



**MurrayRidgeCenter**  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

August 2011

## Oberlin Consumer Raises Money for the American Cancer Society



John Bennington enjoys his days at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center.

John Bennington knows what it's like to be charitable.

After 22 years with Murray Ridge working in the Lorain and Oberlin Work/Activity Centers, John has seen his fair share of people helping others. He has watched staff and consumers work together towards making someone's life a little easier, a little more comfortable, and oftentimes, a lot better.

Recently John overheard a staff member from his Echoing Lakes residential home discussing his

sister's battle with a cancerous brain tumor. Moved by her struggle, John decided it was time to take action and help fund a cure for all cancers, for all people, through the American Cancer society.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is the largest voluntary health organization in the United States. Since 1946, ACS has spent more than \$3.5 billion on cancer research, and hundreds of millions of dollars trying to fight cancer on a global scale. Nearly all of the funds used by ACS are from private donations or fundraising.

John has been raising funds by placing a collection can at the entrance to the Oberlin Work/Activity Center. He plans to add additional cans to the Lorain and Elyria locations in hopes of raising more than \$300 through "John's Jugs." John is confident that, with his help and the charity of our Murray Ridge consumers, staff, and visitors, we can help find a cure for cancer.

Kathy Walcott, a Qualified Mental Retardation Professionals (QMRP) who has worked with John for the past five years in his residential home, feels this effort not only benefits ACS, but John as well. "I think it's really good for him to have an outlet for his feelings, to do something positive," she said.

John hopes that his contribution will do what he has seen done so often over the years – help someone in need.

"He's very empathetic," Kathy remarked. "Things affect him. This type of fundraising is something that is very encouraging. It shows how much he cares."

EDITOR'S NOTE: To learn more about John's Jug, visit our Oberlin Work/Activity center or contact Jenn Judkins at 329-3734.

# Murray Ridge Work/Activity Center Visitors

July brings guests from across the street and around the world

## OBERLIN

On July 7, students from the Credo program through Oberlin College performed for the consumers at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center.

Credo (Latin for "I believe") is a three-week program for serious young musicians between the ages of 12 and 23, visiting from more than 35 states and several foreign countries.

Students stay on campus, live in dorms, and perform outreach concerts and service projects such as park site preparation and cleaning homeless shelters in the community throughout the course of their stay.



Jennifer Moccabe, Mike Vitai, Shasta Knarr, Margerat C., and Maureen B. listen to a violin solo.



Berry Fisher and Ron St. Peters pose for a picture with members of the All-Star team.

## ELYRIA

Baseball fever was in the air as representatives from the Frontier League and the Lake Erie Crushers visited the Elyria Work/Activity Center on July 12.

All-Star Players from all over the nation joined Murray Ridge consumers for an afternoon of pictures and autographs, complete with the Crusher's mascot, Stomper.

The All-Star team spent time talking with consumers and posing for pictures in what was a memorable visit for all! Thank you to the Lake Erie Crushers and congratulations to all the league's All-Star players!

## LORAIN

Three representatives from each of the three Murray Ridge Work/Activity Centers showcased their skills at the Murray Ridge Has Got Talent Show.

The nine finalists, selected from individual competitions at the Lorain, Oberlin, and Elyria Work/Activity Centers (LWAC, OWAC, and EWAC), gathered at LWAC on July 8 to perform their talents for consumers, parents, caregivers, and friends. The three winners (pictured left to right) were Shasta Knarr (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Mike Yanda (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and Duane Russell (1<sup>st</sup> place). In addition to trophies, all three winners received McDonald's gift cards.

Congratulations to all of our Murray Ridge participants!



# A PRESCHOOL OPTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Murray Ridge Preschool Program offers students with a variety of developmental disabilities the advantages of in-room therapies, an array of state-of-the-art equipment, outstanding staff and an opportunity to learn alongside typically-developing peers.

## Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Door-to-door transportation services

## Did You Know...

The Murray Ridge preschool serves children with a wide range of developmental disabilities, from those with mild delays to those profoundly impacted, and Murray Ridge is a recognized leader in its comprehensive approach to teaching children with autism. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school district.

**For More Information Contact:**  
Dann Swift  
Director of Educational Services  
Murray Ridge School  
9750 Murray Ridge Road  
Elyria, Oh 44035  
440.329-3760  
dswift@murrayridgecenter.org  
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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# Beach Bash in Oberlin



Lisa Lee serves Jodi S. lunch from the hamburger bar.

On July 29, the Oberlin Work/Activity Center held its annual summer picnic. This year's theme was Beach Bash, complete with sand tables, beach games, and a surf board decorating contest!

The highlight of the Beach Bash was the "Toss at the Boss" water balloon fight, where consumers were encouraged to soak Workshop Director Steve Harder and Roger Dorsey.



Area 4 won the surfboard decorating contest with its big board surrounded by little boards.



Roger Dorsey and Steve Harder get hit by water balloons!



Consumers, staff, and families marched in the Sheffield Lake Community Days parade on July 14. Pictured l-r: James Peters, Sherry Reitenbach, Charles Johnson, Jr., Kenneth Martin, Jackie Thomas, Karen Pavelschak, Troy Eppley, Corey Simms, Mary Lucente, Mandy Vernon, and Katie Mihalek.

## Out and About

Consumers represent Murray Ridge throughout Ohio



Hangin' Tough! Murray Ridge consumers, l-r, David Zsigray, Eric Bryner, Shari Reitenbach, Benjamin Lewis, Dominique Flores, and Sarah Ward (front), attended the New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys (NKOTBSB) concert at Quicken Loans Arena on July 27.

# August 2011

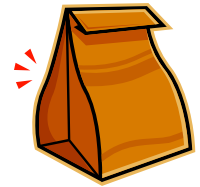
## Activities & Events

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 			

- 8/11 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 8/14 - North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade
- 8/18 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., SSA Bldg., 9740 S. Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria
- 8/22 - Lorain County Fair
- 8/24 - First day of school for Murray Ridge School staff
- 8/25 - First day of school for Murray Ridge School students
- 8/25 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 8/26 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 8/31 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria



## Lunch Menu



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

Aug. 8 - 12  
Aug. 29 - Sept. 2  
Sept. 19 - 23

**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

Aug. 15 - 19  
Sept. 5 - 9  
Sept. 26 - 30

**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

Aug. 1 - 5  
Aug. 22 - 26  
Sept. 12-16

**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

### NEWS OF NOTE: To all Special Olympic athletes

Judy Hartung has now officially moved into her new role as Habilitation Manager at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center. Bob Burkhardt has replaced Judy as Special Olympics coordinator.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

**Murray Ridge Center**  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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Visit our Web site  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)

## Ohio SIBS Conference

Ohio SIBS, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting siblings of adults with developmental disabilities, will hold its annual conference on Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, 2011, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel.

To learn more, visit the Ohio SIBS website at [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com), or contact Michelle Truby at [truby.5@osu.edu](mailto:truby.5@osu.edu) or 614-571-4542.



## 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.

- 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.

### 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.

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