

THE INSIDER:

A NEWSLETTER FOR FORMER BOARD MEMBERS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS

Central Ohio Diabetes Association

Spring/Summer 2016



Dear former board members and special friends:

Thanks in part to practices you established, we have continued to make progress towards our mission. In 2015:

WE TAUGHT

2,000

class attendees
how to prevent,
detect, and
manage diabetes

WE HELPED

1,000

community members
through our case
management, mental
health, empowerment
groups, referral, and
individual consultation
services

WE HELD

600

screening events,
helping 7,169
individuals learn their
diabetes status

Thank you so much for your past work and your continued support of our mission to help Central Ohioans detect, prevent, and manage diabetes.

Jeanne C. Grothaus

Jeanne C. Grothaus,
Former Executive Director



Jeanne congratulates
2014 Volunteer of the Year,
James Buster Douglas

May 2016 Board Officers

- President: Tim Cotter**
- President Elect/VP: David Tiggett**
- Treasurer: Jay Meglich**
- Assistant Treasurer: Marie Mead**
- Secretary: Jon Yoon**
- Medical Director: Dr. Samuel Cataland**
- Past President: Nathan Rish**



Jeanne Grothaus Retires After 22 Years as Executive Director



Jeanne Grothaus, Date, Photo Credit: Charles Farmer

By Lindsey McHenry

Jeanne Grothaus joined Central Ohio Diabetes Association 22 years ago, and she still hasn't lost the spark of motivation that inspired her in the very beginning. Before joining CODA as Executive Director, she worked as an administrator at a full-service Neighborhood Health Center.

When she joined, she remembers her former health center coworkers asking "Well, just diabetes, don't you think you'll get bored with that? Do you think that'll be a enough for you?"

"The truth is," Grothaus said. "It's been more than enough. There are so many issues involved with diabetes – it's a health issue, an economic issue. It's an emotional issue. It's a political issue, a social justice issue in many ways."

Like many people who work at CODA, Grothaus has personal ties to the disease; diabetes runs in her family. One of the most difficult things for Grothaus to grapple with has been the difficulty of convincing the

community of the urgency of addressing the diabetes crisis.

"I guess at times I thought that should be easier for people to understand but it takes a lot of work to help people become better educated about what the challenges are related to diabetes and the complexity of it," she said.

During her 22-year tenure as Executive Director, Grothaus has come far in helping the agency realize this goal. Some of her favorite CODA milestones include the capital campaign and the opening of the new building in 2003.

"For me having a permanent place in the community, a building that we own, made us a part of the fabric of social services for the community and ensured that we would continue to be able to deliver the services going forward," she said.

CODA's 50th anniversary celebration holds a special place in her heart because it celebrated staff and volunteers from different generations of the agency's history. Grothaus also remembers the advent of CODA's social entrepreneur program, which helped the organization generate a long-term stream of revenue for Camp Hamwi.

Other diabetes camps across the country followed in CODA's footsteps when CODA disclosed information on its social entrepreneur program at national conferences.

"I think each new development, each new opportunity to do something, whether it be a capital campaign, or to generate earned income or to celebrate milestones to develop new programs and to deliver those programs in new communities. All of those things, each one of them were energizers for me," Grothaus said.

She also considers her everyday work incredibly fulfilling.

"I felt best about being involved every day at the agency because every day we deliver that mission. I cannot remember a single time when we turned anyone away or were unable to deliver what people came to us for," she said.

Aside from the addition of diabetes prevention programs, the mission has not changed in 22 years, and Grothaus believes that shows the dedication and the consistency of the agency. What will she miss the most



From left to right: Brenda Rendelman, Jenny Shrodes, Jeanne Grothaus, Jon-David Hawks and Lindsey Musser

as she moves forward? The people and their ability to work as a team.

“I cannot remember a single time when we turned anyone away or were unable to deliver what people came to us for.”

“It was always nice that we had developed here at the agency, a culture where people could come into the agency and suggest new things to do. Sometimes people might come to me with a concern that we’re not doing enough of this or that or they don’t like A, B, or C, but when I’d say, ‘Well, what would you do differently?’ the ideas that they’d generate would be really fascinating, and I’d say ‘Well can you help us do it?’

“Everyone cares and everyone has their own thing that they bring to it and other people respect that and I think the agency is unique in the way that everybody has a leadership role at different times... People respect that expertise that everyone brings to the table, and we work with them to help everyone do their best work,” she said.

Grothaus may be retiring, but this won’t be the last time she walks down our halls. She plans to stay involved with the agency after her retirement.

“I have a fund here to help support camperships at the agency that was established really in memory of my father that the family continues to support. I know I’ll be involved in that way. I hope to be involved in whatever way the agency thinks would be helpful to them down the road. After a short break,” she laughed.

Grothaus hopes that the agency will continue to focus on a core concept of social justice. She emphasized that access to healthcare and support for people with diabetes is an important part of social justice regardless of the client’s economic status.

She provided the following advice for the new executive director, “I do think that agencies need different leadership at different times. Part of what’s good about this, there’s a lot of new things that are happening, and that presents a lot of opportunities. And I think the new person should look at what the opportunities are. They may be different from what we’ve had in the past.” She also recommended engaging the dedicated staff and supporters of the agency.

When told that this seemed like good advice, Grothaus laughed and said, “I wouldn’t look back too much; I’d be looking forward.” **(See the back cover for more photos of Jeanne’s time at CODA.)**

Willard Fernald, Founder of Camp Hamwi, Named Honorary Board Member



Dr. Fernald's Legacy

"He's been, as you know, the medical director for the camp since its inception and he's brought his heart and soul to it in a very generous and very dignified and passionate way. He's always been a champion for the camp and the children in every way possible.

...He has truly been an inspiration for both the staff, and the board, and for parents- he's been a huge comfort to parents. He's always been very cheerful and very encouraging and parents feel better after they've talked with him because he has such a positive outlook. He knows what's possible for children with diabetes with good care, and it's a great future."

Jeanne Grothaus, CODA Executive Director

Willard Fernald, MD, was named a Honorary Board Member by the Central Ohio Diabetes Association, a unique and rare honor. Dr. Fernald previously served as an active member of the agency's Board of Directors, which he joined in 1966.

In addition to being board certified in pediatrics and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, he also served as a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University. Dr. Fernald is a founding member of the Hein-zerling Foundation Advisory Board and served as its Chairman since 1955. He has dedicated his life to serving others through community service.

Recognizing a need for a camp for children with diabetes, he founded one in 1967. He served as Camp Hamwi's Medical Director for many years, taking responsibility for arranging medical care for the campers who attend each year to learn skills to manage their diabetes effectively and independently. Our organization needs innovators like Dr. Fernald so it can continue to grow and flourish. CODA extends its warmest congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Fernald for his accomplishments.



From left to right: Leslie Cheek, Kent Cheek, Darlene Honigford, Willard Fernald