



STARLIGHT

MAY
2024

Little Ball of Energy Benefitting from EI

Everleigh Salazar is a happy and smiling 13-month-old who began receiving Early Intervention services a year ago.

She was paired with the Early Intervention team's occupational therapist due to motor development and to monitor her feeding needs.

Everleigh and her twin sister were born at 34 weeks. She required a month-long NICU stay to monitor her development and needs. During that time, Everleigh was diagnosed with cerebral ventriculomegaly, a condition where the ventricles are larger on one side of the brain.

Everleigh wears a helmet nearly around the clock to make sure her

head stays proportionate to her body. She also has a genetic condition that affects her muscle tone and motor development and is an indicator of feeding delays.

But don't think for a minute that Everleigh is a listless little girl. Quite the opposite! She is a ball of energy and loves keeping her parents hustling. She does very well at vocalizing her mood, whether she's happy, not so happy, mad or just being silly. She has a contagious smile and a laugh that warms the heart.

Everleigh is working hard to improve her head and trunk control so she can sit independently to play. She's also



working toward getting in the crawling position so she can move more freely.

Everleigh and her family receive coaching from the Blanchard Valley Center staff to show Everleigh her independence potential.

Early Intervention is a program helping children with developmental delays from birth to age 3. Early Intervention utilizes a combination of modeling and educating families on child development and providing tools that allow children to develop successfully in their home.

"Everleigh and her family are fun to work with, and she is making great

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SO Golf Outing set for May 11

The 20th Annual Special Olympics Golf Outing will be held May 11 at Hillcrest Golf Club in Findlay. The money raised at the fundraiser stays in Hancock County for Hancock County Special Olympics. To sponsor the event or register a team, contact Melanie Williams at mwilliams@blanchardvalley.org or 419-422-6387. The team of C & Y Painting of Max Yankee, Matt Shimp, Christian Volk and Todd Hitzeman will return to defend their title. Hancock County Special Olympics sponsors basketball, bowling, golf, competitive cheer, softball, swimming, track & field, powerlifting, and bocce.

DATES TO REMEMBER | VISIT WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

May 1 – 1pm
Provider Meeting
May 1 – 5pm
Cardio Drumming

May 5
**NW Region Games at
Findlay High School**

May 11 – 7:30am
**Special Olympics Golf
Outing at Hillcrest Golf
Course**

May 27
**Memorial Day
BVC Closed**
May 28 – 5:45pm
Board Meeting

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Grants are Enabling BVC to Help Hancock County be More Accessible



Blanchard Valley Center was recently awarded a \$50,000 ARPA grant through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

This is a big deal, and I want to salute our team at Blanchard Valley Center who have been submitting local and state grant proposals to promote accessibility in Hancock County.

The grant's intent is to make Hancock County more accessible for people with disabilities, support community connections, purchase universal changing tables, and provide community experiences that individuals we support are unable to afford. We have started using the funds by purchasing universal changing tables for The Cube and the YMCA. We are working to secure one for the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library. We also purchased wheelchairs for partnering agencies to be used by their clientele.

The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation awarded Blanchard Valley Center a grant to purchase a mobile universal changing table and a tent so we can increase accessibility at local events. The first event slated to have the mobile changing table is BalloonFest, to be held Aug. 9-11 at Emory Adams Park.

With those two grants, we hope that local businesses and organizations look at ways they can be more accessible to their patrons. Knowing there is an accessible changing table could make a difference on how far a family can venture out from their home to shop, dine, or play.

Any business wanting to learn more about how they can be more accessible or accommodating to persons with disabilities, contact us. We're always happy to help.

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent



Powerlifters Flex Muscle

Hancock County Special Olympics entered its first-ever powerlifting competition on April 21. The competition took place at Tight Five CrossFit and was sponsored by Heavenly Pizza.

The lifters maxing out on the deadlift were: Ciara Bear, 135 pounds; Ian Springer, 100 pounds; Brandon Heldman, 250 pounds; John McCarley, 300 pounds; and Paul McCarley, 450 pounds.

Kyle Lauck is a volunteer coach for the powerlifters. Kyle is a member of Findlay Barbell, which is the gym where the athletes practice.

The Northwest Ohio Spring Games are scheduled for May 5 at Findlay High School and is expecting over 900 athletes.

CONTINUED "LITTLE BALL OF ENERGY BENEFITTING FROM EI"

progress," said Occupational Therapist Katie Gruenemeyer. "My visits are filled with coaching and modeling strategies so Everleigh's parents can incorporate

play into her daily routines and make motor movements fun. She has a mind of her own, and she lets me know when she doesn't like something and

will try to wiggle her way out of certain positions. But her overall strength and tolerance to sitting and crawling positions have dramatically improved."

BVC provides resources and supports that empower people with DD to live lives with meaning and purpose.



Blanchard Valley Center
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Service & Support
Emergency Number**
419-722-9262

