



# Newsletter

October, November, December - 2011

Serving Geauga County families with children

from birth to three years old

## Welcome

Cyndy Sperrazzo

**Help Me Grow's  
new Home Visitor**

**Contact us:**

Geauga County Help Me Grow  
8200 Cedar Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026

Program information & Central Intake:  
440-729-5250

Toll Free 1-866-975-1100

[www.geaugaffc.org/helpmegrow](http://www.geaugaffc.org/helpmegrow)

Check out Ohio Help Me Grow website at  
[www.ohiohelpmegrow.org](http://www.ohiohelpmegrow.org)

## What is Help Me Grow?

**Help Me Grow** is a voluntary program for pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers between the ages of birth and three years old. The goal of the program is to assure that newborns, infants, and toddlers have the best possible start in life. Help Me Grow provides services that promote children's growth and development and support families during their children's early years.

A **Help Me Grow** Worker can make visits to your home to provide you with information about community services and resources for Geauga Families. Your child will also be screened for health and overall development to make sure he/she meets important milestones. The purpose of **Help Me Grow** is to help parents help their children reach their fullest potential because the first three years of life are so important to a child's overall educational, social, and emotional development.

Geauga Help Me Grow is funded by Geauga Family First Council & Ohio Department of Health with the Early Childhood Developmental & Home Visitation Program component funded by Geauga County Job & Family Services.



**Vision: All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.**

Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities is offering community playgroups for children 18 months to three years old. **Play, Learn, and Grow** playgroups are designed to provide opportunities for social development and growth. Playgroups are held at Metzenbaum School in Chesterland and at DDC Clinic in Middlefield. Families may register for 8 week sessions on a first come – first serve basis. There will be a fee of \$40.00 for each 8 week session for those families not enrolled in Part C services.

Please call Cathy Yane at 440-729-0026 x1317 for registration and additional information.

**Attn: Help Me Grow Home Visiting Families:**

We are currently offering scholarships to help you pay for your Play, Learn & Grow playgroup. They are available on a first come – first serve basis. Call Liz St. James at 440-729-5250 x 1530 for more information.

## Snow Belted

### Winter's a blast!

#### **FREE FUN FOR ALL AGES**

Geauga Park District  
The West Woods Center  
9465 Kinsman Rd (Rt. 87)

November 2011 – February 2012

10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily

(Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, the day after Christmas and New Year's Day)

Visit Geauga Park District's Website at  
[www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org)  
for more information about this and other exciting programs they offer!

### Chardon Library

#### Annual Youth Services Puppet Show

Best for families with children ages 3 and up.  
**Registration required** – (Call 440-285-7601)  
Monday November 14, 7:00 p.m.  
or Tuesday November 15, 10:00 a.m.

#### Family Christmas Program

Sponsored by the Chardon Friends of the Library!  
**FREE for all ages. No registration required.**  
Holiday fun abounds as we celebrate the season with Santa Claus and Banjo the Christmas Clown!  
Sunday, December 11, 1:30 p.m.



### Middlefield Library

#### Christmas Craft Day

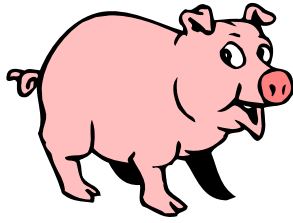
Drop in and craft some creations straight from your favorite holiday stories.  
Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am-9:00 pm.  
Call 440-632-1961 to register.



## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Huntsburg Pumpkin Festival

Sat. Oct 1<sup>st</sup> & Sun. Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm.

NO entrance fee and all of the games, entertainment and attractions are FREE! Located in Huntsburg at the intersections of St. Rt 322 & St. Rt. 528.



### Pig Races at Ridgeview Farm

People have seen horses run for the roses, the dogs run for the rabbit and now the pigs are run for the cookies! The pigs know that there is a cookie at the end of the track!

Join the fun at this **FREE** event!  
Pig races are at 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm every Saturday & Sunday in October!

Ridgeview Farm  
5488 Kinsman Road, Middlefield, OH 44062  
440-693-4000 - [www.ridgeviewfarm.com](http://www.ridgeviewfarm.com)

## Snowdrop's Adventure Game

A **FREE** indoor life-size game board based on the original book "*Snowdrop's True Color – A White Deer's Adventure*"

Spin to win as you play the game and follow the little white deer's quest to find her true color.

Penitentiary Glen Reservation  
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd, Kirtland OH 44094

Sat. Nov 19 – Wed. Nov 23 (Noon – 5:00 pm)  
Fri. Nov 25 – Fri. Dec 23 (Noon – 5:00 pm)  
Sat. Dec 24 (Noon – 3:00 pm)  
Mon. Dec 26 – Fri. Dec 30 (Noon – 5:00 pm)  
Sat. Dec 31 (Noon – 3:00 pm)  
Sun. Jan 1 (Noon – 5:00 pm)



### Rescue Village Preschool Story Time

For children 2-5 years old.

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> on Friday's at 11:00 am  
(no story time Fri. Nov. 25)

Cost is \$6.00

Call Linda Hernandez by Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> to register at 440-596-1743



### Rescue Village "Pet-A-Giving"

Sat. Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

There will be a dog ambassador there to meet & greet with a therapy dog.

Join Rescue Village for story time and **FREE** Crafts also!

Please bring a can of Purina Cat or dog food in the spirit of Thanksgiving!

## Movin' with Music

Each FREE six week session involves music experiences including playing, moving, listening, responding and singing to music. Music is a powerful tool! It helps with our attention span, turn taking and preschool readiness skills. Music helps build relationships. It creates a bond between parent and child, child to child, and child to teacher. Music also engages a child by gaining their attention and motivating them – but most importantly – music is FUN!

All classes are held at Metzenbaum Center, 8200 Cedar Road, Chesterland, OH 44026 and are taught by teacher, Carol Colombo, Music Therapist.

#### Classes are offered on:

**Mondays: Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 am**

**Wednesdays: Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00 am (no class on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Fridays: Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – Dec 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00 am (no class on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**Call Cathy Yane at 440-729-9406 x 1317 to register.**





## You're invited to the Early Childhood Subcommittee meeting

Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am at Metzenbaum, 8200 Cedar Road, Chesterland.

This is an opportunity to share your insight and knowledge with other community members interested in supporting the success of Geauga County Help Me Grow.

*FREE child care and parent stipends are available.*

## Help Me Grow Fall Festival A "Safe Place" to trick or treat!

Join other Help Me Grow families for a morning full of fun fall activities!

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am - noon

Trick or treating starts at 11:15 am

Geauga County Job & Family Services  
12480 Ravenwood Dr, Chardon

You and your child may dress up for Halloween and participate as we trick or treat. Healthy snacks will be provided by the staff from JFS.

\*Please bring your own bag\*

**RSVP Required**  
440-729-5250 x1530



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## Please join us for our Holiday Brunch Potluck

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
from 10:00 am to noon

Metzenbaum Center  
8200 Cedar Road  
Chesterland, OH  
Bring a brunch item to share.

We will have music, craft stations & Santa!

**RSVP to this event by December 7th**  
440-729-5250 x1530