

# Chapter 16: Recognition

## 1950s

### **History of the Program for the Mentally Retarded in Ashtabula County- 1954-1980**

In March 1954, a group of parents met to explore possibility of developing a school for the retarded in Ashtabula County. There was no law to educate such children.

The Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens was formed. The Council organized and equipped classes, hired teachers, raised funds through many projects and established a constant program of public education . They opened classes in 1955 with 7 students in a local church.

In 1956, the Ashtabula Council for Retarded Citizens was incorporated as a non-profit organization and began to receive financial assistance from the State, from the United Appeal; and tuition from local boards of education for children from their districts.

The local association is a member of the Ohio Association for Retarded Citizens, giving strength to moving the program forward for legislation and a long-range development of a total program for the retarded.

The Council continued to operate classes, and in 1959, the voters of Ashtabula County passed an operating levy. In 1960, by state law, the operation of the community classes became the responsibility of the Child Welfare Board, who employed a director to operate the program. In the years that followed, a sheltered workshop pre-school, and home visitor programs were added in addition to several classrooms.

In 1966, the voters of Ashtabula County approved a bond issue for the construction of a new school building. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in July of 1967. Later in 1967, legislation was passed by the State of Ohio creating local boards of mental retardation to replace the authority of the Child Welfare Board in the operation of the community classes for the Retarded and Community Centers of Retardation.

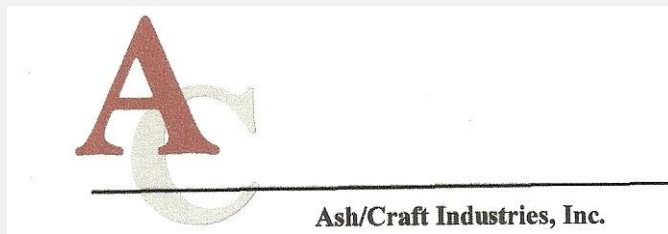
Also, in 1967, a Sheltered Workshop Board was appointed to comply with federal and state legislation. This functions as an advisory board to Ash/Craft.

In the past decade a hot lunch program begun, a fleet of 13 school buses purchased, operated, and maintained, and a summer camp program initiated. Nursing, speech therapy, psychological services, a cooperative agreement for a residential program, home training services, a greenhouse operation, infant stimulation classes, a new Ash/Craft building, and school chartering by the Ohio Department of Education have been but a few of the major highlights of the 1970s to the present. Total staff is approaching 100 employees.

Ash/Craft Industries Incorporated is a non-profit corporation providing habilitation services and sheltered employment to moderately or severely retard or developmentally disabled adults 16 years of age and older from Ashtabula County. As part of the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation, the overall goal of our program is to provide each adult with the opportunity to reach his fullest physical, social, and vocational potential. This goal is achieved under operational guidelines established by the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation, the Ash/Craft Board of Directors, and the Ohio Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

The Advisory Board, now called the Ash/Craft Board of Directors, was originally formed under the charter of the Local Parents Organization.

In a few years the rapid growth of the adult population and expanded programming necessitated plans for a new building for Ash/Craft. The plans formulated in 1975 and the new construction of the Ash/Craft building began in the spring of 1977. Ash/Craft Industries Incorporated began operating in its present building in March, 1978. The modern 20,000 square foot facility was designed to provide habilitation services and sheltered employment to approximately 200 students. The building includes a large work area, an auto bus garage, an adult activity center, a daily living skills and hygiene area, a multipurpose room and cafeteria and a general office area. With a well trained professional staff, each enrollee is assessed for his/her abilities and needs, and individual habilitation plans are written and maintained with the goal that each person will be able to live a more fulfilling, rewarding and self-sufficient life.



From its humble and dedicated and hopeful beginning in 1955 with seven students, we are very proud to celebrate 25 years of growth and achievement made possible by community support, dedicated parents, a professional staff, and the hopes, dreams, and hard work of an original group of parents who had a dream, set a goal, and saw it through to fruition. The Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens continues to provide support and direction today, and the future holds more dreams and goals achievable in Ashtabula County.

## 1960s

### Happy Hearts Hair Styling



March 11, 1962

New hair styling for students at Happy Hearts School was donated by Petite House of Beauty, Lake Avenue, Friday. In the chairs (left to right) are Linda Meinke at Conneaut and Wanda Hopkins, also of Conneaut. Happy Hearts teacher and operators are (left to right) Mrs. Vincent Bishop, teacher; Mrs. Lonnie Dietz, operator; Mrs. Marion Dunkin, teacher, and Miss Patricia Morana, operator. Ashtabula Star Beacon photo.

### End of Summer Picnic at Happy Hearts

Retarded children from Ashtabula County gather around a counselor, Mrs. Henry Roux, as she reads to them at a picnic which ended the summer recreation program. Participating were 24 children and 10 counselors.





## Happy Hearts Swimming Program at the YM-YWCA



Children of Happy Hearts School enjoy swimming at the YM-YWCA's pool. Stephen Woitovich, physical director at Happy Hearts, and Miss Marjorie Taft, physical director at the YM-YWCA, coordinate the program.

## Happy Hearts School is "Marvelous" Mother Says

October 28, 1964. Happy Hearts director G. Thomas Graf, welcomes nine-year-old Mark Robbins to school. Watching are Mrs. Richard Robbins, Mark's mother, and Miss Betty Hartley, a teacher.



## 1970s



We extend a warm welcome to all and hope you will profit from the day we planned. If you can take some new thoughts and usable ideas home, we shall feel rewarded for our efforts. Thank you for coming to the farthest corner of our state.

Ashtabula's Entire Staff, Happy Hearts School & Ash/Craft

9:00-10:00 A.M.- Registration- Lobby----- Coffee-Gymnasium

10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.-----Meeting- Conference Room (Cafeteria)

Invocation: The Reverend Elmer Braun, St. John Lutheran Church, Geneva, Ohio

Remarks: Director Wayne G. Reese, Administrator, Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation

Keynote Address: “Language Function in the Retarded”, Dr. Jay Gibson, Speech Pathologist and Audiologist, Montgomery Institute, Akron, Ohio

Language in Action- Demonstration: Dr. Gibson-----Question and Answer Period

12:00-1:15 P.M.- Luncheon-Gymnasium

1:20-2:00 P.M.- Discussion meetings in the following areas conducted by the teachers and supervisors:

- Home Training-Miss Alyce R. Lange (Slide Presentation Room)
- Developmental Class- Miss Judith May
- Preschool Class-Mrs. Marta Triozzi
- Primary A Class (A-6-8)- Miss Betty Hartley
- Primary B Class (A-7-9)- Mrs. Kathleen Pearson
- Intermediate Class-Mrs. Lucy Johnson, Mrs. Linda Pasky
- Home Economics (A13-16) Mrs. Dorothy Bishop
- Arts & Crafts-Miss Aili Hokkanen
- Physical Education – Mr. Robert Timoeto
- Pre-Workshop- Mrs. Martha Robishaw
- Sheltered Workshop- Mrs. Gertrude Smith

2:00- 3:00 P.M.- Free visitation in the above areas with teachers remaining in the rooms to answer questions.

2:30- 3:00 P.M. – Slide presentation of Ashtabula County’s program- Slide Presentation Room – Alyce R. Lange

Note: You are invited to visit the display of J.R. Holcomb and Company instructional materials after 2:00 P.M. in the Conference Room (Cafeteria).

Staff

Administrator- Wayne G. Reese-----Supervisor- Dorothy Bishop  
Home Training Consultant- Alyce R. Lange-----Workshop Supervisor- Gertrude J. Smith  
Secretary-Carolyn Mackey-----Clerk-Doris Gloekler-----Receptionist-Joyce Ring

Teachers

Betty Hartley-----Aili Hokkanen-----Lucy Johnson-----Judith May-----Linda Pasky  
Kathleen Pearson-----Martha Robishaw-----Robert Timateo-----Marta Triozzi

Teacher Assistants

Edith Bitner-----Margaret Brunell-----Effie Foy-----Louise Miller

Workshop Specialists

John Buchtinec-----Linda Nichols-----

Cafeteria Personnel

Juanita Horst-----Beverly Reese

Maintenance

John Platz

Bus Drivers

Agnes Berg-----Betty Dickson-----Edna Goode-----Ruth Hadlock-----Verna Palmer-----  
Margaret Randa----Helen Stenback-----Janice Winchester

Substitute Teachers

Catherine Bidwell-----Linda Wright

A sincere thanks to all of those who helped to make this day successful.



## Happy Hearts Folds Bandages for the Red Cross



*May 6, 1974. Charles Potti presents a scroll of appreciation for community service to Mrs. Byron Johnson, while her students and aide demonstrate the folding of bandages. From left are Mrs. Johnson; Mr. Potti; Susan Kirkinburg; Julie Morse; Mrs. Ross Smith; Mary Frances Lacalec;*

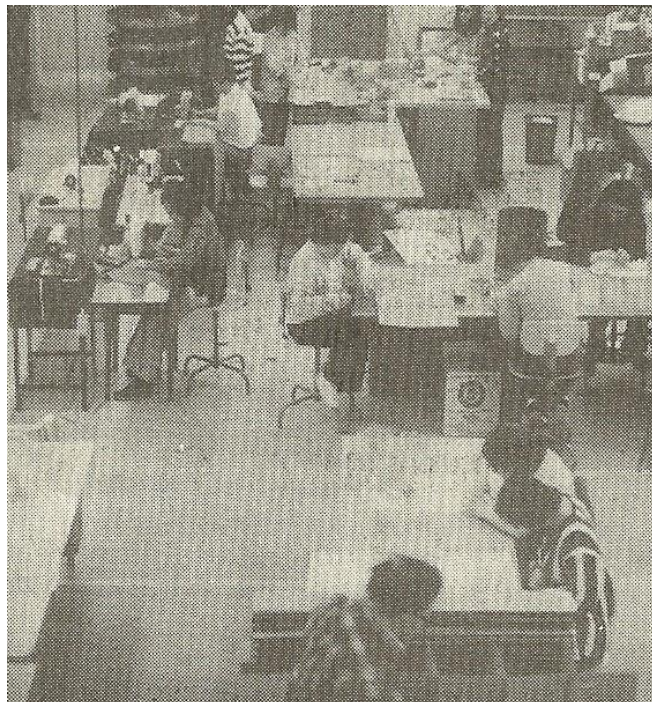
*and Beth Fogle.*

Four girls in the pre-shop A class at Happy Hearts School, their teacher Mrs. Byron Johnson, and aide Mrs. Ross Smith were presented with a scroll by Charles Potti in behalf of the American Red Cross in appreciation of fine service in assembling bandages and slings for Red Cross first aid classes. The girls cut and folded strips of bandages and cloth for slings. The American Red Cross supplied the materials.

Mrs. Johnson said the girls enjoyed the work, and added the school likes the children to do a certain amount of community work in order that the students feel they are part of the community.

Mr. Potti, who is Safety Service Director of the Ashtabula County Chapter of the American Red Cross said the work was tremendously appreciated.

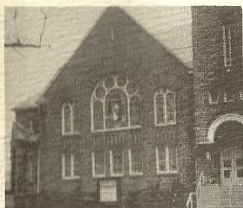
The early days of Ash/Craft Sheltered Workshop.





## 1980s

### ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION ASHTABULA COUNTY COUNCIL FOR RETARDED CITIZENS



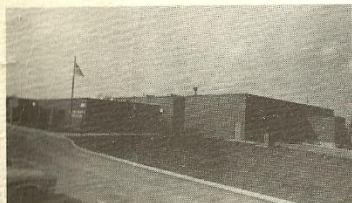
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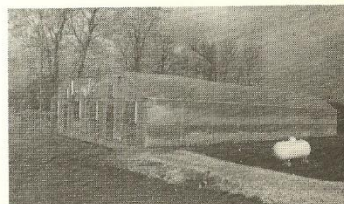
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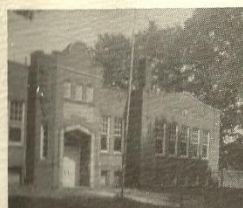
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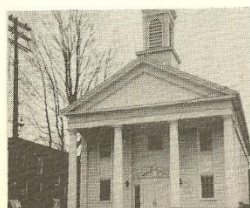
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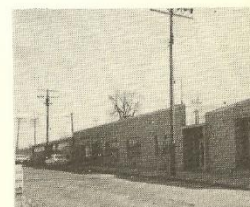
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6



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1. First Happy Heart class held in basement of Elm Avenue Methodist Church in Ashtabula.
2. Moved to Christian Education Building at Harris Memorial Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula.
3. Next, the school moved to the little school building on School Street in Kingsville.
4. Austinburg grade school building was the next stop for Happy Hearts School.
5. East Side Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula came next.
6. The basement of the Children's Home on Route 20 was Happy Heart's next home.
7. The workshop was located at Goodwill in Ashtabula for a short time.
8. In 1968, Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft had a permanent home on Route 84 in N. Kingsville.
9. Ash/Craft Industries became its own entity in 1978.
10. Ash/Craft Greenhouse became operational in 1980.



# ASHTABULA COUNTY MENTAL RETARDATION CENTER

## HAPPY HEARTS SCHOOL

## ASH CRAFT

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Harold E. Fuller  
W. B. McCoy  
Thomas Nassief

### COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION:

Mrs. Elizabeth Frederick  
Joseph Hunter  
Judge Calvin Hutchins  
Mrs. Nancy Koski  
Dr. David Lusk  
A. Gene Moroski  
Charles von Tesmar

### ASH/CRAFT BOARD

Mrs. Annabelle Joki  
William McCarthy  
John A. Pifer (deceased term 1967-1968)  
Fred Ruffo  
Ronald Winter

### ADMINISTRATION:

Wayne G. Reese, Administrator  
Mrs. Mildred Sharp, Clerk  
Mrs. Carolyn Mackey, Secretary  
Miss Janis Olsen, Receptionist

We recognize with appreciation all the members of the Ashtabula County Child Welfare Board who served during the time the operation of Happy Hearts School was their responsibility.

### PERSONNEL

#### TEACHERS:

Mrs. Dorothy Bishop  
Miss Betty Hartley  
Miss Aili Hokkanen  
Mrs. Lucy Johnson  
Mrs. Jacolyn Louys  
Mrs. Linda Pasky  
Mr. Tom Sharp

#### HOME TRAINING CONSULTANT:

Miss Alyce R. Lange

#### TEACHER'S AIDS:

Mrs. Agnes Berg  
Mrs. Edith Bitner  
Mrs. Darlene Braden  
Mrs. Margaret Brunell  
Mrs. Effie Foy  
Mrs. Louise Miller

#### ASH/CRAFT:

Mrs. Martha Pifer, Supervisor  
Mr. John Buchlinec, Workshop Specialist  
Miss Linda Nichols, Workshop Specialist

#### BUS DRIVERS:

Mrs. Agnes Berg  
Mrs. Betty Dickson  
Mrs. Edna Goode  
Mrs. Ruth Hadlock  
Mrs. Virginia Robinson  
Mrs. Margaret Randa

#### MAINTENANCE:

Gerald Ludwig  
John Platz

It is impossible to mention the many individuals, civic clubs, businesses and industry who worked so very hard and did so very much. The parents and friends of the mentally retarded are eternally grateful.





## NAMES AND NUMBERS

Here the children are practicing writing their names and numbers. Each child is encouraged to absorb as much practical knowledge as he is able. Notice the trapezoidal tables that can be arranged so easily for various kinds of activities.

# RETARDED CAN BE

## LEARNING TOGETHER



## ARTS & CRAFTS

This room is shared by both boys and girls. In the picture the boys are in the process of weaving rugs, making wall hangings, card holders, and tile ash trays. Woodworking and other crafts are also done in this department. Good work habits are stressed at this level more than at the earlier levels. Quality of work also becomes more important.



## HOMEMAKING

Cooking, sewing by hand and by machine, dishwashing and cleaning are taught with modern equipment in the homemaking classroom. Learning useful skills and good work habits are most important for teenage girls and boys. Training that can carry over into the home are most valuable to this age group.



# CHILDREN HELPED!

## SHELTERED WORKSHOP

Ash/Craft Workshop provides an actual work situation for adult retardates who are able to carry on a work program under supervision. Here the trainees are preparing literature for the local T.B. Society.



## TRANSPORTATION

Six state approved school buses travel all over Ashtabula County, the largest county (area-wise) in Ohio. Here they are ready to depart after another busy day.



## BEING TOGETHER

## CAFETERIA

At noon the cafeteria hums with activity as the community classes and the workshop trainees gather for lunch. The teachers eat with their classes, and good behavior and acceptable table manners are stressed. Next year hot lunches will be served from the cafeteria kitchen.



# BUILDING BODIES TOGETHER



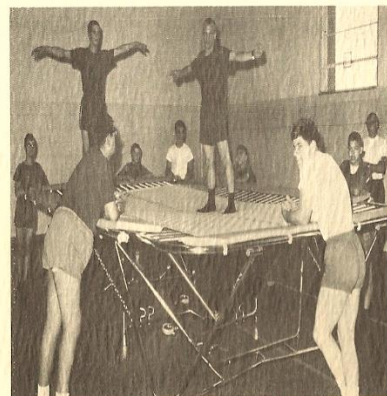
## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All community classes have a period of time for physical education every day. The large, well-equipped, gymnasium offers all students the opportunity to develop physically. A healthy child is more responsive and more capable of learning. Here the primary children are working out on the "Physical - Educator."



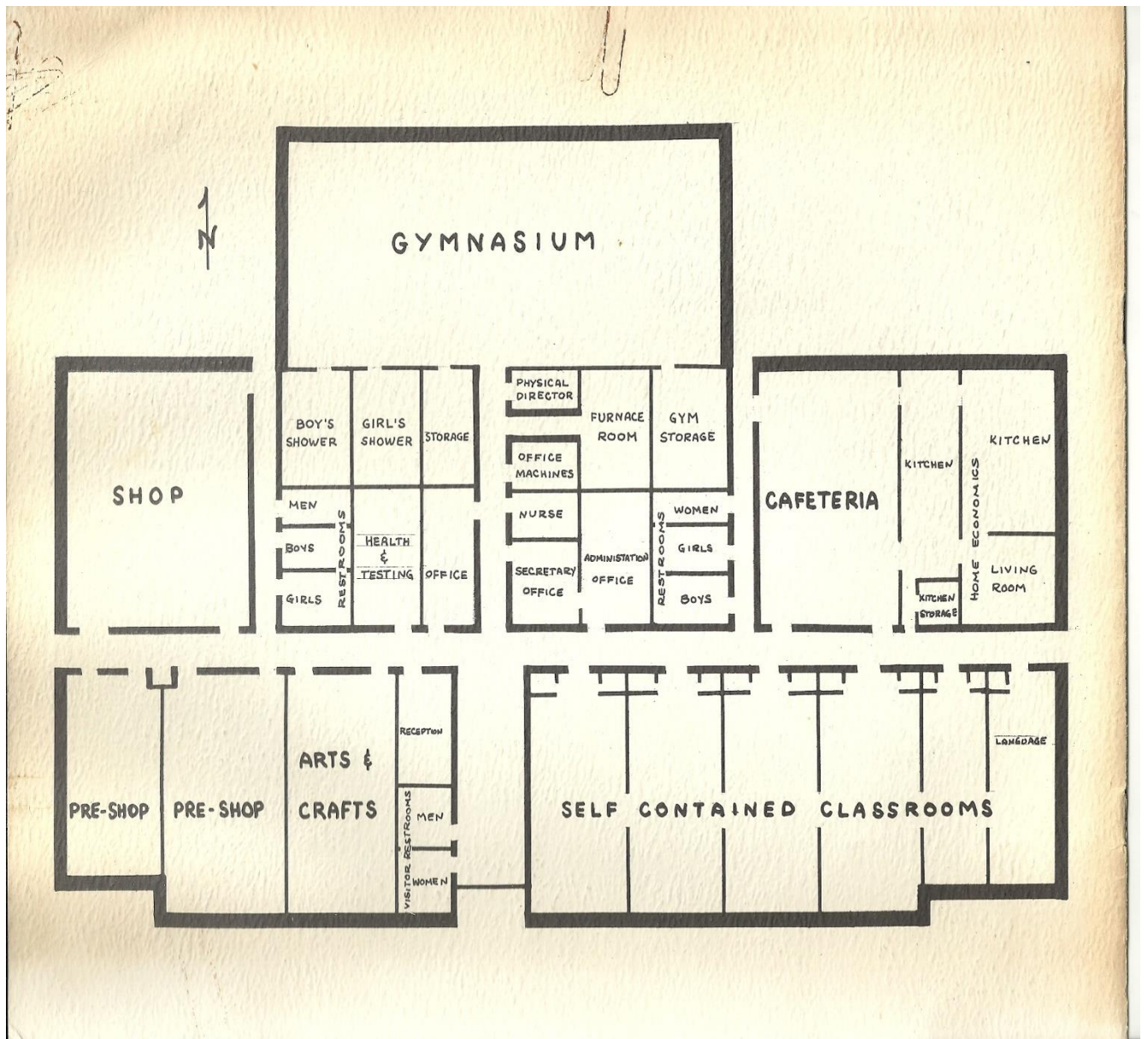
## PLAYGROUND

This attractive, colorful equipment encourages the most timid child to take part in physical activity thus strengthening arm and leg muscles. The Altrusa Club of Ashtabula generously donated this exciting addition to our physical education program.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The department class boys are trying out the new trampoline. Exercises, group games, and sports such as basketball, swimming and bowling are part of the program. Showers are taken after the daily class session.



Pictures and diagram from a 1980 booklet commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Happy Hearts School



## **1980s**

Program: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House-----April 27, 1980

Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation, Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens

Welcome and Introductions....Dr. Edward J. James, Chairman, Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation

Master of Ceremonies.....Dr. Edward J. James-----Invocation.....Reverend George A. Johnson-----Presentation of Flag.....Rep. Robert J. Boggs-----Acceptance of Flag...Douglas A. Burkhardt, Supt.-----Pledge of Allegiance....Led by Leo Club-----Remarks....Dr. Edward J. James-----Remarks....Douglas A. Burkhardt, Supt.

Remarks...Charles Thomas, President, Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens

Introduction of Speaker....Douglas A. Burkhardt, Supt.-----Speaker.....Mrs. Dorothy De Bolt

Benediction-----Open House....Happy Hearts School, Ash/Craft Industries – Ash/Craft Greenhouse----- Refreshments....Cafeteria

## **1980s Officials**

Ashtabula County Commissioners

Peter A. Iarocci-----Alfred W. Mackey-----Thomas Nassief

Ashtabula Board of Mental Retardation

Mrs. Thomas Ferritto-----Mr. Douglas Hedberg-----Mrs. Mary Ellen Higley

Mr. Joseph Hunter-----Dr. Edward James, chairman-----Father Daniel Kulesa

Mr. Jerry Peterson

Ash/Craft Board of Directors

Chaplain Daniel Duggan-----Stanley Gaumer-----Edward Hilin

Richard Jackson-----Joseph Lovas-----Suzanne Meikie---Robert Norton---Jack W. Ross

Richard Staples

Administration

Douglas A. Burkhardt, Superintendent-----Melvin E. Daniel, Jr., School Psychologist-----  
Russell S. Grippi, Home Training Consultant

Howard R. Dunlavy, Transportation Coordinator-----Jane E. Mihalick, Treasurer  
Denise Davis, Administrative Secretary

Happy Hearts School

School Office-----Susan Little, Secretary-----Alyce R. Lange, School Nurse

Teachers

Catherine Bidwell-----Dorothy Bishop-----Casella Cronquist-----Tim Cunningham  
Michael DeMarino-----Betty Hartley-----Shirley Howland-----Kathy Jaskela  
Diane Keep-----Patricia Mundi-----Carl Schwartz-----Susan Seese-----Leslie Skidmore  
Marta Triozzi----Anne Zeitler

Teacher Aides

Maxine Asuma-----Barbara Carpenter-----Sandra Kanicki-----Louise Miller  
Liisa Nurkka-----Verna Osburn-----Carolyn Porter-----Trudy Robison  
Barbara Seaman-----Beverly Skarlinski-----Linda Walford-----Sherry Wright

Cafeteria

Joyce Stasko, Food Service Supervisor-----Alice Headley, Assistant Cook

Maintenance

Benedict Nici, Maintenance Supervisor-----Edward Williams, Custodian

Substitutes

Denise Bancroft, Workshop Specialist-----Rowynn Bancroft, Bus Driver  
Ellen Bruce, Teacher-----Jennifer Clutter, Teacher-----Arleta Deitz, Teacher Aide  
Nancy Emery, Office-----Lila Flickinger, Teacher Aide-----Rebecca Gilmore, Teacher Aide  
Dennis Henigan, Teacher Aide-----Harold Mackey, Bus Driver-----Eileen Magnusen, Teacher Aide  
Jean Orsuto, Teacher-----Linda Porter, Workshop Specialist-----Doris Rich, Cook-  
Alice Shiflet, Bus Driver-----Cathy Slay, Bus Driver-----Shirley Stubbs, Bus Drive  
Vickilynn Sylvester, Teacher Aide

## **Ash/Craft Industries, Incorporated**

### Administration

Larry J. Korland, Adult Services Director-----Kenneth D. Wiegand, Production Manager-----  
Renee Bell, Secretary-----Alma McConnell, Secretary

### Counselor-Evaluation

Kathy Schmidt

### Teachers

Claudia Conway-----Cynthia Smith-----Virginia Smith

### Nurse

Rose Marie Music

### Workshop Specialists

Jean Bruckman-----Donna Cleveland-----Barbara Cook-----Linda Moroski  
Linda Nichols-----Nancy Rhodes-----Dave Wall-----Margaret Williamson

### Adult Activity Specialist

Gladys Humes

Teacher Aide

Judy Cheney

Cafeteria

Esther Simmons

Maintenance

Emit Reynolds

Mechanic

Charles Yahraus

Bus Drivers

Judy Cusano-----Betty Dickson-----Betty Jackson-----Helen Millspaugh-----Marylou Mountain  
Vera Palmer-----Beulah Platts-----Jean Stasko-----Helen Stenback---Janice Winchester



Ashtabula County Residential Services  
Eugene R. Painter, Residential Director  
Carolyn J. Mackey, Administrative Assistant  
Garner & Ruth Campbell, House Managers

Ashtabula County Residential Services  
Board of Trustees

Leonore B. Church, Chairman  
Francis J. Barrett  
Douglas A. Burkhardt  
Dr. William T. Hall  
Larry J. Korland  
Ronald C. Loos

### **Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens- February, 1981**

Bill Jenner.....President----Charles Thomas...Vice President  
Mrs. Loretta Meredyk....Secretary----Mrs. Sheila Woode.....Treasurer  
Joseph Salvato-----Charlotte Lovas-----Marie Harley-----Don Zeller-----Dina Kohowski

Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation

February, 1981

169 Board Members

Mrs. Kristine DeCaro-----Mrs. Thomas Ferritto-----Mrs. Mary Ellen Higley

Joseph Hunter-----Dr. Edward James-----Charles Jeffords-----Father Daniel Kulesa

Superintendent, Douglas A. Burkhardt

Adult Services Director, Ash/Craft Industries, Larry J. Korland

School Principal, Andrew G. Kovac

Ashtabula County Residential Services Corporation, Executive Director, Eugene R. Painter

## **Happy Hearts School Replica**

November 1980. Mrs. Barbara Davis created this replica of the Happy hearts school building for an open house Sunday recognizing the school's 25<sup>th</sup> year. Dorothy Debolt (left) observes as Inez Gaumer and Douglas Burkhardt, superintendent, prepare to cut the first slice.



## New Board Members



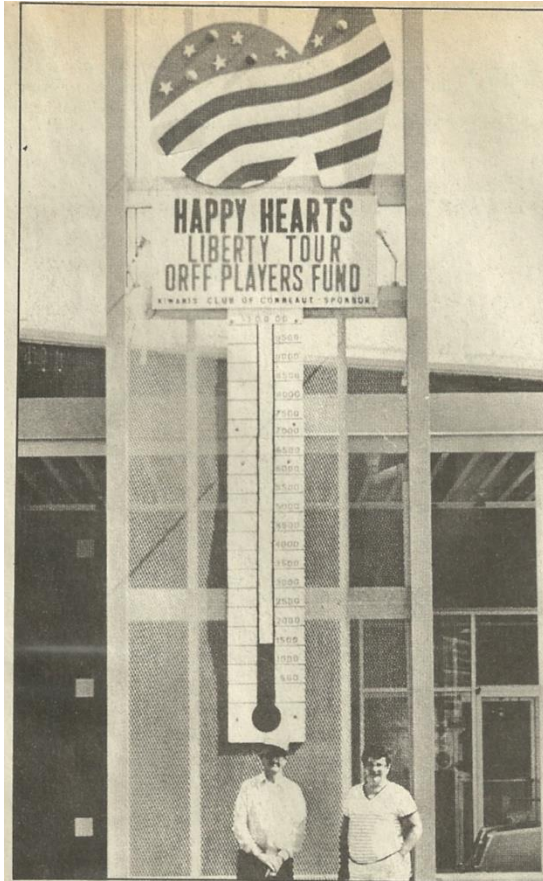
*New officers and board members of the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities were recognized at the reorganizational meeting. (Left to right) Mary Ellen Higley, chairman; Charles Thomas, board member; Joseph Lovas, board member; and the Reverend Daniel Kulesa, vicechairman. 1980s.*

## New Board Members Help Ash/Craft Workers

New members of the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation, the Reverend Daniel Kulesa (left) and Mary Ellen Higley view a disassembling job being performed by Ash/Craft Workshop adults with Adult Services Supervisor Larry Korland. Board members toured the workshop area that Larry says is in need of extra storage space.



## Bowling for the Orff Band



July 3, 1986. Bowl for the Band. Bill Giddings, vice president of Conneaut Kiwanis, and Dotty May, owner of Kings lanes in Kingsville flank the thermometer that shows the progress made on donation for Happy Hearts School Orff Players Liberty Tour. There will be a bowl-a-thon at the Lanes at 10:00 a.m. on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Cynthia Daniels.



## Mike DeMarino Is Teacher of the Year

July 30, 1987. Michael De Marino (far right) teacher at Happy Hearts School received the Teacher of the Year Award from Association for Retarded Citizens President June Thompson. Looking on is Robert Brown, Director of Ohio Department of Mentally Retarded and Developmental Disabilities.



# 1990s



## ***Marketing Our Schools***

*July 22, 1991. Marketing our schools. Happy Hearts School of the Ashtabula County Board of MR/DD was the first recipient of an award at the annual Marketing Our Schools luncheon held in Conneaut. The award was given to teacher Natalie Peck for the reading program for 16-22-year old's with mild to moderate retardation. Pictured with Natalie are teacher assistant Barb Scott; Happy Hearts School Principal Mary Ellen Higley; Becky Phipps of Literacy Volunteers of America and Rick Cozza, the Superintendent of the Ashtabula County Board of MR/DD. Sentinel photo by Nick Jezerny.*

## **MR/DD Board Recognizes Employees**

April 13, 1992

The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities held its fourth annual staff recognition dinner April 2.

The dinner is held in honor of those staff at Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Sheltered Workshop who have given five, 10 and 20 years service to developmentally disabled citizens of Ashtabula County.

Recognized at the dinner were:

- Five years: Lorraine Bean, Joyce Carpenter, Judy Clough, Shirley Cramer, Patty Davis, Rhonda Marcinko, Betty Morrison, Linda Porcello, Ted Quirke, Teresa Tobias, and Judy Walters.
- Ten years: Denise Bancroft, Sandy Bennett, Marian Flickinger, Debbie Gill, Tony Masters, and Suzi Sabo.
- 20 years: Shirley Howland.

Richard J. Cozza, Jr., superintendent, said that the board is “strongly committed to the highest quality of service possible and publicly recognizes their fine staff in their efforts to provide that service.”



## **MR/DD Employee Appreciation Dinner**

*1994. The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities held an employee appreciation dinner and awarded service pins to a number of employees. Front row from left Marian Flickinger, retiree; Mike DeMarino, 20 years;*

*Mary Ellen Higley, five years; Mary Lou Moody, 29 years and Cindy Shearer 10 years. Back row from left, Bonnie Bashaw, Molly Matthews, Brenda Jerauld and John Sisk, five years each and Board Superintendent Richard Cozza who presented the awards. Not pictured who also received awards were Jan Church; Elaine Marcy; Peggy Pierce; Barb Scott; Pam Whittan; Pam Keep; and Tony Masters. Ashtabula Star Beacon photo by Jim Matthews.*

## **MR/DD Board Honors Employees**

On December 7, 2000, the Ashtabula Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities held an Employee Recognition Dinner to honor its employees.

### **Twenty-five Years of Service**

Michael DeMarino; Sandra Kanicki; Mary Lou Moody

### **Twenty Years of Service**

Susan Lillie; Verna Osburn; Carolyn Porter; Trudy Robison

### **Fifteen Years of Service**

Terri Harchalk; Cynthia Shearer

### **Ten Years of Service**

Bonnie Bashaw; Marcia Palm; Barbara Scott; Joan Sisk; Pat Whitten

### **Five Years of Service**

Joan Arcaro; Alice Cook; Heather Hayford; Modris Krumins; Theresa Spang

### **Special Recognition**

Congratulations to employees who retired during the year 2000:

Eileen Magnesun; Shirley Cramer; Lois Watson

### **Ashtabula County MR/DD Recognized for Accomplishments**



*June 26, 2005. Pictured from left, are Ron Tate, President of the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; Joe Moroski, Ashtabula County Commissioner; Anne Zeitler, Superintendent of the Ashtabula County Board of MR/DD; Don Bashaw, Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of MR/DD; Robert Boggs and Debbie Newcomb, Ashtabula County Commissioners.*

At a recent meeting with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners, Don Bashaw, assistant deputy director of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, recognized the local MR/DD Board for the six commendations received during the state's accreditation review.

"The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities has achieved recognition in the areas of Early Childhood Intervention; Behavior Support; and Incident Investigation," said Don Bashaw.

The entire program received a four-year accreditation, he noted, remarking to Commissioners, "The accreditation process is vigorous. Ashtabula County has to meet the same criteria as counties such as Cuyahoga and Franklin. Their commitment and achievement are remarkable."

Ron Tate, President of the County Board, and Anne Zeitler, Superintendent, were commended by Don Bashaw for the leadership and standard of excellence demonstrated through the Board's business practices and planning process. Don Bashaw concluded, "The State of Ohio recognizes the dedication and effort of staff and administration and is anxious to present the Certificate of Accreditation to the Board in the presence of the Board of County Commissioners because the level of service to families and individuals with disabilities in Ashtabula County is a model for the entire state."

## **MR/DD Board Recognizes Ron Tate for His Service**

December 19, 2008

The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities recognized Ron Tate for his years of service to the Board at a recent Board meeting. Tate served as President of the Board for 12 years.

Ashtabula County Commissioners appointed Ron Tate to the Board in 1996. During his tenure, services to infants, children, adults with developmental disabilities and their families were maintained and improved. He provided professional guidance to all areas, especially in financial and strategic planning.

"Our Board relied on Ron for his leadership through the years," said Janet Neville, fellow Board member.

"We offer our sincere gratitude for 12 years of service," said Anne Zeitler, superintendent of the Board of MR/DD program.

State Representative Deborah Newcomb presented the State of Ohio Commendation acknowledging Ron Tate's exemplary service to individuals with developmental disabilities. The commendation highly praised Ron Tate for his years of service, emphasizing his utmost professionalism and dedication as a hardworking citizen serving his community.

Ron Tate thanked the Board and State Representative Newcomb and said that his service to the County Board of MR/DD had been one of the most rewarding experiences in his life.

Ashtabula County Board of MR/DD is comprised of seven board members who serve voluntarily.

## **Ash/Craft Consumer Recognition Dinner**

September 25, 2012

The Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens and Ash/Craft Industries, Inc. sponsored a Recognition Dinner for Ash/Craft consumers (workers) on September 25, 2012. Director of



Adult Services Lynda Perry presented certificates to consumers working at Ash/Craft from 45 to 25 years of service. All of the 45-year employees honored were members of the first Happy Hearts classes that began in 1955. Diane Dickson was in Mrs. Dorothy Bishop's class; Rena Hudson was in Miss Barbara White's class; Mary Kehoe was in Mrs. Sisson's class; John Pickett was in Miss Barbara White's class; Orville Pickett was in Mrs. Bishop's class; and Michael Sabados was in Mrs. Sisson's class. While Ash/Craft has placed consumers in the community at large based on their abilities and interests, many Happy Hearts graduates move on to work in the main sheltered workshop environment.

Ash/Craft Production Manager Jim Hornbeck and Board Member Patricia Hunter spoke about the workings and history of the sheltered workshop. Pat Hunter emphasized that despite name changes the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens forged a parallel relationship with Ash/Craft Industries, Inc. through the years. She said the Recognition event came about because several people felt that it would be appropriate to honor the Ash/Craft consumers who had worked there twenty-five years or more. Presenting some history, she said that ARC started in March 1954 when ten parents met and formed ACCRC, the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Children, with the object of educating and training their disabled children. With fund raising and donations, the first class started in September 1955. The ARC provided most of the funding by donations and other means and ran the school until June 1960, when voters passed a levy to assist with funding. Through the years the ARC has been there to donate to and work for successful levies, donate funds for equipment and supplies, Boy Scout and Girl Scout summer camps, dances graduation festivities and the playground fund to name a few.

### 45 Years

Diane Dickson-----Rena Hudson----- Mary Kehoe----- John Pickett----- Orville Pickett----  
Michael Sabados

### 43 Years

Nancy Freeman

### 40 Years

Ralph Jerry Russell

### 38 Years

Beth Fogle

### 37 Years,

Joe Matriciano

### 36 years

Ed Cook-----Claude Gaumer

35 Years

Robert Hunter-----Dan LaManna-----Tom McElroy-----Noreen Ruffo

34 Years

Dan Morano-----Mathew Russell-----Rodney Stevens-----Suzan Wilson

33 Years

Ron Cole-----David Giddings-----Duane Heaven-----Tomasina Tyner-----Cathy Valenti

32 Years

Sherri Baumgardner-----Terri Church-----Steve Hinkle-----Anne Lovas-----Brad Millsbaugh-----  
Joe Ringler-----Michael Spore-----Mari-jo Wilson

31 Years

Tim Bates-----Barbara Costello-----Tammy Hayes-----Dick Sheffield-----Ray Wortman

30 Years

Brian Flaughner-----Lela Holcomb

29 Years

Dan Mast-----Alan McGoon

28 Years

Mary Bento-----Tim Starkey

27 Years

Jennifer McMahon-----Jill Rogers

26 Years

Amy Turner

25 Years

Kim Drodz-----Melissa Feke-----Judy Kohowski-----Audrey Thomas

## **Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendents**

G. Thomas Graf (1965-1967)

Wayne Reese (1967 – October, 1973)

William Hall (February, 1974 – 1979)

Douglas Burkhardt (1979 – 1985)

Richard Cozza (1985 – 1999)

Larry Korland (1999 – 2002)

Anne Zeitler (2002 – -2018)

## **Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens Past Presidents**

Gene Moroski.....1954-1960

Winthrop Davies.....1961

Woodrow Utter.....1962

Agnes Berg.....1963

Elsie Hudson.....1964

Paula (Wilson) Bennear.....1965

Joseph Hunter.....1966-1967

Dr. Edward James.....1968-1969

Fred Ruffo.....1970

Inez Gaumer.....1971-1972

Patricia Hunter.....1973-1974

Biddiana Kohowski.....1975-1977

Charles Thomas .....1978-1980

## **Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Members**

1967-2018

Nancy Alexander-----Pamela Baker-----James Barnes-----Rosemary Bernato-----Delores Bonds

Richard Bryant-----Miriam Cartner-----Bernadette Cimorelli-----Ron Colby-----



Mary Ellen Coneglio-----Don Cosner-----Ronald Cramer-----Rev. John Cuthbert  
Kristene DeCaro-----Lisa Ebersole-----Dora Ferritto-----Thomas Feritto-----Jean Fields  
Jeffrey Ford-----Larry Foreman-----Inez Gaumer-----Thomas Gwilt-----Liisa Hake  
Douglas Hedberg-----Mary Ellen Higley-----Brett Horvath-----Joseph Hunter  
Judge Calvin Hutchins-----Dr. Edward James-----Charles Jeffords-----Nancy Koski  
Biddiana Kohowski-----Father Daniel Kulesa-----Edward Lawler-----John Lovas  
Joseph Lovas-----David Lusk-----Elaine Martin-----Barbara McClure-----Andrew Misiak  
Nancy Mohrmann-----Chris Newcomb-----Janet Neville-----Claude Nicholson  
Jerry Peterson-----Margaret Pratt-----Kim Ryel-----Lisa Scott-----William Searcy  
Elizabeth Sims-----Ron Tate-----Robert Taylor-----Charles Thomas-----Victor Topo  
Janet Vettel-----Charles Von Tesmar-----Donald Zeller

# Special Story

## Teacher Barb Turchetta and her Class



“There is a tendency for people to forget that children and people with handicaps are individuals who have specialized talents and personalities. There is so much that all people can learn from those people who have handicaps. People need to open their minds to what they can learn from someone else. I think that people sometimes think that because kids are handicapped they don’t have individual abilities and talents, but they do each have something to offer. Some of them are better on the computer. Others are better at writing. And they learn to help each other with these skills.”

Barb Turchetta