



Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Special Recognition Award September 2026

When the Lucas DD Children's Department completed training to facilitate Special Olympics Young Athletes Playgroups, the search was on for a welcoming community space.

That led staff to the West Toledo branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

From the very beginning, Ryan Rigaux, Branch Librarian and Manager, and his team enthusiastically opened their doors. Recognizing the value of the program, Ryan advocated for the playgroup to become a weekly event, even though recurring reservations are not typically permitted. Through his leadership and collaboration with library administration, he helped ensure that this opportunity would be available to families on an ongoing basis.

Working alongside Lucas DD staff, including Theresa Grimes and Brittany Graham, Ryan quickly gained an understanding of both the Young Athletes Program and the mission of the Board. His openness, flexibility, and willingness to identify suitable space within the library created an environment where everyone felt welcome, regardless of the season or weather.

Each week, on the lower level of the library, children and their caregivers come together to run, jump, dance, and explore through play. They build confidence, friendships, and joyful memories.

Behind the scenes, custodian Janet Roane ensures the room is clean, prepared, and ready for use week after week. She clears tables and chairs, maintains the space, and even transports the Young Athletes equipment cart from storage, making setup easy and allowing Lucas DD staff to focus their energy on serving families.

Ryan and Janet, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is honored to present you with this Special Recognition Award for September 2026 as a token of our appreciation for your generosity, partnership, and dedication. Congratulations!