

NEWS RELEASE



Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Executive Shapiro encourages residents to wear orange, support Inclusion Day

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—County Executive Ilene Shapiro is encouraging residents to empower and support people of all abilities by participating in Inclusion Day. Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board (Summit DD) urges residents to reaffirm their commitment to inclusivity and accessibility throughout the month and to wear orange on Inclusion Day, March 3, 2025. Residents can use the #IncludeME on social media and tag @summitdd to get involved!

In addition to wearing orange, Summit DD is partnering with local organizations for fun events throughout the community, including Inclusion Days at the Zoo! Residents can receive free admission at the Akron Zoo by wearing orange beginning Saturday, March 1 through Monday, March 3. Admission and parking are free for all visitors wearing orange at the door. Visit the Akron Zoo's [website](#) for hours.

Summit DD is teaming up with Summit Art Space to host an inclusive art walk event on Thursday, March 13 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. This year's theme is "Creative Voices: Empowering Artists of All Abilities." The celebration features artist vendors, creative activities, The Inclusioneer's Mobile Sensory Bus, food, music, and more. The art walk event is free and open to the public.

For the first time, Summit DD is also partnering with We Rock the Spectrum Stow, an inclusive kids' gym, during the week of March 10 – March 15. Visitors wearing orange will receive \$2.00 off their admission. Hands-on, inclusive play activities facilitated by Summit DD's Early Intervention and Early Child Focus Area team members will take place from 10:00am – 11:00am Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14. On-site developmental assessments for children 3 years and under will also be available during this time.

Residents can learn more about what Summit DD has to offer, including free trainings, assessments, and more at their website: <https://www.summitdd.org/dd-awareness-month-2025/>

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