



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Advocacy group of adults with disabilities spreads love within the community**

(Lebanon, OH) -- Voices Speaking Out is a self-advocacy group comprised of adults receiving services from the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities (WCBDD). Members meet monthly with the purpose of advocating independence and inclusion for those with disabilities. In addition to advocacy, the group actively seeks out ways to give back to their community. Although the year presented many unique challenges, Voices Speaking Out seized the opportunity to rejuvenate their community through acts of love.

It was during a summer advocacy meeting, that members suggested visiting local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. "One of our advocate's grandparents live at Otterbein. She was talking about how lonely they are due to no visitors", said WCBDD Advocacy Coordinator, Ellen Hudson, "That's how the idea of showing love evolved". Because of the pandemic, the group could not visit residents inside the facilities. This however, did not deter the advocates who with permission, gathered outside the buildings of multiple nursing facilities. While holding self-made signs promoting positivity, residents waved from their windows, thanking the group for the gesture of kindness.

Their kindness and generosity continued into the fall, when Voices Speaking Out visited the Atrium Medical Center. In an effort to recognize and thank Healthcare Professionals and Essential Workers, each member assembled and donated dozens of goodie bags. A total of sixty goodie bags were donated by the group, and graciously received by the center's Respiratory Care Unit.

The advocates of Voices Speaking Out remain vigilant in lifting the spirits of those around them. The most recent recipient of the group's love, was the Warren County Sheriff's Office. With arms full of goodie bags, the advocates personally thanked Sheriff Larry Sims and his team for keeping the community safe.

For information about Voices Speaking Out, contact Advocacy Coordinator, Ellen Hudson at (513) 806-3778 or email [ellen.hudson@warrencountydd.org](mailto:ellen.hudson@warrencountydd.org)

