



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

July 2011

First Impression Leaves Lasting Mark on Oberlin College Volunteer



A group of Murray Ridge consumers, staff, and MROCA volunteers celebrate the conclusion of MROCA's Storytelling class, an activity offered at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center in 2010 and 2011. Hilary Finedore is pictured, center, standing against chalkboard.

Her first year at Oberlin College, Hilary Finedore spent the required freshman Day of Service working at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center (OWAC).

Her last year of college, Hilary wrote her senior thesis on Murray Ridge.

Through that one day as an OWAC volunteer, Hilary discovered her true passion: working with people, especially young adults, with developmental disabilities. She further cultivated that interest by joining the Murray Ridge Oberlin College Alliance (MROCA) during her sophomore year of college.

The Oberlin Day of Service is a day-long opportunity for incoming freshman to work within the Oberlin community on a service or volunteer project. OWAC is one of the many places where these students can spend their service day. Hilary chose OWAC because of her positive experience as a special needs coordinator at Capital Camp in Pennsylvania.

At the time Hilary started at Oberlin College, MROCA was starting to fade on campus. The current group leader was

graduating, and no one was stepping up to maintain the group's efforts. But because of the impression Murray Ridge made during the Day of Service, Hilary and a friend, co-leader Paulina Papagiannis, chose to infuse their energy and actually enlarge MROCA's presence on campus.

Finedore spent three years working with MROCA. In her senior year at Oberlin, when faced with writing her thesis as part of an Anthropology degree, Hilary chose Murray Ridge as her subject. She examined a side of DD often overlooked: the perceptions of society - and of the individual - as *young adults* with DD become *adults* with DD.

To gather information for her thesis, Hilary spent a year working with OWAC; her first semester was spent observing and note-taking, while her second semester was spent writing and shaping her thoughts. Specifically, Hilary examined adulthood as a person with developmental disabilities from two perspectives; economic and social.

Economically, Hilary was interested in how adults with DD felt about their jobs, the amount of money they made, and their independence. Socially, she examined their relationships with friends, co-workers, and romantic interests.

Hilary's findings on an economic level were quite a revelation to her: there was not much attitudinal difference between an adult with DD and an adult without DD. In addition to income, both value being respected in the workplace.

"One of the struggles our society faces is that people with DD are not always viewed as adults. But like everyone, they have likes and dislikes. They also have potential for leadership roles," Finedore said.

Hilary did find some social differences within the DD community. "There is a strong community of people who come (to Work/Activity Centers) for years and years - decades even - of their lives. It changes the way they build relationships."

New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Crystal Mowry is an LPN at the Meister Road group home. She previously worked as a certified in-home childcare provider for 19 years. Crystal enjoys camping and playing cards. She lives with her four daughters in Vermillion.

Sean Morris is a Workshop Specialist with Community Employment. He studies nursing at LCCC. Sean served in Operation Enduring Freedom in the U.S. Coast Guard. Sean enjoys playing sports and lives in Wakeman with his wife and son.



Laura Lee joins the Community Employment department as a Workshop Specialist. She previously worked in the JVS Adult Education office. Laura resides in Avon Lake with her husband and son, where she is an avid bowler and enjoys playing basketball and volleyball.

Samantha Hembree is a part time Group Home Aide at the East 9th Street group home where she previously worked as a sub. Samantha attended Firelands High School and currently attends LCCC, working towards her degree as a surgical technician.



Roger Dorsey joins the Oberlin Work/Activity Center as a Workshop Aide after previous work as a Workshop Sub. He lives with his wife and three children in Elyria. When not at work, Roger is active in his church, spends time with his family, and enjoys hunting.

Sara Barnhart joins us as a part time Group Home Aide at the East College Street group home. She obtained her Associate's degree in Social Sciences from LCCC. She enjoys collecting and making jewelry, painting, drawing, and reading. Sarah lives with her three children in Elyria.



Sherry Lacko joins the SSA office as an SSA/Behavior Analyst. She holds an MA in Education - Gifted Intervention Specialist from Kent State University. She previously worked as a K-3 Intervention Specialist in Mantua. Sherry enjoys bike riding and reading.

Congratulations on the following promotions:

Nikki Dye: Funding/Forecasting/Medicaid Services Manager

Heather Gurchik: Waiver Funding/Forecasting Program Manager



Finedore found that, unlike in traditional workplaces, the social groups at the Work/Activity Centers were not based on age, nor were the actual disabilities a factor in social interactions. "Developmental disabilities virtually fade into the background, and personality really shines through."

But an overarching theme Hilary discovered throughout her three years as a volunteer and her year-long study of MRC was the level of respect throughout the organization.

"I have a lot of respect for people who work at and attend Murray Ridge," Hilary said. "And the respect between staff and consumers is evident through their daily interactions

and genuine concern for each other."

Hilary's interest in DD did not end when she received her diploma. After this summer, Finedore will head to Boston to work as a teacher of children with autism. Her ultimate goal, though, is to work with young adults with DD to create leadership roles and opportunities. "Young adults need leadership opportunities, and these opportunities are grossly under-represented."

We wish Hilary best of luck in the future, and thank her for her dedication to Murray Ridge and the community.

A "Royal" Party

For the third consecutive year, contestants with the Lorain International Association Princess Pageant reigned over the Murray Ridge Elyria Work/Activity Center. On Thursday, June 9, seventeen princesses donned their country's traditional gowns to visit with Murray Ridge consumers.

This year, the princesses were treated to a tour of the Elyria facility, a meet and greet with Murray Ridge consumers, and an impromptu dance and photo session. In anticipation of the princesses' visit, Murray Ridge Center consumers decorated the Work/Activity Center with maps, flags, and other cultural items representing various countries around the world.



The 2011 Lorain International Association Princess Pageant contestants.



Tim Quisenberry, Italian Princess Hannah Congelio, Tim Stewart, and Mike Telloni.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on June 24, 2011:

Board President Michelle Hunt was appointed to the Ethics Committee, filling the position of former Board member Jane Spiegelberg. Dr. Fisher informed the Board that an Accreditation Review by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities was recently concluded. She thanked the staff for their diligence and efforts in preparing for the review. Dr. Fisher also noted that the process and focus were different than in past years. The final results of the survey and length of the renewed certification (in terms of years) will be known in the coming months. A third quarter allocation for the Family Support Parent Committee in the amount of \$129,164.46 was unanimously approved. A revision to the Family Support Services policy was passed; the revision addressed the provision to Family Support Services recipients of information on the policy for Administrative Resolution of Complaints. Additionally, the Board approved criteria for the provision of partial day facility-based care by Murray Ridge Adult Services. Superintendent Fisher announced a second Breaking Down Barriers wrestling event to benefit the Friends of Murray Ridge, date to be determined.

Join the Parade!

Murray Ridge consumers participate in the Avon Duck Tape Festival and the Lorain International Festival & Bazaar.



L-R: Kevin Johnson, Jennifer Jones, Megan Craig, Shari Reitenbach and Maria Poling.



Rear, L-R: Coach Lisa Martin, Britiny Bennett, Maria Poling, Tracy Horn, Shari Reitenbach, Sarah Ward, Alicia Lawrence, Coach Vanessa McKissick. Front, l-r: Leona Hunsucker, Megan Craig, Donna Wolfe, Dominique Flores, and Jennifer Hunsucker.



L-R: Alison Butler, John Armstrong, Hector Lozano, Scott Stephanchick, Craig Correthers and Gary Buckosh.



Back Row L-R: Terri Camp, Gary Buckosh, Hector Lozano, Todd Buchanan, Tom Scislowski, Craig Correthers, Scott Stephanchick, Joe Gluvna and Rich Haase. Front Row L-R: John Armstrong, Alison Butler, and Rick Seagers Sr.

Chalk it up to a Great Artist

Tammy Stanley, instructor at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center, created these chalk drawings for the Oberlin Chalk Walk held June 25.



Murray Ridge Center July 2011



The Murray Ridge Courier

Murray Ridge Athletes Compete in the Special Olympics

48 Murray Ridge athletes competed at the 2011 Special Olympics 42nd Annual Ohio State Summer Games. All of our athletes gave excellent performances, and for the first time in Murray Ridge history, 5-to-a-Side Soccer brought home the gold medal!

The Games, held June 24-26 at The Ohio State University in Columbus, featured more than 2,700 competitors in eleven sports, and included movies, recreational clinics, and the colorful Opening Ceremonies which took place in Ohio Stadium.

Murray Ridge proudly supports the Special Olympics throughout the year. Congratulations to the athletes who represented Lorain County at this year's Ohio State Summer Games.



Gold Medal Soccer Team Back Row (L-R): Eric Bryner, Coach Michelle, Coach BJ, Ryan Eliason, DJ Overall, Carl Jeans. Front Row (L-R): Eric Johnson, Victor Elder and Kris Sommer. Not pictured: Steven Cruz



Traditional Volleyball L-R: Coach Keen, Leroy Davis, Ryan Busher, Kurt Caris, Zuleyka Perez, Ohio State VB athlete, Andrew Donald, Mike Kovacic, Coach Rosecrans



Women's 4 x 100 M relay L-R: Dominique Flores, Alicia Lawrence, Jenna Jones, Kim Nadolski

Results:

Modified Volleyball: 5th Place (Jennifer Jones, Shari Reitenbach, James Peters, Benji Lewis, Richard Urban, Sandy Keener, Krystle Keener) Coach Vanessa McKissick

Traditional Volleyball: 3rd Place (Leroy Davis, Andrew Donald, Kurt Caris, Zuleyka Perez, Mike Kovacic, Ryan Busher) Coach Leroy Keen and Stacy Rosecranz

5-a-side Soccer: GOLD! 1st time for Murray Ridge. Victor Elder, Kris Sommer, Ryan Eliason, DJ Overall, Eric Bryner, Carl Jeans

Bocce: Brian and Alexshawn: 4th, Doreen and Tim: Bronze, Lori and Mary: 4th, James and Julie: 4th. Men's Team: 4th, Women's Team: 4th

Track:

Ray Behner: 3rd in the Pentathlon

Dominique Flores: 400 M walk: Silver, Standing Long Jump: Gold

Marko Govich: 100 M Dash: 4th, Standing Long Jump: Gold
Leif Hammonds: Standing Long Jump: Gold, 200 M Dash: 5th

Jenna Jones: Standing Long Jump: Gold, 100 M Dash: Gold
Bill Lacko: 100 M Dash: Gold, Shotput: Bronze
Mark Lacko: Shotput: Silver, 100 M Dash: 4th
Alicia Lawrence: Pentathlon: Gold

Kenny Martin: Shotput: Gold, 100 M Dash: Gold

Kim Nadolski: 100 M Dash: Gold, Standing Long jump: 4th
Wendy Smitkowski: 100 M Walk: Silver, Softball Throw: Silver

Rebecca Wilson: 100 M Dash: Gold, Standing Long Jump: Silver

Tennis:

Singles: Sarah Ward: 4th, David Zsigray 4th, Andrew Prihoda Bronze

Doubles: Sarah and David: 5th

Bowling:

Jason Rulong: Silver

Marty Hahn: Bronze

Chrissy Brandt: Bronze



Eye On Health

Kevin Eye, Director of Nursing Services

The Aging DD Population

Due to advances, such as improved healthcare in childhood and adolescence, an increasing percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) are age 55 and older. While improvements in support services and medical care are advantageous to the DD population, the aging of consumers creates a new set of challenges, including heart disease, osteoporosis, memory impairment disorders, arthritis, and decreased physical ability.

Chronic pain also becomes more of an issue for this aging population. According to a 2005 study by the Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry, up to 25% of persons over the age of 65 suffer from chronic pain, and it is under recognized in 61% of people with DD; this can be a significant contributor to challenging behaviors.

With an increase in older adults with DD comes a new challenge: people who work with the DD population may have little to no experience with the complex medical conditions inherent to the aged.

Murray Ridge will continue to stay up-to-date on the care of our aging population, and work to meet the needs of our consumers through staff education and training.

Until next time, keep an Eye on your health!

Caring Hearts Create Lasting Memories



The Murray Ridge Caring Hearts group was formed in 2003 as a way to help program participants and family members cope with illness and the loss of loved ones. Kiki Watchorn and Nancy Seighman (left), two of our Adult Program staff,

initially conceived the idea of a support group for ill or hospitalized individuals.

Nancy and Kiki work tirelessly to raise money for the Caring Hearts through fundraisers such as raffles and bus trips. Recently, they coordinated the annual Caring Hearts Memorial Service which honors those we've lost over the years. Many thanks to Nancy and Kiki for their caring and dedication to those we serve.

Murray Ridge Summer Camp Fun

Murray Ridge School's 2011 camp session kicked off on June 13! Students were invited to participate in a three-week long day camp. Campers had the opportunity to engage in many enjoyable activities, including swimming and field trips, and to try their hands at a variety of crafts, like tie-dye and cupcake decorating. This year's weekly themes included earth, sea, and outer space.



Grant Holbrook decorates cupcakes.



Chloe Breeding enjoys pool time!



Steven Fosdick stands in front of the tie-dyed t-shirts.

July 2011

Activities & Events

- 7/4 - Independence Day, Agency closed
- 7/6 - Softball tryouts (Special Olympics), 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
- 7/7 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 7/14 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 7/14 - Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade, 7:00 p.m.
- 7/27 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 7/28 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 	5	6 	7 	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 	28 	29	30
31						



Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.80 Adults = \$2.90

July 18 - 22
Aug. 8 - 12
Aug. 29 - 31

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

July 4 - 8
July 25 - 29
Aug. 15 - 19

Monday- Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

Tuesday- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Wednesday- Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

July 11 - 15
Aug. 1 - 5
Aug. 22 - 26

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Tuesday- Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 146
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org

Special Kickers Soccer Camp

AC Premier Special Kickers Soccer Camp will teach soccer and soccer related activities designed to meet the individual needs of each child.

Who: Any child with developmental disabilities, ages 6-12

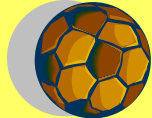
When: August 2, 4, 9, 11, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: Daniels Park, 38401 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Willoughby

Cost: Free!

Deadline: July 23, 2011 – Space is limited

Contact: Mark Wardeiner at 440-669-9182 or wardeiner@ameritech.net with questions, or visit www.acpremiersoccer.com to learn more



More News You Might Use...

We often receive information from external sources about offerings designed for people with DD (e.g., summer camps and special interest classes). Many offerings have an associated cost to the participant. Although we are not in a position to “vouch for” or promote such offerings, we recognize that these opportunities may be of interest to our consumers, their families, and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning more about these consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration at 440-324-2366.

Volunteer This Summer

Have fun and educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. For several events throughout Lorain County this summer, we need volunteers to help staff booths and participate in parades.

- Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade (July 14)
- North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade (August 14)
- Lorain County Fair (August 22 - 28)
- Woolly Bear Festival Parade (September 25)

If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at any of the following events, please contact Jennifer Judkins or Tracey Carroll at 329-3734. Can't make it to one of these parades? We always need volunteers! Call or stop by to pick up a volunteer packet.

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please contact Jennifer Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.