



**Redefining disability.
At work. At home. At play.**



Dear *|FIRST_NAME|*,

One year ago, I joined the LEAP team as Executive Director. It has been a fulfilling and busy year for us all.

We began 2024 with a celebration of LEAP Year on February 28 and 29. Terminal Tower and downtown shined blue and green to celebrate our work in support of the disability community.

Staff gathered at the Cleveland Museum of Art for a day of learning, listening, and team building.

We heard from, and celebrated with, the disability community all year. In March, 31 people with disabilities and 23 government officials and staff came together to talk accessibility at a Town Hall event co-hosted by LEAP and Disability Rights Ohio. We celebrated Disability Pride month at multiple events in July. In September, we advocated at the 3rd annual March for Access. In partnership with Cleveland Council on World Affairs, we hosted disability advocates from Colombia and China.

Most importantly, LEAP supported hundreds of people with disabilities in their journeys to independent living. In the last year, 307 people bowled, danced, and sang with Quantum LEAP. The Independent Living team moved 55 people from nursing homes to community living. Over 100 consumers pursued career discovery and employment, including 24 youth. And 2024 isn't over yet!

You are vital to ensuring LEAP's work is inclusive, impactful, and responsive to the needs of each consumer. Your contributions directly impact the quality of life for people with disabilities. Today, and always, we are grateful for your support.

Thank you!

Beth Glas, Executive Director

bglas@leapinfo.org

[216-456-0852](tel:216-456-0852)

PS: Save the date! Join us at a Wine Tasting Benefit on Monday, March 31 at the Solon Community Center. Details to come...

Donate

Independent Living Changes Lives

What is Independent Living?

As a Center for Independent Living, we support individuals with disabilities to live independently in any way we can. “Independent Living is living the life you want to live. More specifically, it’s living the life that you choose for yourself. And being who you want to be, where you want to be,” [explains Cheryl Gorham, Director of Independent Living Services.](#)

Advocating for Independent Living

Judah began advocating for herself after a severe bout of COVID-19 left her hospitalized. While transitioning from a nursing home back home, she faced resistance from the facility. She received support from Jasmine Watts, a LEAP Community Health Worker and Transition Coordinator, who guided her through the process. Judah returned home feeling supported and valued, thanks to Jasmine’s ongoing assistance.



Judah’s Story

Quantum LEAP’s Big Year

A critical element of independent living is community. “LEAP is really all about providing equal opportunity for everybody to be who they want to be. We’re also about bringing people together through our [Quantum LEAP adapted recreation programs](#) and social events such as dances. Everybody has a great time,” says Gorham.

[LEAP’s recreation program](#) served more people by July 2024 than in all of 2023. New activities (karaoke!), fancy dances (prom!), and great locations (east and west side!) brought more fun than ever before.



We need your support to keep [Quantum LEAP](#) growing: sponsor the program, buy an item on our [Amazon Wish List](#), or [volunteer](#)! For info, contact Ted Sielski at [\(216\) 456-0832](#) or tsielski@leapinfo.org.



[Amazon Wish List](#)

[Volunteer](#)

Benefits & Employment

The Role of Benefits



We understand that each person’s journey to meaningful employment and independent living is unique. LEAP provides a wide range of services to cater to specific needs, ensuring each consumer is supported every step of the way.

Our benefits services are a complement to employment activities by helping individuals with disabilities understand how their benefits interact with employment. As Barb Judah, Director of [Benefits](#) and [Employment Services](#), explains, “It’s about connecting people with disabilities to public benefits that they may be eligible for and also helping them connect with quality employment. The income can be an important addition to their budget.”

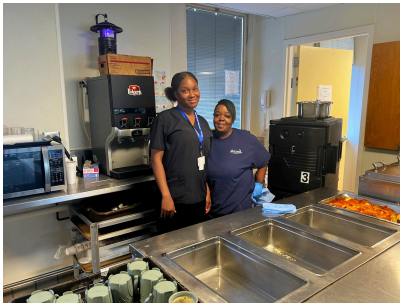
Your [donation](#) today supports the delivery of LEAP services like [benefits assistance](#).

Donate

Employment's Big Impact

We support individuals with disabilities in finding meaningful employment that fits their skills and potential.

From Curiosity to Career: Laniah's Story



Laniah participated in our Summer Youth Work Experience at St. Augustine's Nursing Home. Her innate curiosity and unwavering determination led her to explore every role the five-week rotational program had to offer. Her dedication to trying every position led her to discover a passion for Nutrition Services, where she excelled, ultimately receiving an offer at the end of the program. Laniah happily accepted the offer, beginning an exciting new chapter in her employment journey.

Laniah's Story

From Aspiration to Achievement: Terra's Story

Before joining LEAP, Terra explored her employment options through another organization. Unsuccessful, Terra turned to LEAP for support. She began working with LEAP employment specialist Adam Walls, who leveraged a Community-Based Assessment (CBA) to build her skills and confidence. Encouraged by her progress, Adam recommended she apply at Burlington, where she was hired on the spot and continues to thrive.

Terra's Journey

About Community-Based Assessments

[Laniah](#) and [Terra](#) are just two of the over 100 people who are on a successful employment journey with support from LEAP this year.

Get Involved with LEAP

Advocate



Join [LEAP's Advocacy Group](#) to make your voice heard: listen, learn, share, and influence.

[Learn More](#)

Join Our Board



We're looking for persons with disabilities passionate about [LEAP's mission](#) and work to join the Board.

Contact Beth Glas for more information.

[\(216\) 456-0852](tel:(216)456-0852) | bglas@leapinfo.org

[Our Board](#)

Volunteer at Events



Come volunteer at one of our Quantum LEAP or Advocacy events! There's something for everyone!

Contact Ted Sielski for more information.

[\(216\) 456-0832](tel:(216)456-0832) | tsielski@leapinfo.org

[Learn More](#)

[Donate](#)

[Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential](#)

[2545 Lorain Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44113](#)

Email not displaying correctly?

[View it in your browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

