



Doing more of what works and less of what doesn't

What are we working on?

Advocating in Stark

Many people we serve at X-Excel have been participating in the recently created People First meetings in Stark County. They are starting to talk about what it means to be a self advocate and how to go about it. In April, they will hold speeches and elect their first sitting officers. We are excited to see what this organization will do in the future!

Advocating in Columbus

Robert and Rachel went to Columbus for the "DD Awareness Day." They listened to messages from self-advocates, Jeff Davis the new Director, representatives from the Stable Account, the Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and the Governor Mike Dewine. Although both of them had meetings to meet with their representatives, both were cancelled.

Nonetheless, surrounded by advocates and self-advocates inspired both to ask questions about their services and how they can both advocate for themselves and others.



Frank working out at Planet Fitness

Cynthia found her dream car at the Canton Car Museum



Making catapults to learn about science

Kim painting pottery



The winning "Celebrity Bowling" team, with their leader the Mayor of Ashland

A delicious salad is what makes Alaina smile the most!



Back to the 80's party

April 17th
Open 4:30-6:30 PM

FEATURING ARTIST:
DJ Josh Murray
Great music & strobe lights!

Open to all!
\$8 Admission (includes dinner)
Free Staff Admission (\$5 for dinner)
Individual Staffing will not be provided by X-Excel

Prizes:
Best 80's Look!
Biggest Hair!
Best Dancer!

Please RSVP by April 12, 2019
RSVP: (330)844-5749

x-excel

1106 N. Main St., North Canton, OH 44720

Photo Booth!
Pizza, Chips, Dessert, Drinks!

I ♥ 80

"Being generous in spirit is a wonderful way to live."

Pete Seeger

From the Desk of Tom Rickels

Trying to make sense of Inclusion

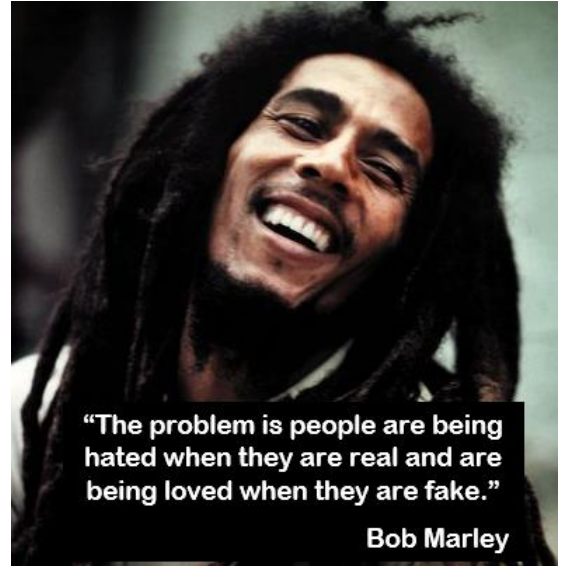
I will be back to ranting this month on a subject that I find very bizarre and will probably make many people angry but I am just trying to get people to think. That subject is Inclusion.

I read an article about a man and his son starting a company called John's Crazy Socks. In 2 years, they were grossing over \$5 million. The father said they employ both people with and without disabilities and his work model could be done anywhere. Then I noticed that they gave 5% of their profits to Special Olympics. Now get ready to throw your daggers because.....

Isn't the Special Olympics a segregated activity?

Isn't the Tim Tebow Prom a segregated activity?
So why don't people complain about them?

Project STIR came to Stark County and met with some of the individuals that work in our Day Habs. It was people with disabilities teaching people with disabilities to be better advocates. Was it segregated, yes. Did all my staff say how much more people were engaged in discussions because they were talking to



people who they could relate to? That is a big yes. Is the Special Olympics a good thing, yes. Is the Tim Tebow prom a good thing, yes. But they all are segregated by the definition that we use for work.

Is a person with disabilities working beside me really better off than working beside a person with disabilities? I think it is up to that person and that person alone. Let people choose what makes them happy in this world, don't let the professionals do it.

Mic drop.

Tom

Gift Shop Highlight- *We can customize anything you see!*

We have a Heat Press!

We are working on baby bibs for school Christmas secret Santa shops, but we will be expanding on this soon.

We also take t-shirt and other heat press orders!



Success!!

We at X-Excel have recently witnessed a lot of success and would like to share it with you!



Jake passed his driving test and got his driver's license. He immediately applied and was offered a job delivering pizza's!

Rachel was offered a resident assistant job at the Inn at Belden Village as a resident assistant. She said "I have always wanted to help people." She will work in the Alzheimer and dementia care unit.



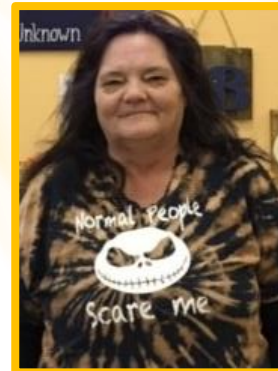
Renee started working in the Kitchen at Norcia's Bakery!

Kahli applied and recently started working at Giant Eagle!



Several people at X-Excel have started working with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), to help them job search. It's amazing what willpower, support, and confidence can do!

DSP Spotlight



Wanda Alliance

Do you have any pets?

I have two cats, swamp and frisky. My dog passed away in October.

What is your superpower?

Wackiness!

What should people know about you?

I am a loving person. I don't do drama. I love my family, my 8 grand-babies and 2 great grand-babies (1 is on the way).

What is your dream vacation?

To see Mickey Mouse (my husband) in California.

Order your Easter Chocolate Basket today!

Small Basket- \$9.00
 Contains 1lb variety of milk chocolate candy (approx. 8-10 pieces of chocolate).

Large Basket- \$16.00
 Contains 2lbs variety of milk chocolate candy (approx. 16-20 pieces of chocolate).

Extra (Seasonal) Chocolate:
Extra candy will be added to the Easter basket unless noted otherwise

+ Lg. Chocolate Peanut Butter Egg (\$3)
 QTY _____ Total Cost \$ _____

+ Lg. Solid Milk Chocolate Bunny (\$3)
 QTY _____ Total Cost \$ _____

+ 1lb of Buckeyes (\$10)
 QTY _____ Total Cost \$ _____

+ 1lb of Misc. Chocolate (\$7)
 Type of Candy _____

Basket Order:

Small Basket (\$9):
 QTY _____ Total \$ _____

Large Basket (\$16):
 QTY _____ Total \$ _____

All baskets will have an assortment of milk chocolate unless specified here:

Total Due: \$ _____

To place an order:

Call/email Barb at
 (330)810-0457/ Barb@xexcel.net
 or
 Drop off at any X-Excel location

Last day to place an order is
 Friday April 12th.

All order will be ready for pick
 up on April 19th.



Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

*Happy
 Anniversary!*

Whitney C 4/2/2018

*Happy
 Birthday!*

Shelly S 4/4

Delbert W 4/5

Michael N 4/5

Deana S 4/6

Guy K 4/13

Geraldine Q 4/13

Jovan D 4/15

Ron S 4/19

Brandý P 4/19

Mary V 4/19

Annette W 4/22

David S 4/22

Kashmere M 4/24

What's Being Said?

"I am writing to tell you how impressed I am with the Buckeyes. They are the best I've ever had. I get them at least once a week. Keep up the good work."

- Suzanna's customer, one of the many places that sells our chocolate