

Center Offers Opportunities

Solon resident Sarah Stanton recently opened new facility to help people with developmental disabilities.

by Angela Gartner
Editor

Solon resident Sarah Stanton knew what she wanted to do in life at an early age. In high school, her goals were simple — to help people and own her own business. Her passion for others led her to people with developmental disabilities. She wanted that community to have a place in which to make friends, learn life skills and to participate in various activities. With the new facility in Valley View, her hopes are to provide those opportunities.

“I wanted to bring the second center to Cuyahoga County,” Stanton says. “Have something closer to home, too.”

She opened Liberty Day Centers this spring. It is a 3,106 square-foot facility in Valley View.

The location at 7535 Granger Rd. is not far from the freeway and it’s near the

Valley View Towpath.

This isn’t her first facility, as she has already made one dream happen. She opened the Creative Enrichment Centers of Ohio, LLC in Lorain in 2007.

According to its website, “it was designed specifically for the individual whose needs are geared toward activity, education and community interaction in addition to economic opportunity. We have a unique economic opportunity program. We offer clients the option to work at minimum wage and to create their own projects that we will help them sell.”

Enhancing skills at center

“Life education classes, how to prepare meals and basic hygiene skills (will be offered at the center),” said Denise Loke, Director of Liberty Day Centers. “Everything is adapted to their ability.”

At the new facility, the staff hopes to have about 25 to 30 clients who come to the program.

Many of those they serve are 18 years and older and who have a range of disabilities. Some come five days a week, while others may have flexible schedules.

“The concept is to keep the group smaller for individualized attention,” Loke says.

Also, each room in the new center has a purpose. Some rooms are recreational in which clients will have an opportunity to watch TV or play video games.

Computers, games and crafts areas are for clients to use in scheduled programs. Another room is a work center in which people interested can learn life skills or do jobs for the in-center work program for minimum wages.

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—Denise Loke, Director of Liberty Day Centers

The low lighting and soft surface of the sensory room, along with the variety of stress relieving items, the room will provide self-therapy, and opportunities to engage and explore. The center also hopes to offer adapted fitness programs such as Yoga.

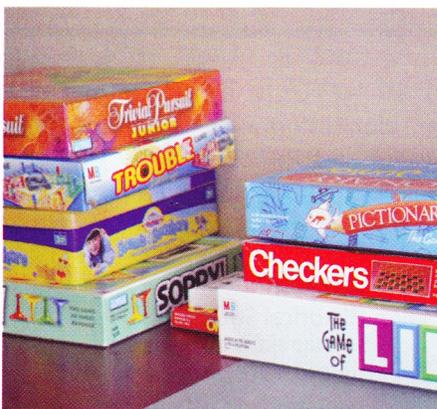
Clients have the opportunity to participate in each of the programs.

“It gives individuals the chance to meet more friends,” Stanton says.

Many of the participants will go on various outings in the community. However, she would like to provide more creative options for the participants.

“We would love more opportunities (for our clients) to volunteer,” Stanton says. She adds, she would like local employers and organizations to come in the center to conduct helpful presentations to the group.

Visit, libertydaycenters.com or call 216-524-2020 for more info.



Liberty Day Center in Valley View and Creative Enrichment Centers of Ohio in Lorain, bottom left photo. The businesses were opened by Solon resident Sarah Stanton, top left photo, to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Photo by Angela Gartner