Kelley Watson

Retirement
September 2026

Kelley Watson began her journey with the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities in 1992 as an eager 21-year-old Vocational Trainer. Her 34-year career is filled with meaningful connections, memories, and a lasting impact on the lives of so many individuals and families.

She held several positions throughout her tenure. Whatever the role, Kelley's dedication, compassion, and enthusiasm was unmatched. In 2012, she found her home as the Recreational Specialist in the Community Inclusion Department, a role she embraced up until her retirement last month.

Though she held several formal titles, Kelley's informal titles include connector, cheerleader, problem-solver, and often the person making sure everyone feels welcomed and included. She was instrumental in building relationships with families, individuals, volunteers, and community partners.

From her early days as a Vocational Trainer to the many adventures and opportunities she helped create throughout her career, Kelley's passion for serving others was at the heart of everything she did. Her years of dedication created countless opportunities for individuals to connect, participate, explore new interests, and have a little fun along the way!

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, passion, and heart she has given to our athletes, families, coaches, and volunteers. Her commitment to our programs and our athletes transformed Lucas County Special Olympics and made it one of the best in the state.

Kelley's journey is a wonderful reminder that when you combine passion, purpose, and a whole lot of heart, you can make a difference that lasts for decades. Not to mention all the energy, laughter, relationships, and memories Kelley made with her colleagues at the Board.

While retired, we know she will always be a familiar and enthusiastic face at Special Olympics. She has already volunteered to coach Bocce, and will continue cheering on all our athletes at all of their competitions.

Kelley's retirement closes one chapter, and opens another one that no doubt will be filled with adventures, laughter, family, friends, furry companions, and a few Browns and Buckeyes games along the way. Congratulations, Kelley!