

## A Resolution

The 2001 Kenneth J. Legats Lifetime Achievement Award for Visionary Leadership in Administration

Presented to

Charles H. Arndt  
Executive Director, Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD

The Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MR/DD has commissioned an annual award in memory of Ken Legats, named the Kenneth J. Legats Lifetime Achievement Award for Visionary Leadership in Administration. This award is presented annually to an administrator who has been duly nominated by the Board of Trustees, in conjunction with Region V of the Ohio Superintendents Association, and who exhibits high accomplishments in leadership within the practice of mrdd administration. In 2000 this Association recognized Ken Legats for his vision, his ability to collaborate with others, as an advocate for individuals and their families. And other attributes that truly reflect what Ken Legats stood for, The first individual to receive the Kenneth J. Legats Lifetime Visionary Leadership Award exhibits many of the same attributes. This years honoree is Charles H. Arndt.

Charlie began his career in special education as a teacher in the Clearview Local School District in 1969 and later taught in the Brooklyn City Schools. He became Superintendent of the Union County Board of MRDD in 1977 and served in that capacity until February 1984. It was then that he became the first and only Executive Director of this Association. Charlie demonstrated his leadership abilities early on by being instrumental in obtaining equitable funding for children in county board school age programs that paralleled funding for children in school districts. Over the years, his professional leadership has continued while providing representation and essential support to county boards throughout Ohio. Some of the many issues Charlie has had the vision and leadership to undertake include: management practices for county boards of MR/DD, enactment of more than fifteen separate legislative bills, and more than \$500 million of additional revenues from federal, state and local sources for services and supports to individuals with mrdd.

Most recently Charlie's leadership and vision have given rise to major changes in the delivery of supports for individuals with disabilities and their families, especially for older adults living with parents who are also aging. At a time when Ohio and our country are facing a challenging economy, most county boards have lengthy waiting lists and some are facing financial cross roads. In addition, boards are faced with restricted access to Medicaid for expansion of supports. In this environment and in his leadership position, Charlie had the vision to craft a Medicaid plan of action to expand supports for adults and children with intensive needs. This plan allows leveraging and expansion of Medicaid waivers using existing state and local monies from supported living and adult services – a plan that can yield as much as \$500 million of federal funding.

Charlie successfully spearheaded this effort in collaboration with Ohio's coalition of advocacy organizations, by bringing statewide media attention to our cause, gaining access to applicable agencies at the state and federal level to communicate our issues and needs, and resulting in the enactment of major, progressive statutory reform and funding advances in H.B. 94 (2001) and H.B. 405 (2001).

On behalf of Ohio's eighty-eight county boards of MRDD, The Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD, and Region V of the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD applaud and recognize you, Charles H. Arndt for your unequalled visionary and professional leadership and loyal support to individuals and their families. We are proud to confer this recognition to you in the name of the late Kenneth J. Legats, who was like you, a champion of professional leadership with exemplary vision.

So Recognized this Twenty-seventh day of November, 2001 in Columbus, Ohio

Pam Barton  
President  
OACBMRDD

H. Michael Miller  
President, Region V.  
OSCBMRDD