

Good afternoon, Riverside FANS!

Between the start of new programs such as the Young Athletes Play & Sports Group and our lovely Bell Choir's performance with the Fletcher United Methodist Church Bell Choir, things sure are busy here at Riverside!

Though we try to thank each of you as often as we can, we know it's not possible to ever repay you for the time, energy, and joy you have dedicated to our organization and the people we support. Nonetheless, that does not mean we won't stop trying to thank you every opportunity we get! So, without further ado, we would like to take a moment to thank the following people for their recent kindness:

- **Eileen Littleton** for being a dependable part of Aktion Club and Adventures in Advocacy meetings.
- The soccer teams from **Troy Christian High School and Piqua City Schools** for visiting our Miami County Magic soccer team's practices and helping them improve their skills.
- **Isabella Burghardt** for joining our volleyball teams during practice, as well as for helping our EI and Nursing Departments catch up on some paperwork.
- **Jack Wellbaum** for being such a phenomenal mentor to two of Miami County's budding artists.
- **Julia Finley** for leading our Bell Choir during both their practices and performances.
- **Karen Clark** for forging an extraordinary friendship with one of the lovely ladies we support.
- **Jacob and Nicole Eckert** for your help during Kids Craft Night.
- **Erin and Travis Clark** for donating car magazines for one of our individuals to use in his new apartment as decoration.
- **Kirk and Melissa Nichols** for also donating car magazines, as well as for the household items you provided to another one of the individuals we support.
- **Thomas Cahill** from Emerson Climate Technologies and **Rashel Green** from Meijer for your recent donations.
- **Jonni Parker** for demonstrating exemplary kindness toward individuals with disabilities through your donation as the Ohio Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year. Congratulations on winning such a distinguished award! (Jonni and Miami

East Volleyball Coach Dan Peterson are pictured below, left accepting her Certificate of Gratitude from Riverside.)

- One amazing **FAN** who donated and delivered a queen-size mattress to a family we support.
- **Tammie Pitts, Becky King, and Ben Battista** for donating household items for a woman we support to use in her new apartment.
- **Chelsea Warner** for helping coach our Miami County Magic soccer team. (Pictured below, center)
- **Gretchen and Jack Boggs** for being such amazing friends to our Miami Magic soccer players. (Pictured below, center)
- One of our newest FANS, **Lori Flora**, for helping with our Young Athletes Play & Sports Group.
- **Becky John** and the **Miami County Dental Clinic** for visiting us again this year and providing low-cost and free dental services to the individuals we support.
- **Angie Anderson** and **the Troy ASTRA Club** for once again blessing Riverside with another donation from your Walk-a-Thon fundraiser in April. (Pictured below, right)
- **Batdorf's Red Barn Catering** and **Susie's Big Dipper** for joining us for our 2017 Sports Banquet and making the night such a success.



You can see more pictures of our awesome FANS and their latest adventures by visiting our Facebook page. We'll also be featuring some of the relationships we've recently established with several local organizations/groups in the next edition of ABLE, so make sure to check it out.

Since our previous newsletter, we have received several more opportunities to support the people served by Riverside. If you can fulfill any of these requests, feel free to give us a call. Not able to help but know someone who can? Forward them this newsletter! If you can assist with any of these requests, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 or brittany.ulman@riversidedd.org. Here are the details.

- **Golf & Softball Coaches, Officials, Scorekeepers, & Buddies** – Golf and softball will soon be underway, and we always appreciate volunteers to help coach, officiate, keep score, or be buddies to our athletes. If you can volunteer at any time this summer, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Furniture and Décor** – Several individuals we support are becoming more independent and moving into their own homes. They are currently looking for: an office chair and desk, a window A/C, outdoor chairs, a TV, TV stand, recliner, small couch, a dresser, and wall décor. If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Radio** – One of the individuals we support is blind and receives great joy from listening to the radio. However, during his recent move, he was unable to bring a radio to his new apartment. If you would like to help him once again spend his free time listening to the radio, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information.
- **Area Rug** – A little boy we support loves playing at home and would appreciate a fluffy area rug to put in his play area. If you would like to put a smile on his face by donating an area rug, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for details.
- **Assistance Installing Screen Door** – A person we support recently bought a new screen door and would like some assistance with installing it. If you can help, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information.
- **Tennis Rackets** – A young man we support would like to play tennis with his friends and family but is currently in need of a couple tennis rackets. If you can donate a racket or two, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Garden Buddy** – We have a kind young man who likes to work in his garden and would love a buddy to help him! If you or someone you know also enjoys gardening, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information.
- **Twin-Size Mattress & Box Spring** – Another one of our individuals is looking for a new twin-size mattress and box spring. If you have a new mattress you would like to donate, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Swing Set** – We have a family that would love to have a swing set to play on this summer. If you would like to brighten these kids' summer vacation with a swing set, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **BINGO Enthusiast** – A kind and fun-loving man we support assists with BINGO at the Miami Valley Centre Mall every first Thursday of the month. He does a great job and could just use a buddy to help him maneuver around the tables and chairs. If you can be his buddy for even just one Thursday, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.

- **Fellow Volunteer** – Many of the people we serve enjoy giving back to their communities. One individual in particular is looking for someone to join her when she volunteers with the Tipp City Fire Department every Friday afternoon. She's a motivated worker and has a great sense of humor, so she'd be a great buddy to have! If you can join her for a few Fridays, or even just one, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information.

Feel free to share this email with anyone you know who may be interested in becoming a Riverside FAN. You can also direct them to the [Volunteer](#) page on our website where they can learn more about our FANS program, check out the latest newsletter, join the FANS email list, and download a volunteer application. If you would like more information about any volunteer opportunities through our FANS program, you can also contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 or brittany.ulman@riversidedd.org.

We have such an outstanding community here in Miami County filled with so many kind individuals. Each time we see your smiling faces, we cannot help but recall James Doolittle's quote, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." And there is certainly no greater joy than the happiness you bring to Riverside and the individuals we support.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission of empowering people of ALL abilities to live, work, and play as full members of our community.

Sincerely,
Brittany Ulman