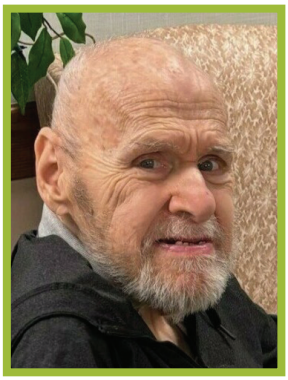
CHOICES IN COMMUNITY LIVING

Assisting people with developmental disabilities to have access to build safe, healthy and meaningful lives in the community since 1985.

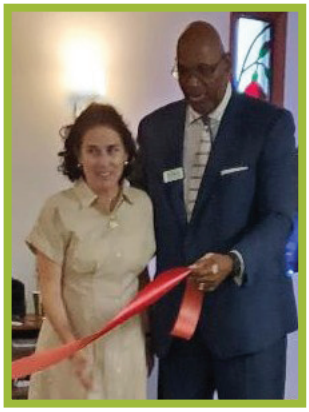
Choices' Voices

Remembering Dan



So many changes happened for Dan Ryan since that day in 1992 when he became a member of our Choices extended family. He was a young 47 when he found his 'forever' home at Choices, where we were honored to be beside him through all the transitions in his life, true to our mission to provide quality of life care throughout his 81 years. He is missed by his housemates and staff at our Burman home, and throughout Choices.

Katie Shope, pictured with Choices CEO Trent Grooms, represented herself and her brothers and sisters and other family members during the August dedication and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Riazzi Center, formerly known as the Martin Center.



Read Katie's message on behalf of her family on page 2.

The legacy on the hill

Carmen and Ann Riazzi would have enjoyed the celebration that accompanied the naming of Choices' Adult Day Services and training center in their honor during ribbon-cutting ceremonies in August, humbled though they would have been by it all. It is not something they would have asked for themselves. It would have filled them with joy, to see the room filled with their children and grandchildren, to have their daughter Maureen (Reenie) remembered, to see a building now bearing their names as a beacon to all families, to know that the services provided there are due in large measure because of their tenacity, work, and love.

Carmen and Ann would tell you that it was just not them all those decades ago. Legend in our community are the names of those who stood alongside them, often at the risk of their own safety and well-being. Carmen being the more outspoken and visible Riazzi, many times he sat through zoning board meetings to hear why there needed to be strict regulations against allowing people with developmental disabilities living in neighborhood homes. When Carmen stood to speak a hush would fill the room, as everyone knew him as a University of Dayton Flyers star basketball player and as a successful businessman. His words changed minds and changed our community.

Ann was there as well, raising children to be advocates. She would teach children as a first-grade teacher. She would volunteer where she made a difference, with Meals on Wheels, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Special Olympics, always advocating for Reenie.

The Riazzi Center will continue to provide Fun-Fit activities, summer camps, dances, and other activities for people who never met Carmen and Ann but who are recipients of their continuing legacy, because families like the Riazzi family fought the good fight to make today's celebrations possible.



Our family-centered legacy was celebrated in May when we held our annual Mothers/Fathers brunch, as Nate Jones joined in welcoming his mother and father, Doug and Ann Jones.



It was a time to be out in the community for Chad Swindler and his mother Barb as they joined the Jones family and others at our Mothers/Fathers Day Brunch. Chad and Barb are participants in our Shared Living program in Preble County. Chad has been a member of our extended Choices family since 2013. The family ties run deep, as Barb served as Choices Program Director in Preble County before retiring to enjoy being at home, traveling, and having more time with Chad.

Three reasons to give ... Meet them on page 4

A legacy of exceptional service

Our Award Recipient



It is with appreciation and gratitude that we recognize Program Director Oriel Head for receiving the Front-Line Supervisor Award presented by the Ohio Provider Resource Association *(OPRA.)* Beginning her career at just 18 years of age as a Direct Support Professional, advancing to Home Manager by 26, she now oversees six residential managers and three Shared Living mentors. She also oversees Choices' emergency shelter program for up to eight individuals.

Oriel is an extraordinary example of what it means to provide quality of life services, whether its collaboration with other organizations to provide the most effective medications for an individual with significant behavioral challenges that allowed the person to find a successful placement, to working through a myriad of obstacles so that two individuals with developmental disabilities could realize their dream of getting married, she is a champion for those she serves and for those she serves alongside.

Our Nominees



We honor Facilities Director Dan Cochran for being nominated for the statewide Operational Excellence Award from the Ohio Provider Resource Association *(OPRA.)*

For the past ten years, Dan has exceeded all expectations as part of his responsibilities for overseeing nine Choices' properties, while coordinating maintenance and repair needs for more than 40 residential homes, managing 52 vehicles to assure safe and accessible transportation, setting up and continuing development of our accessible home model at the Riazzi Center, managing our technology lending library, and more. He was and continues to be instrumental in the continuing construction and renovation of the Riazzi Center and accompanying grounds. He mentors and trains staff in information technology, office operations, inventory management, and administrative support. Where's Dan is the most frequent question heard around Choices' offices. Always there with the answer. With a seemingly endless amount of knowledge, kind words and a ready smile, Dan is just down the hall, around the corner, or on the phone – everywhere at once it seems – he is the very definition of Operational Excellence.



We honor Renee Mills for her OPRA nomination for Direct Support Professional of the Year *(DSP.)* Renee has been a valued member of our Semi-Independent Living team for 36 years, standing side by side with clients as they set and meet their life goals, including an individual purchasing his own home, supporting an individual on his significant weight loss journey, and her continuing support for an individual who has both vision and hearing impairments but lives independently in the community because Renee is by his side.

She was also named a recent DSP Award Recipient by Tarrytown Expocare in recognition of her ongoing commitment to training and education related to health and medication needs of those she serves. Tarrytown Expocare is a specialized long-term care pharmacy focused on supporting organizations like Choices, which includes ongoing training for direct care and other professionals. Renee is a champion for independence, dignity, and possibility.

The happiest sounds of summer could be heard in and around our Riazzi Center as Summer Camp '26 was filled with arts, crafts, indoor and outdoor activities, made possible by creative staff and caring friends who provided sponsorships so that everyone could participate.



Investing in our legacy

by Trent Grooms, Chief Executive Officer

With so many good things happening centered around our family connections, we are reminded of how much gratitude we have for those who have and who continue to support the values and mission of Choices. It is your legacy … those we serve, their families, staff, board members, donors, community partners and friends … it is because of you, your support and your dedication that we can share so many meaningful accomplishments so far in 2026 as the year quickly turns into a new season.

With Fall upon us, we are pleased to report continuing financial improvement. With careful stewardship of our resources, responsible planning and continuing community support, we will maintain a strong financial position. We are committed as well to long-term sustainability, focusing on meeting future needs, as well as to be prepared when challenges come our way. Our commitment remains to prepare for those who will be needing services in the future while maintaining the quality-of-life services we currently provide.

Providing safe, welcoming, and well-maintained residences remains a top priority. We have begun and/or completed several capital improvement projects, including the installation of new roofs and chimneys at multiple locations; building maintenance and safety improvements; acquisition of several new vehicles for transportation needs; adding AED's in all CICL-owned facilities; and enhancements to improve comfort, accessibility, and operational efficiency. We are grateful for the support of community partners through grants, as well as to each person who has supported our 'fun'raising efforts, such as Bunny Bucks.

We have celebrated our annual picnic, our Mothers/Fathers Brunch, Easter Egg Hunt, and the recent dedication of our Day Hab Center as the Riazzi Center. The Center will continue to serve as a reminder of the legacy of families and friends, as it inspires and guides our continuing commitment..

This is our commitment as we move through the remainder of 2026: provide more opportunities for client engagement and growth; maintain strong financial stewardship; pursue additional grant opportunities; continue facility improvements and modernization efforts; strengthen community partnerships; and enhance services that promote independence, dignity, and inclusion.

For 2026 and beyond, it is our pledge to continue to honor the legacy of those whose insights, tenacity, and pioneering spirits brought us to where we are today, as we continue to meet the needs of today and commit to the hopes and dreams of tomorrow so that we add in a meaningful and lasting way to a legacy that began and continues to strengthen on the foundation of family, service, and community. It rests upon us now. Together we stand ready to face the challenges and create the future. Just look at the legacy that motivates, encourages, and inspires us!



One family's legacy: Following are Katie's remarks on behalf of her family as Choices came together to remember their legacy and the legacy of families responsible for founding Choices and for the community-based services available today at the Riazzi Center and throughout our region:

Our parents, Ann and Carmen, never made us feel like a number. We were all challenged, loved, and cherished and that included our sister Maureen (Reenie) who had physical and developmental disabilities. In an era when infants, children and adults were often institutionalized, our parents never considered that for Reenie. She was one of us and she belonged with us and as part of the community!

As young parents when Reenie was born, just 24 and 26, our parents recognized the need to help and support people with developmental disabilities here in our own community, to include them as a vital part of our community, to accept and to love them. Through their own actions, they served as an example to us about generosity, with that generosity extending far beyond financial support, to include unconditional love, opportunities for growth, and opportunities to just have some fun!

My siblings and I are humbled and honored that you selected our parents to honor with dedicating this building in their names. We thank you for that and for the way you continue to serve individuals with developmental disabilities in a way that would make our parents and Reenie smile and be filled with joy.

Our three reasons to give



#1 — Independence Day came twice this year for Leslie Pells *(Frizzell home/ Preble County.)* The celebration of more independence for him came on that day in May when he received his new wheelchair walker. "He really gets around the house so much more and is able to do some daily tasks on his own, which makes him feel so good about himself," shares Program Director Matt O'Shea. "He has more mobility around the house and can lift out of his chair now without assistance. He is also enjoying more freedom at L/M Products, where he has been participating in Adult Day programs for more than twenty years."

It was Matt's efforts and patience, along with Home Manager Melissa Puckett, that were instrumental in Leslie getting his new wheelchair walker. "Medicaid would not pay for his chair and that was a challenge," continues Matt, "so we worked really closely with Consumer Benefits Specialist Jennifer Priske to get some funding for him to get it. He still owes around $2,000 and is making installment payments on it as he can, but he thinks he's in heaven because of the freedom he now has."

#2 — Our very active Melicia Fontenot loves her home *(Sherry Drive),* her staff and housemates. Like so many throughout Choices and our community who have limited financial resources, some of the most basic necessities are beyond her limited budget. Being as active and out and about as she is, her shoes are a little worn and torn and some new ones would lift not only her stride but her spirits. With winter coming at full speed, she is also in need of a winter coat and some other clothing. A new dresser is on her holiday wish list, along with some new bathroom linens, maybe some pots and pans.



#3 — Angela Ingram *(Sherry Drive)* is like Melicia and so many at Choices and throughout our community. During these difficult times she finds herself behind in her bills, with no money to spend on anything extra after paying rent, utilities, food and other expenses. She has nothing left to pay for a much-needed coat for winter and other clothing. If she could treat herself and make holiday wishes come true, she would welcome some new totes to store her prized artwork and a television for her room.





October 30th just might be your lucky day! All you need to do is get your Boo Bucks tickets now to be entered into our drawing on that date. Boo Bucks is one of our annual 'fun'raisers supporting dreams and wishes for those we serve when there are no other funds available.

Tickets are available now at $50 per ticket; two for $90, and three tickets for $120. All of the proceeds support our Wish List.

Tickets are available for purchase through October 23. Don't miss your opportunity to receive up to $10,000! The drawing will be held October 30 at the Choices administrative offices.Drawing will be held at noon on October 30 at Choices administrative offices.

Be one of our Boo Bucks Boosters by reaching out through your social media, family, friends and neighbors to encourage them to join you in purchasing tickets in support of wishes that can come true for Leslie, Angela, Melicia and others.

When you purchase Boo Bucks, when you go to our website and share your gift on Giving Tuesday, make a designated gift to our Wish List, or when you make that end of the year tax-deductible gift, you will make a difference in at least three important ways to three important people. Leslie will receive support to help him with his payments on his wheelchair walker. Melicia and Angela will have new coats, clothing and shoes, bathroom linens, pots and pans and other kitchen items, and maybe a new television to fill that space in Angela's room.

We invite you to go to our secure website at www.cicloh.com to participate in Giving Tuesday, purchase your Boo Bucks tickets, make a year-end or designated gift, or to become a member of our Legacy Society. Checks may be made payable to Choices In Community Living, 1651 Needmore Road, Dayton OH 45414.

Be like Eunice ...

Like Carmen and Ann Riazzi, Eunice Powell was part of those pioneering families whose tenacity and dogged determination not only changed society for their own children but for all those who have followed since the founding of organizations like Choices. Everyone knew Eunice. Just a call from her and state legislators and local officials would take note **and they would take her call.** She was fearless and determined. From the moment she became her son Daniel's advocate to the time of her passing, she was making a difference. She was one of the most powerful and empowering voices in our ***Lest We Forget*** documentaries, and shared part of her story on a NPR broadcast of *Story Corps.*

Although she died in 2011, Eunice continues to make a difference today. She made arrangements in her will to leave her estate to Choices. As we think about legacy over the past 40 years we are reminded in the most caring way that there are those who gave so much of themselves, even unto death. We are most grateful to have received funds once again from Eunice's estate. She would be most pleased, as we are most honored.

You can join Eunice and the Riazzi family in leaving a legacy when you join our **Choices Legacy Society.** To become a Legacy Society member, join us with a recurring monthly gift of $19.85, signifying the year Choices was founded. Your support will be a part of our ongoing commitment to our mission of assuring that those we serve have access to safe, healthy and meaningful lives in the community.

We invite you to stand beside those pioneering families and those who have stood with us for more than four decades now when you become a member of our **Legacy Society.**

For more information on how you and your family can get involved with a planned gift like Eunice or a monthly gift as part of our Legacy Society, please contact Chief Executive Officer Trent Grooms at tgrooms@cicloh.com or go to our website at www.cicloh.com.

Thank you for your generous gifts

Karen Beagle

Charles Havener

Houser, Inc.

Janet Peasant

Eunice Powell
(planned gift)

Reynolds & Reynolds

Sandra Scanlon

The Dayton Foundation
(Del Mar Grants for Older Adults)

Tipp City Foundation

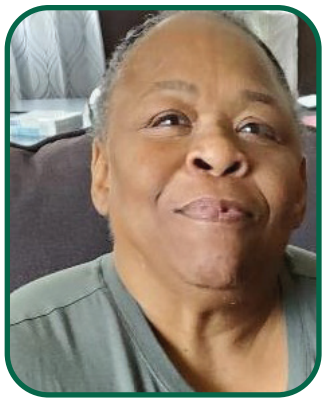


No Genie needed

You don't have to be a genie to make wishes come true. All it takes is just one click on one day!

On behalf of Leslie, Angela, Melicia and others who are waiting for their wishes to come true, we invite you to join us in **Giving Tuesday 2026 on Tuesday, December 1.** When you click on our **Giving Tuesday** link on our website at www.cicloh.com, 100% of your gift comes directly to Choices, and we then designate your gift to our Wish List to directly support the individuals we serve when there are no other funding sources available to meet their needs and wishes.

Giving Tuesday is a day set aside internationally on social media to celebrate and encourage generosity in support of nonprofit organizations like Choices. This will mark the 12th year of **Giving Tuesday,** which is held the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.





What can your Giving Tuesday gift mean? For Alberta Holmes it meant staff by her side as she stood at the gravesite of her brother Michael on a recent September morning, seeing the marker with his name for the first time. It had been her biggest wish since his death to not have him forgotten and unnamed.

With gifts received to previous Giving Tuesdays, gifts from Janet Peasant and other friends designated to Alberta and our Wish List, together we were able to give Alberta that meaningful moment at West Memory Gardens to honor and remember her brother. Not only did they share that sibling bond, but the bond of both of them flourishing as part of our extended Choices family throughout so many transitions in their lives.

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To update your mailing or email address or to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact kdanner@ciclob.com.

Judy Leasure, Editor

Choices' Voices



What a happy July day when more than 60 staff and clients came together to celebrate our annual Choices picnic, enjoying good food, prizes, and friendship. Sharing time together away from the routines of daily living are *(seated l-r)* Program Manager Ranee Harris, John Browning, Andrew Tomlin, and DSP Whitney Lowery.

Welcome home! It was a most happy day at Choices with the arrival of two transportation vans, one of five new vans received through a 5310 grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT,) the largest grant ever received by Choices at $596,015. We recognize the efforts of Amy Fansher and other staff involved in preparing, submitting and following up for this grant.

We also welcomed a grant from the Together We Strive: Del Mar Grants for Older Adults (The Dayton Foundation) to fund the purchase and installation of AEDs in the administrative offices, Riazzi Center, and six of our homes, with grant support from Kara Danner.

