

# the Hills Connection

Fall/Winter 2018

Inspiring Hope. Celebrating Life.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING ECHOING HILLS PROGRAMS BEGINS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships are an important element to the success of echoingU programs. Staff create opportunities for students to be actively engaged and participate in the community through educational experiences and investigation of student's interests.

A partnership between **The Massillon Garden Coalition** and echoingU of Northeast Ohio opened doors for eU students to work with professionals and community members. Together, they created a high producing garden and eU students were at the forefront of donating produce back to those in need.

The project stirred a passion in eU student Tye. He was inspired to research garden techniques and irrigation methods that resulted in a healthier and larger harvest. The experience helped Tye and others learn valuable employment skills while enhancing their quality of life.

The **Massillon Parks & Recreation Center** welcomes eU students who are inspired to focus on developing healthy habits. Currently there are several students who have made a commitment to hold each other accountable and consistently use the weight room and gym. Side-by-side with other community fitness enthusiasts, the students workout on treadmills, stationary bikes, and test their skills on the indoor rock climbing wall. Each week they celebrate their small and large victories.

Over the summer, **Utopian Bizarre**, a unique shop that includes work from local artists and an art room for classes, worked with eU students to produce art for their Ability Garden. Students enjoyed interacting with customers and were enthusiastic about explaining their project and it's purpose.

*For many, gardening is a favorite pastime and can bring countless hours of joy. But for people with disabilities, it may not be all that simple. Navigating a wheelchair or walker through narrow and uneven paths can be a source of frustration and often an impossible task. The gardens at Echoing Hills are adaptable for those who are seated or standing, wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, and tall enough that bending and stooping are kept to a minimum.*



eU students at **Massillon Parks & Recreation Center**



*"While we thought we would be helping them, it turns out that they are also helping us. We've formed a bond with the eU students. They've made **Utopian Bizarre** a better place by just being there."*



*Rhonda Bird, Class Coordinator at echoingU of Southwest Ohio, and her husband created adaptive means for students to water plants. Laundry detergent bottles with drilled holes in the caps make for a lighter and more manageable way to water.*

is the official  
newsletter for  
friends of Echoing Hills



ECHOING HILLS

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There is a story in the New testament that I have shared many times as part of my work at Echoing Hills. It is the story of four men carrying their paralyzed friend to a house where Jesus was staying. Finding no room to get near Jesus, they carried their friend up to the roof, cut a hole in it and lowered him down, into the presence of Jesus. These four friends were the reason this man had access to the power of Jesus.

In this newsletter, we focus on our commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities through access to things that are important to them. This story reminds us that sometimes access to the community takes the support of very important people in our lives. It may be friends, family members, or people who work in this field, and have chosen this as their profession.

So this newsletter not only celebrates the importance of having access to all the opportunities our communities have to offer, but it also celebrates the people that are willing to give of their time, compassion, and creativity to assist those who need a little extra help.

In September, we celebrated National Direct Support Professional (DSP) week. These are the people that we refer to as the hands and feet of Jesus. But, in many ways, they are also the hands and feet of these four people in the story above, who would stop at nothing to get their friend into the presence of Jesus.

Thank you to our great DSPs, and to all of our employees around the state! You are the ones making the difference in the lives of the people we serve!

Buddy Busch  
President & CEO



*It's very important to ensure that the people who will be caring for or assisting your child after you are gone know how important Camp Echoing Hills is to your family. You must leave guidance that camp is important. The next step is to ensure there is proper funding for it. A trust is an excellent way to ensure that funds you leave can be used for camp. A memorandum of intent is a great way to communicate not only your desires about camp, but also all of the other hopes, dreams and desires you have for your child and their life after you are gone. If you have questions or would like to know more about special needs estate planning, please contact Resch, Root & Philipps, LLC at 614.760.1801 to schedule a personal consultation.*

**LOCAL FOUNDATIONS  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE!**

Echoing Hills is grateful for the generosity of foundations who support our many programs and services so we can continue to "Inspire Hope and Celebrate Life" for those we serve.

**Supporting Transportation**

- Sisters Health Foundation
- Community Fund Management Foundation
- Coshocton Foundation
- Nord Family Foundation

**Supporting Camp**

- Foundations Health Solutions
- Stark Community Foundation/Summertime Kids
- Ohio Elks Association Cerebral Palsy Fund
- Peoples Bank Foundation

**Supporting Various Programs**

- Community Foundation of Lorain County-Billy Rowland Fund
- Dayton Foundation
- Barnabus Foundation
- Health Foundation of Greater Massillon
- In His Steps Foundation - Mark and Pam Alder Fund

# CAMP ECHOING HILLS 2018

**340** Campers attended during **7** weeks at Camp Echoing Hills

**58** Campers were served through the ARC of Ohio/Echoing Hills four week summer camp at Baylor Beach, Navarre Ohio

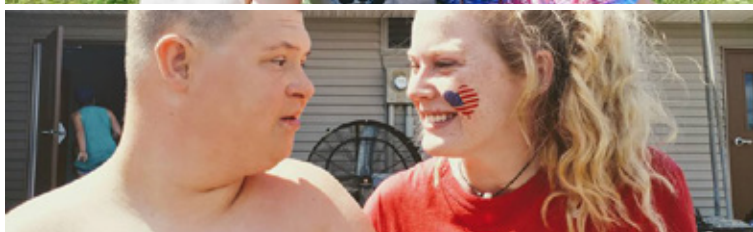


Thank you for an incredible week of camp. One of our volunteers snapped this amazing picture on her morning run. For me it's a perfect summary of the beauty of camp, the love of Jesus, and the hope of new days that camp brings to every single person that walks on to the property. Thank you again for your incredible leadership and passion.

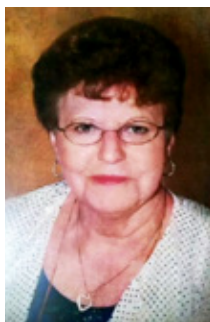
*Andrew Heller, Youth Pastor  
Wooster Church of the Nazarene*



*Echoing Hills Board Members enjoying time with campers!*



## IN MEMORY



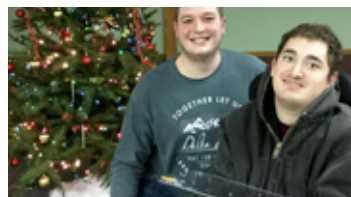
*Jane Blackstone*

*"Mom realized her late brother would have enjoyed Camp Echoing Hills. It was a place with dedicated people who would have understood his disability."*

Growing up, our family attended a little country church on the outskirts of Cambridge Ohio. The reverend's son attended Camp Echoing Hills. He would return from camp and share his experiences and the great times he had. She began donating to Camp

Echoing Hills in the 1980's and continued her lifelong relationship with Echoing Hills. Through her faith, she always tried to help others, and we will treasure the abundance of memories she left behind.

- Lisa (Blackstone) Kackley
- Amy (Blackstone) Loper



*Kyle Gosset*

Although Kyle was born with cerebral palsy which caused debilitating pain, he enjoyed giving back to others. Kyle

was actively involved in his community. At Camp Echoing Hills, Kyle had an infectious smile and amazing laugh. While Kyle felt he was the blessed one in his relationship with Camp Echoing Hills, the truth is we are blessed to have known him. He felt like royalty on this earth, but he is now true royalty in the presence of God.

*We thank Camp Echoing Hills for giving Kyle a wonderful retreat where he felt free and able to enjoy life through your organization.*

*The Gosset Family*



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## SEEING BEYOND THE DISABILITY

Sometimes you simply don't need words!

Trish Riley, The Dietary Director at Echoing Hills Community Living of Central Ohio, not only prepares breakfast and lunch, but also helps out in the dining room assisting individuals who reside at Echoing Hills.

Autumn lives at Echoing Hills and has a rare disability known as Rett syndrome. She is non-communicative by most standards, but to those who know her, Autumn's body language lets you know how she feels. Trish helped Autumn as she needed someone to handle her utensil and feed her.

Trish noticed Autumn making a repetitive gesture with her hand, touching the table and bringing her hand to her mouth. Repetitive hand gestures are common for those with Rett syndrome. Trish thought why not take this repetitive motion and use it for something positive. Trish found an adaptive spoon she thought would



work for Autumn. Within two short months, Autumn was feeding herself.

Autumn has since learned to drink on her own. There might be the occasional spill or dribble, but that doesn't matter to anyone. Autumn still receives fluids through her "G" tube, but now she can also enjoy a beverage on her own!

What we do at Echoing Hills goes far beyond assisting with basic, and daily needs. We strive to educate, enrich and add quality to each life.

**We ask ourselves...what else can Autumn do?**

*At Echoing Hills, we are committed to Revolutionizing Lives where people live, learn, connect, play, and worship. We see the daily struggle, reward, and fulfillment of working with individuals with disabilities. Across the state of Ohio, we strive every day to make a difference.*