

# Echoing Hills Connection



Fall 2022







As we head into the latter part of 2022, I remain captivated by those we serve and the Echoing Hills team.

Whether it was celebrating the achievement of receiving a GED or making the Dean's List, we have some very talented people. Others led a food drive, and some volunteered to weed, rake, and till gardens. But one thing is consistent, those we serve have the drive, ambition, and desire to work hard and participate in the community.

This past summer, Camp Echoing Hills was buzzing with excitement with the many new activities introduced, including side-by-side country wooded rides and the very popular axe throwing. And we all celebrated during the last week of camp when four campers asked to be baptized, and later that evening, we joined together, praising the Lord during worship.

As I travel the state, going from region to region and program to program, I see first-hand how amazing the team is at Echoing Hills. They make all these opportunities possible. They diligently get to know each person, understanding their dreams and ambitions. Then, they make them happen.

I am INSPIRED daily to be a part of the ministry of Echoing Hills. Simply put, I am BLESSED!

*Timothy D. Newell*

President/CEO

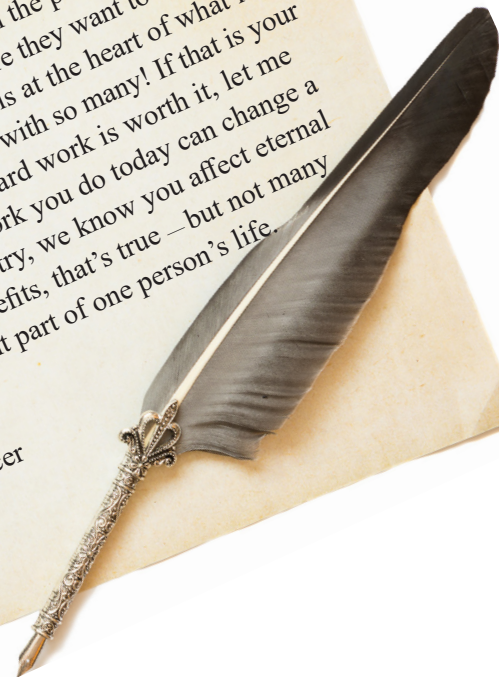
## The Heart and Soul of Support!

**Direct Support Professionals are the heart and soul of support for persons with disabilities.**

**Let's hear what leaders from across the state at Echoing Hills say about the importance of this very valuable role!**

Imagine living in a world where you have to depend on someone for the things you need. Now imagine what it's like when the person doing that job values you and loves the work they do — where they want to be the one person to help you live a great life. That to me is at the heart of what it means to be a great DSP — and we are blessed with so many! If that is your role, and you sometimes wonder if all the hard work is worth it, let me give you some words of assurance. The work you do today can change a person's life for the better, and as a ministry, we know you affect eternal lives as well! Other jobs have other benefits, that's true — but not many offer the ability to be such an important part of one person's life.

- Ray Schmidt,  
Executive VP/Chief Program Officer





AIR MAIL

POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DSPs are the heart of our organization. Like the heart in the human body....a healthy heart of an organization gives life to what we do. DSPs are as close to serving the mission of Jesus Christ as you can get. Every single day they are tasked with caring for others, serving others, teaching others, loving others.

The DSP holds the most important role in the organization. Our job as leaders is to lift up our DSP staff so they can give their best every single day.

- Teresa Hall,  
Regional Director Southwest Ohio

FROM:

DSPs are the MOST important piece to our well-oiled machine. Without them, Echoing Hills would fail immediately. They play the most crucial role in the care we provide to the individuals we are blessed to serve. I want to personally thank every DSP that works for me for the love, commitment, protection, and joy they bring to every person and family we work with.

- Jackie Householder,  
Program Director Central Ohio

I am thankful to the DSPs that show up to their job and truly believe the work they are doing is to enrich those we serve. I am thankful for the smiling faces they bring and the smiles they help create for those we serve.

I am extremely lucky to work in an environment where not just their physical, mental, and social well-being is important, but also their spiritual beliefs and needs.

- Mindi Kuebler, Regional  
Director Northern Ohio

DSPs are the cornerstone of service delivery for individuals served. The countless acts of kindness demonstrated by DSPs are truly amazing. They are often called on to be caregivers, mentors, and role models, and these sacrifices have revolutionized the lives of so many. Words cannot express how much you are valued and appreciated – thank you for all you do!

- Kim Broadnax,  
Regional Director Northeast Ohio

There are not enough words to be said for the DSPs. They have sacrificed a lot to work with the individuals. I appreciate the sacrifices that each DSP makes to be there for the individuals. The DSPs are not just in the home to work; they are there as a friend and a family member. I know we all have our lives outside of work, and it is important to us. But deep down, I know all of the individuals appreciate and love each DSP for being there for them.

-Steve O'Neill,  
Program Director Southeast Ohio





## DSP to HR — Erin's Journey

I moved to the Warsaw area in 2010 after getting married. One Saturday evening in 2011, my husband and I passed by Echoing Hills while on a motorcycle ride. We drove around the parking lot and by Cross Hill. When I saw the beauty of the area, with the sun setting behind the cross, it moved me so much. I learned more about Echoing Hills and the rich history of the organization. I felt a strong pull toward the ministry. I had worked my whole life for large corporations, dressing up in corporate casual clothing and taking 90-minute “networking” lunches; however, I always felt like I was helping no one and doing nothing that ultimately made a difference in the world.

The next day at church, I found out the Program Director for Echoing Hills' Residential Center was there. I found her and told her I wanted to apply. She said that the only open position was for a Direct Support Professional (DSP) and pointed out that there would be a considerable pay decrease based on my salary at the time. That didn't deter me at all. Three weeks later, I began working as a DSP.

Working as a DSP immediately gave me such renewed purpose and perspective. It was also physically and emotionally the most challenging job I had ever had. I worked three days a week, every other weekend, and drove the individuals I served to church. I loved being able to do that. I also loved getting to the point where I knew each of the individuals and their needs without them needing to explain them to me. Working directly with individuals with disabilities was unforgettable. I saw people struggle daily to complete tasks that I do without even thinking. But, the positivity within them despite their disabilities was humbling. Experiencing this changed how I handle situations and how I view the struggles in my own life.

After three months, I began working as the Residential Care Coordinator (scheduler). I later went on to work as the Administrative Assistant for the Residential Center. After working in that role for four years, I moved into the position of Human Resources Coordinator. This change led to my current role, HR Generalist at the Corporate Office.

In the past few years, working in HR, it's clear to me that taking care of the employees who work for Echoing Hills is important to the organization. They ensure that employees are compensated fairly, offer many valuable benefits, and job advancement is possible — I'm a great example of this one! Each position has shown me a bigger picture of how the organization operates. I have found it exciting and rewarding to work for a company whose top priority and focus are squarely on loving and serving individuals with disabilities.

[\\*Read this blog \(and others\) in its entirety at ehvi.org/about-us/blog/](http://ehvi.org/about-us/blog/)



## GIVING BACK

Stamp Out Hunger Day was celebrated in May. Individuals at Echoing Connections of Southeast Ohio participated by holding a food drive. They collected enough donations to fill five local blessing boxes!

Students at EchoingU of Northern Ohio volunteered in the gardens of Echoing Hills homes. They spent time weeding, raking, and tilling! Talk about good for the Earth and heart!



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Our friend, Keenan, from Echoing Hills of Central Ohio, began the process to obtain his GED in March of 2022. That studying paid off this summer when he passed his test! Of course, we had to have a party to celebrate!

Heather attends EchoingU of Northeast Ohio and began studying at Stark State University last summer. We recently celebrated with her as she made the Dean's List!



## OHIO LEADERS VISIT ECHOING HILLS

Echoing Hills was excited to welcome several Ohio leaders to our locations! Senator Kristina Roegner visited Echoing Hills of Northeast Ohio, Senator Niraj Antani visited Echoing Hills of Southwest Ohio, Representative Jay Edwards visited Echoing Hills of Southeast Ohio, and Senator Nathan Manning visited Northern Ohio. We appreciate their leadership and the time they spent with us!





# Camp Echoing Hills Provides A Summer to Remember

Camp Echoing Hills returned for a full summer, in full swing, for the first time since 2019! The camping season saw close to 230 campers join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and faith.

The weeks at camp meant a lot to staff, volunteers, campers, and their families!

**Thank you for everything you do to support Camp Echoing Hills and the other ministries of Echoing Hills!**

*"I just want to thank you personally for the experience you gave my daughter, Meagan, this past week. She has always struggled socially and had difficulty making friends. She absolutely loved all the activities, and even made some new friends. Every staff member that I interacted with during drop-off and pick-up had a positive attitude and was warm and friendly. I can't wait until she can return. Her mental health and physical health have been positively impacted. She had more steps on her fit bit than I have ever seen. You are a blessing!"*

Jayne D. – Meagan's Mother

**New activity, archery,  
hit the bullseye for  
FUN!**



**Fun and laughter stuck  
during axe throwing  
(another new activity)!**



**WE HAD FOUR CAMPERS BECOME BAPTIZED AT CAMP THIS SUMMER!**





**Kids week brought energy  
and creativity!**



**Many new relationships formed  
over the weeks!**



**Time in the pool  
was a splash!**



**New activity, pottery, was  
a ROARING good time!**



**No camping experience is  
complete without s'mores!**



**Nature side-by-side rides were  
a favorite with campers  
and counselors alike!**



**We caught, and kissed,  
many fish this summer!**



**WORSHIPPING THE LORD!**



*"Words cannot express our gratitude for all you did for Katerine and the other campers. She absolutely loved her time there and we are so grateful for the care you provided. God Bless!"*  
**Mike & Barb S. – Katerine's parents**



## An Affordable Way to Make a Gift

Did you know a beneficiary designation gift is one of the most simple and affordable ways to make a gift to support a cause that is meaningful to you? You simply designate the charity as a beneficiary of a retirement, investment/bank account, or your life insurance.

There are many benefits of a designation gift including first and foremost, supporting the causes you care about while continuing to use your account as long as you need to. It also simplifies your planning, and you can avoid expensive legal fees. This will also reduce the burden of taxes on your family. Lastly, beneficiary gifts are among the most flexible of all charitable gifts, and you can change your mind at any time!

If you have questions about leaving a beneficiary designation gift, please contact Angie Jordan at [ajordan@ehvi.org](mailto:ajordan@ehvi.org) or 740.327.2311 ext. 1139. OR, if you have already designated us as a beneficiary of an asset or part of your estate plan, please let us know! We would like to recognize you and your family for your gift.



## Did you know August was Make-a-Will Month?

August is a yearly reminder for busy Americans to sit down and create their last will and testament. But in case you missed it, here is another nudge! Whether you've been too busy or simply don't know how, here are the many reasons that will motivate you to do so.

It's an important legal document that everyone should have! It's a powerful document that lets you distribute your property and protect your loved ones after you pass away. It provides peace of mind to you and your family. You may not think you own a lot, but you likely have more property than you realize: your home, vehicles, furniture, clothing, books, sentimental items, and more. If you don't have a will, your loved ones will be tasked with finding a home for this property when you pass on. Creating a will prevents family conflict, eliminates confusion, and ensures your assets go to the people you most want to have them. It also gives your family guidance during this difficult time. Finally, it lets you create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime!

Echoing Hills  
36272 CR 79  
Warsaw, Ohio 43844



740.327.2311  
[info@ehvi.org](mailto:info@ehvi.org)  
[ehvi.org](http://ehvi.org)



Residential



Adult



Education



Recreation