



Ohio SIBS Annual Activities and Accomplishments for 2015

It is the mission of Ohio Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters (Ohio SIBS) to be recognized as the unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Ohio SIBS provides advocacy, education, leadership and supports that promote enhanced quality of life, improved public policy, and increased services and supports for adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

- Planned the **15th Annual Conference** held on November 13-14, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio
- Coordinated and managed the **Legislative Advocacy Day** at the Statehouse, providing education and support to people with disabilities and their families to advocate with legislators on March 3, 2015.
- Planned and facilitated **“Sibs Looking Forward: Weekend Retreat about Transition”** for students with developmental disabilities and their siblings on April 8-10, 2015.
- Completed **strategic planning** in collaboration with other advocacy organizations and siblings to strengthen the organization and developed four work groups:
 - Leadership Development
 - Financial Stability
 - Clarity of Direction
 - Visibility
- Participated in several statewide **DODD work groups** to review and update policy and rules that impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families
- Created, shared, and have available **resources for siblings** on topics about how to become an independent provider and how to discuss the future with parents
- **Educated professionals and families** through conferences and events across the state about the importance of the sibling perspective and how to engage siblings and family members
- Explored and pursued additional sources of **funding** to support work and activities
- Utilized **social media** to share information, updates on issues of interest, opportunities to share concerns, and inform about activities of Ohio SIBS
- Provided **support and information** to individuals

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