

press release
for immediate release
from the Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Contact: Bill Devon, 330.424.0595
Monday, April 8, 2019

Hiring the disabled nothing new to Calcutta Giant Eagle

CALCUTTA – Hiring people with disabilities is nothing new to Calcutta’s Giant Eagle supermarket. The store has had many, including one person who has been employed for more than 20 years.

What is new is that Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and Giant Eagle Inc. have a new partnership and a full-time staff member to help stores in northeastern Ohio find, hire and retain such workers.

Hiring people with disabilities “has really worked well for us,” said Buddy Robinson, store manager at Calcutta. He said the new corporate staff person will work with both corporate-owned stores in northeastern Ohio and those which are locally owned, such as Calcutta.

The store’s owners and staff were honored with a plaque presentation by Reach 4 More, a program of the Columbiana County Board of Disabilities

Through this partnership, a full-time OOD Talent Sourcing Coordinator is embedded at Giant Eagle and its human resources staff. The coordinator’s job is not only to encourage hiring the disabled, but to improve training, accessibility within the workplace, and pathways to promotion. “This partnership is the first of its kind with a private company in Ohio,” said OOD Director Kevin Miller in a joint press release. “We hope this will serve as an example that inspires other members of the business community to recognize the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.” On his first day in office, newly elected Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed an executive order “to ensure that individuals living with disabilities have the opportunity to pursue careers with the state of Ohio.”

OOD (www.ood.ohio.gov) is the state agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to gain meaningful employment, to live independently or receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration.

CUTLINE:

At left, Paul Anthony and Courtney Waters of the Reach 4 More program present a plaque to Penny Stowers and Manager Buddy Robinson of Calcutta Giant Eagle for the store’s long history of employing persons with developmental disabilities.