



February 2017

# Pioneering Possibilities

*“Making connections to promote abilities and enrich lives”*

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS FEATURE STORY

### What is your big dream?

Meet Tom, a 14-year-old 8th grader at Sheridan Middle School (SMS) in Thornville, OH. Tom has received services from the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities (PCBDD) since the age of five, but Tom is a young man full of life and with many talents!



Early on, Tom’s teachers identified learning difficulties associated with his intellectual disability, and developed an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for additional supports to ensure his success in school. Tom, a determined middle school student, eager

to learn new skills, make friends, and live out his “Big Dream” of becoming a basketball player, is not going to let obstacles get in the way of achieving his goal to be part of a team.

Mr. Wolfe, SMS teacher, shared the following: I have been very proud to have been Tom’s teacher these past two years. I’ve seen a wonderful improvement in Tom over time. He’s well liked around the building by the staff and his peers. Tom brings a smile to my face each day and makes my day better.”

In October 2016, Tom was selected to be inducted into the SMS Junior National Honor Society. His mother Theresa shared, “even though Tom is learning at a lower grade level, SMS Guidance Counselor, Ms. Fox, and his classmates were happy to acknowledge Tom’s efforts and improved grades. Tom’s father and I are pleased his teachers and classmates continue to encourage and recognize Tom in ALL the great things he achieves”.

Tom is involved with PCBDD Summer Camp and Camp Echoing Hills where he provides support to a group of younger peers. He also likes to play video games on his X-box, play with his dog, Junior, and just hang out at home with his family.

Tom wants to try out for and be involved with the Sheridan Generals Basketball Team next season. And with the support of his parents, teachers, PCBDD, and friends, anything is possible for Tom because. Tom has a bright future and is well on his way... one smile at a time!

These publications focusing on “**Celebrating Success**” are intended to bring awareness to our communities and the understanding that everyone has



Perry County Job and Family Services



talents and abilities and people who have developmental disabilities have a lot to offer to make this a better place to live!

To learn more about the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities (PCBDD), or the Academy for Leadership Abilities® (ALA) go to [www.perrydd.org](http://www.perrydd.org) or follow us on Facebook.

## DD AWARENESS MONTH KICK-OFF EVENT

**ALWAYS THERE**  
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**ATTENTION .... ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS!**

It is That Time of Year Again!



THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD is recruiting members for our  
**“COMMUNITY BASKETBALL GAME”**

VS.

THE PERRY COUNTY COUGARS

**Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**Tip Off 6:00 pm**

**New Lexington High School Gym**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Non-perishable food items will be collected the entire month of March and will be donated to local pantries

To sign up contact Lindsey Jago, at [Ljago@perrydd.org](mailto:Ljago@perrydd.org) or call 740-342-3542, with your name, contact info and t-shirt size by **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

Special half time performance by the Cougar Cheerleaders and New Lex Middle School Cheer squad... And much more!

**ALWAYS THERE**  
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**MARCH IS  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES AWARENESS  
MONTH!**

Perry Co. Board of DD is celebrating our 50th Anniversary joined by all 88 County Boards in Ohio throughout this entire year, and invite you to join the celebration!

As part of our yearlong celebration, and to kick off March Awareness month we would like to thank the folks of Perry County for their continuous support!

We would like to hear from you...

Please help us write our story...

- ❖ Have you had the opportunity to watch PCBDD transform over the years?
- ❖ Has PCBDD provided services to you or your family?
- ❖ Are you currently employed with PCBDD?
- ❖ Have you ever worked, volunteered, served with PCBDD?
- ❖ Have you been involved with PCBDD on community partnership projects?

*If you or someone you know has a “Celebrating Success” story to share, please contact Lindsey Jago, Outreach Coordinator at [l.jago@perrydd.org](mailto:l.jago@perrydd.org) or 740-342-3542.*

2017 is going to be a great year for PCBDD, and we are excited to share it with you!

PCBDD Board Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2017, 5:30 p.m., at PCBDD Administrative Office located at 499 North State St. For questions, please contact Belinda Lee



Perry County Job and Family Services

