-person fundraising events, large staff appreciation activities, and resident family gatherings, Heinzerling

Community is enjoying our community once again. This has been so important for our residents, staff, and families. We truly appreciate all the support we receive from our community and look forward to many more opportunities to get "Together Again" next year and for many years to come.

Robert E. Heinzerling
Executive Director





Our Mission:

The mission of the Heinzerling Community is to provide a loving and nurturing environment that enriches the development, education and quality of life of individuals with severe or profound developmental disabilities.

What's Happening

Upcoming Events

February 23, 2024
Heinzerling Community Gala
Grange Corporate Headquarters

Purchase Tickets and Register
at www.heinzgala.givesmart.com

June 22 -23, 2024
Greg Geiger's Memorial
Mt. Al's Roundup
20th Anniversary
Brian Rabbit Shooting Sports
Zanesville, OH

Register at www.mtalsroundup.com

Employment Opportunities

Heinzerling Community has a variety of opportunities available. For more information visit our website at www.heinzerling.org or call our Jobline at (614) 255-3900. Heinzerling Community, an Equal Opportunity employer, does not discriminate in any of its employment practices or services on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, ethnicity, pregnancy, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other status protected by law.



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Use your smart
phone and scan
the QR code
(left) to take you
to our website!

Acknowledgements

Associate Recognition

Congratulations to these Associates for completing the following years of service between May 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

20 years

Laura Baldwin
Candace Herbert
Ruth Williams

40 years

Nancy Kostrevski

Welcome



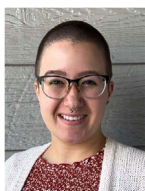
We welcome **Mathew Thomas**, BBA, in his new role at Heinzerling Developmental Center as the Social Services Case Manager. Before this new position, Mathew worked at Heinzerling as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Mathew has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Healthcare Management from Franklin University. He has four years of experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Mathew is married to his wife, Desirae, and they share a 7-month-old son named Thomas. In his free time, Mathew enjoys spending time with his family, completing house projects, or playing video games with his two older brothers.



Congratulations to **Connie Carter** in her new role as the Heinzerling Community Homes Manager. Previously Connie worked for Heinzerling for 23 years and became a Unit Manager before taking a position with Arc Industries. She recently returned to our organization, and we are so glad to have her fill this vital role. Connie is married with three daughters and three grandchildren. In her free time, she likes to go camping and cruising. Welcome Back, Connie!



We welcome **Guendelina Jones** to the Heinzerling Developmental Center as our new QIDP. Guendelina has 22 years of experience as an LSW in social work and 7 years of experience in the developmental disability field. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and an Associate of Applied Science in Social Services. Guendelina has two children, six grandchildren, and one sister. In her free time, Guendelina enjoys attending church activities and drinking coffee.



Ashleigh Johnston joins Heinzerling Community as the new QIDP for the Heinzerling Memorial Foundation. Ashleigh holds a Master's in Social Work from The University of New England and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Akron. She has two sisters, a 4-year-old nephew, a 6-month-old niece, and a best friend who has two children. In her free time, Ashleigh enjoys reading, creating mosaic art, and spending time with her niece and nephew.

OHCA Excellence Award



Congratulations to Danielle South, Unit Manager at Heinzerling Memorial Foundation for being selected as the winner of the 2023 OHCA Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Excellence Award. Danielle was honored at a special celebration luncheon held during the OHCA ID/DD Summit on Nov. 13th. We are so very proud of her.

Danielle came to Heinzerling fresh out of high school, and quickly found herself a part of the Heinzerling team, or as we affectionally call it, the "Heinzerling family." She has worked for a number of years as a direct care professional with a caring, heart and a sincere ambition to enrich the lives of all the residents in her care. As a Unit Mentor and eventually the Trainer for all new staff, she has been able to share this passion with so many new employees.

For the last 6 years, Danielle has excelled as a Unit Manager, mentoring her staff to give optimal quality care by setting high expectations. Danielle leads by example and provides guidance when it is needed. Should a crisis situation arise, Danielle does not hesitate to take the lead, while keeping calm and helping staff stay focused. She is not afraid to speak up, and her communication is consistent, caring and genuine, not only with the staff but all team members.

Danielle is not only exceptional in her advocacy for quality care by developing staff to be the best employees they can be, but this past year, she shared her testimony of the impact Direct Support Professionals have in the lives of our residents before the State of Ohio House committee. Her words were heartfelt, and often very personal, as she explained the level of care a resident living in an ICF requires, and also helped this legislative committee understand that a DSP is so much more.... a friend, a mentor, and sometimes the only "family" the individuals know.

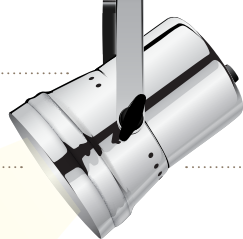
Just as Danielle wants everyone to understand the role of a DSP is so much more than a provider of daily care, we want her to know that we see her as so much more than just a Unit Manager. She is a friend, a mentor, and she is a cherished member of the "Heinzerling family."

Senior Companion Program

Heinzerling Developmental Center welcomes back the Senior Companion Program, developed by Catholic Social Services to address two specific issues within the senior population in Franklin County. These are loneliness, isolation, and the underuse of resources active seniors have to give. The Senior Companion program aims to reduce isolation and provide peer companionship for older people and adults with developmental disabilities.

We welcome back **Justine Muassa**, who served as a Senior Companion for our community before the COVID-19 pandemic. The residents and staff are thrilled to see her again. Justine spends quality one-on-one time with residents, going for walks, participating in group activities, listening to music, reading, and sometimes just sitting quietly and enjoying the sounds of nature.

Development



2023 Grant Highlights

At Heinzerling Community, we are very fortunate to receive several grants during the year to support the specialized needs of our residents. We are very grateful to the following organizations for their recent support of our residents.

Aladdin Shriners Hospital Association For Children

Support to purchase (50) orthopedic mattresses and two large gait trainers for our younger residents.

The Beck Foundation

Support to purchase special needs software applications for touch-screen learning.

The Columbus Foundation

Support to purchase (2) bladder scanners and (2) bladder scanner stands for detecting bladder infections.

Good Shepherd Foundation of Ohio

Support to purchase a VisiLift Plus Interactive Multi-Touch Screen for our Community Homes to be used for sensory and tactile-based learning.

The Thomas R. Gross Family Foundation

Support to purchase manikin body simulators for on-site nursing training.

Harry C. Moores Foundation

Support to purchase (41) accessible wardrobe dressers and bedside cabinets for our adult resident bedrooms at Heinzerling Developmental Center.

The Country Club at Muirfield Village Foundation

Support to purchase a VisiLift Plus Interactive Multi-Touch Screen for Heinzerling Memorial Foundation to be used for sensory and tactile-based learning for our children.

Walmart Foundation

Support for resident activities and programming.

Golf Classic Reaches New Heights



On a sunny September morning, the Heinzerling Community held the 37th Annual Golf Classic at Heritage Golf Club. We had a successful event with 24 foursomes and 21 Sponsors for this year's outing, resulting in \$53,000 raised to support our organization's mission. We are very grateful to our many corporate partners and individual supporters who made this event possible. In addition, a special thank you goes out to Heritage Golf Club for being a great host for our event and to AVI Foodsystems for being our lunch sponsor. Congratulations to Craig Neal, Brian Schneider, Josh Smith, and Tristin Weaver for taking first place and Wanner Metalworx for taking second place for the best foursome scramble score.

EVENT SPONSORS

AVI Foodsystems	Huntington Bank	Minuteman Press Dublin	Qual-Med Supply
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MAJOR SPONSORS

Medical Mutual/Gallagher

HOLE SPONSORS

CHW Advisors	Diamond Hill	Howell Land Development	HPSI Services of Ohio
JS2 System Solutions	Tony Penzone (Morgan Stanley)	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Plante Moran
Quantum Health	Skilled Care Pharmacy	United Medical Supply	Wanner Metalworx

BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Gallagher	Murfield Energy
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PHOTO SPONSORS

Gallagher

Recharge Rally Partnership

RECHARGE RALLY

We are very grateful to the Recharge Rally organization for their continued support of our residents. This past August, the group completed a very unique rally course that started in Cleveland, went through Louisville, then over the mountains of Chattanooga, and finished at the beautiful Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in North Carolina. Throughout the trip, ralliers raised funds for Heinzerling Community residents. More than \$3,800 was raised to purchase adaptive technology equipment and art supplies. This includes specialized iPad holders for wheelchairs and adaptive switches for triggering choices on special needs applications and supplies for painting and craft projects during the year.



Programming



Activities Abound at Heinzerling Memorial Foundation

We're getting out in the community more than ever this year! Going to our usual favorite spots such as Buddy Ball, The Columbus Clippers, Hilliard Pool, Grove City YMCA Splash pad, AMC movie theater, Get Air, and the Columbus Zoo. We've also been going to all the fun-filled fall places. We took multiple trips to the Circle S Farms for the pumpkin patch and hay rides, Lynd Fruit Farm for apple picking, Pumpkins Aglow at the Franklin Park Conservatory, and the Disney emersion experience.

We had a lot of fun for disabilities awareness month with exciting and engaging activities. Letting our staff walk in our residents' shoes and trying to get them to see a new perspective on what it would be like to live with disabilities. We love a good spirit week! So, we kicked off DSP week (Direct Support Professional) with a fun carnival theme. Staff and residents dressed up as something silly for each day, including Mustache Monday, Twin Tuesday, Unity Wednesday, tie-dye Thursday, and Clown Friday.



We hope to continue getting residents out for even more field trips in the next few winter months. We want to make our resident's lives as exciting and enriched as we possibly can!

Heinzerling Developmental Center

We kicked off the month of May with a Star Wars party on May 4th! Residents dressed up in their favorite movie characters and we played sensory games. During the evenings, we enjoyed movie nights and bonfires at the shelter house. The month of May also kicked off our Buddy Ball season with several residents attending weekly games under the lights at The Mirolo Dream Field at Mount Carmel Stadium. We started the summer season off right with a 1st Day Summer Party at the Outdoor Sensory Park at Heinzerling Community with a water game, a picnic, and sensory activities. When it was too hot out, we enjoyed Art with Lisa inside and went to many local restaurants to celebrate resident birthdays. This fall we organized a large "Trunk of Treat" event for residents, resident families, and staff. Everyone dressed up in their best costumes and enjoyed going around to all of the cars that were decorated with a different theme. So much fun! We plan to make this an annual event.

Community Homes In Action

Throughout the spring and summer, our community home residents have enjoyed many parties and community outings. We got festive with a Cinco de Mayo party, a Memorial Day celebration, a 1st Day Summer Party at the Outdoor Sensory Park, and an end-of-summer cookout. Also, we took trips to the Columbus Zoo, Hilliard pool and participated in Buddy Ball. During really hot days or when it rained, we did a lot of arts and crafts using mixed media, Shrinky Dinks, and pasta. Other activities included movie nights under the stars, making tie-dye shirts, and suncatchers. We are looking forward to celebrating all of the holidays from October through December.



Assistive Technology



Assistive Technology in Action

Over the past few years, during the COVID pandemic, Heinzerling staff had to find ways to develop on-site programs and activities for our residents. At that time, our residents were largely kept home to keep them safe from the virus. During this period, we began incorporating more touch screen technologies in our programming to enhance our residents' sensory awareness and provide interactive, fun, and engaging activities. This technology also helped to bring the outside world into the Heinzerling Community and allow families to video call with their loved ones. This technology has included iPads with special needs visual and auditory stimulation applications. In addition, we have used larger touch screens in more limited settings.

Thanks to the generous support of several funders, we have been able to purchase the latest in touch-screen technology learning for individuals with disabilities. The Visilift was recently purchased for use in our smaller community homes, and in our children's building. There

"The Visilift provides our residents with many benefits, including increased sensory stimulation and fine motor skill practice. It also helps them learn cause and effect as they touch the screen and see the action that happens. As a teacher working with the residents, I like the ability to adjust the volume/sounds, the different levels of activities (some are very "busy" and interactive and some are slower and calmer), and the varied difficulty levels. Also, I can use the programs with all my residents, regardless of their level of cognitive functioning or tolerance to sensory input. The Visilift is able to tilt and move up and down to meet the resident precisely at their level of positioning so they can see the screen clearly and interact with it despite their limited range of motion. Even our visually impaired residents love the large screen and the fun sounds the different activities make."

– **Heather Smith**, *Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional, Heinzerling Community Homes*

are many exciting features with the Visilift that provide our residents with opportunities for additional learning, sensory stimulation, fine motor skill development, communication, and social interactions.

The Visilift is an ADA-compliant interactive learning station designed specifically for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The VisiLift comprises a 55-inch LCD touchscreen with an attached PC and external speakers that rest on a height-adjustable frame. In addition, this equipment has manual tilt facility enabling it to rotate to any angle from vertical to completely flat. This

allows individuals in wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility devices to access the touch screen for hands-on activities and learning. It can even be used by individuals lying in prone positions.

The VisiLift has built-in specialized educational software, Imagine, designed to teach choice-making skills, cause & effect, sensory awareness, progressive numeracy, literacy, and science concepts. This software includes 300 premade activities incorporating multiple choice questions with symbols, educational themes, triggered touch-sensitive images, games, sensory touch-enabled sensory activities, and online painting exercises.

These activities encourage movement, social interaction, visual attention, and sensory awareness. In addition, this software has a remote editor allowing our teachers to create individualized lessons for residents and upload these to the VisiLift through cloud computing.

We are really excited to utilize the Visilift to align with our resident's "Individual Plan" person-centered goals of communication, sensory awareness, and interaction with others. This assistive technology combines a multi-sensory touch screen with built-in educational software that supports skill development, sensory stimulation, communication, and learning for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Visilift has made learning more engaging and fun for our residents!



Staff Appreciation



The Heinzerling Community Staff Appreciation Committee has been committed to celebrating and appreciating our staff this year. This has been done in a multi-level approach to help with retention, morale, and workplace culture. We aim to acknowledge staff efforts by providing exemplary care to our residents. Below are some of the staff appreciation efforts that we have done:

- The HC Courtesy Committee delivers greeting cards to staff to honor years of service, birthdays, and other special occasions. These greeting cards are designed with resident artwork.
- We had a Valentine's Day Bake Sale for all staff.
- There was a salad bar and smashed potato bar for all staff.
- The committee sponsored a cheesecake competition.
- We have had several "Spirit Weeks" where each day, staff were encouraged to dress in a fun way and to wear their Heinzerling swag.
- We had a "leprechaun" deliver green fortune cookies on St. Patrick's Day to all shifts.
- In the shelter house, we held a yogurt parfait event and had a raffle for resident artwork and Heinzerling swag. We also donated Cleveland Guardians game tickets donated by AVI Foodsystems.
- We also hosted a root beer float event with another raffle for donated WNCI Celebrity Softball Classic tickets.
- We had a taco truck for all shifts.
- To help celebrate Nursing and Teacher Appreciation Week we had a Luau-themed party with food for staff.
- Third shift was treated to a pancake breakfast.
- All staff received a new Heinzerling T-shirt!
- There was a Sweet Tooth Ice Cream Truck and Bingo Event for all 3 shifts where staff could win resident art and gift cards.
- DSP Appreciation Week was celebrated with a Carnival-Themed Event with yard games, dancing, karaoke, donated cotton candy, and popcorn with a special appearance from Ann Weisent (DODD) who met and danced with staff and read the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's proclamation recognizing DSP Appreciation Week to our staff.
- We had a Trunk or Treat, where all Heinzerling Community staff came to enjoy trick or treat with their families and our residents in costume, and each building handed out a special treat for staff.
- Each home had a Halloween Party.
- We held a staff turkey bowling event for staff.
- Heinzerling Developmental Center had an OSU Tailgate Party.

The year will end with a special Holiday Luncheon for all staff at Heinzerling Community.

In Memoriam: Sandi Brooks

Heinzerling Community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Sandra (Sandi) Brooks this past fall. Sandy was a long-time employee of Heinzerling Community. She was a valued part of the team and cared so much for the residents at Heinzerling. Below, a dear friend of Sandi's, Dee Thompson, explains what Sandi meant to her as a friend and Heinzerling Community.

I was given the opportunity to write about someone I think the world of; my mind has been flooded with so many memories... It takes a long time to grow an old friendship. Sandra Kay Brooks worked at Heinzerling Community for 33 years before retiring this year. Sandi was a hoot; she would rather clown in a picture than ever be serious in one. Being light-hearted and fun was a part of her every day.

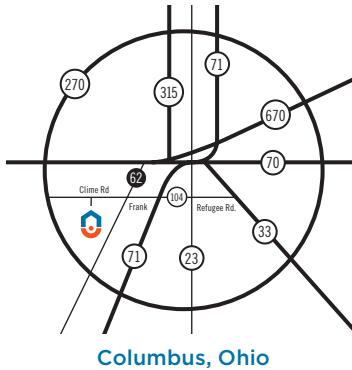
Sandi was an Environmental Services Associate for many years, then moved up when the opportunity came open as an Environmental Services Supervisor. Sandi worked under Billie Harris, Mr. Ken Hibbert, Bill McGowan, and Randy Dowler as Director of Environmental Services. She absolutely LOVED the residents. Sandi enjoyed cutting up with many residents, their families, and staff. Sandi was particularly fond of Tina Deibel, Ricky Butch, and her birthday buddy Tom Gray. Of course, she has cut up with all the residents.

As a Michigan fan, she started a major challenge at HDC. Sandi LOVED a good challenge. I never saw her back down from one. As a community, we were ALL OSU fans, but our department liked to spice things up and have a bit of spirited competition. So,

we became Michigan fans and I think she is one of the biggest Michigan fans EVER. Once that happened, it was on.... Sandi knew game schedules, players' names, and their stats; she would fuss at Coach Harbaugh through the television when the Wolverines were struggling... Over the years we learned so many dances and cheers. It was all for the residents and staff at the fall harvest party, where we had the OSU vs. Michigan football game on, and a king and queen were chosen each year. These are memories I will cherish forever.

Sandi Brooks definitely put the Community in Heinzerling, and her presence will be missed daily at Heinzerling. Godspeed, my friend.

— Dee Thompson



Heinzerling Community Gala



Join us for our annual auction gala! We are excited to bring our supporters together again to raise funds to support Heinzerling residents. This will include one-of-a-kind resident artwork, a silent and live auction, mission moments, exceptional food, beverages, and exciting entertainment throughout the evening. At this special event, we will highlight our residents, resident families, staff, and community partners. You may purchase your tickets or support our residents with a special donation at www.heinzgala.givesmart.com.

Check out our Development Landing Page!

To learn more about Heinzerling and our residents, make a contribution, or to support their quality of life www.heinzerling.org/donate

The proceeds from the "Heinzerling Community Gala" will support programs and therapy interventions that enhance the lives of the children and adults at Heinzerling Community. This includes attending community outings such as swimming, zoo trips, concerts, theater performances, art workshops, museum attractions, local sporting events, and fairs. In addition, funds raised will be used to provide residents with specialized therapy equipment, assistive technology, and adaptive learning toys to support the growth and development of our residents.

WHEN: February 23, 2024 (6:30PM-9:30PM)

WHERE: Grange Insurance, 671 S. High Street

TICKETS: You can purchase tickets at www.heinzgala.givesmart.com

SPONSORSHIPS: We offer opportunities for companies and organizations to support the "Heinzerling Community Gala." Sponsorship packages include special event recognition at the event, corporate signage at the event, event tickets, and acknowledgment on the gala website, Heinzerling Community website, and social media page. You can purchase sponsorships at www.heinzgala.givesmart.com

AUCTION ITEMS: We are in need of auction items in the form of gift baskets, gift cards, vacations, entertainment, and sports attractions.

If you are interested in donating an item for our silent or live auction, or sponsoring our event, please contact Brian Asbury at 614-272-8888 or basbury@heinzerling.org