



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2011

The 2011 Murray Ridge In-Service

On October 21, the staff of Murray Ridge Center came together to celebrate the men and women who work tirelessly each and every day in our school, Opportunity/Vocational Centers, group homes, SSA, and the Administration offices.

Other notable moments included presentations of the annual C.A.R.E.S. award and R.I.C.H.E.S. Program Diamond award.



Superintendent Amber Fisher delivered an inspirational address, thanking each department of MRC for its efforts throughout the year, stating "I'm appreciative of and awed by your work and compassion,

and this holds true for every area of the agency." After highlighting their successes, each department was asked to stand and be recognized.



Members of the R.I.C.H.E.S. Committee award Jim Nagy and Doug Johnson the Diamond Award for 2011.

The C.A.R.E.S. award, which stands for Community Awareness, Recognition, Education and Service, recognizes an individual or organization that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping those who help people with developmental disabilities. This year's recipient was Mega Championship Wrestling, which was honored for its outstanding support of Murray Ridge Center through its Breaking Down Barriers event. This fundraiser, a special wrestling performance, resulted in a generous donation to the Friends of Murray Ridge, an organization that supports our programs.

Special recognition was given to individuals marking 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of dedication and service to our Murray Ridge consumers. Also recognized were some 165 staff members who contributed hundreds of volunteer hours, in addition to their regular duties throughout the year, to support the mission of Murray Ridge, and the 22 staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011. Congratulations to our amazing Murray Ridge staff!



Diane Smith received an award for 35 years of dedicated service.

The R.I.C.H.E.S. Diamond award is presented each year to staff members who have created cost-saving suggestions for Murray Ridge Center. This year's two winners, Jim Nagy and Doug Johnson, met the Diamond Award criteria; namely, the idea has to affect many staff members or be used in more than two locations in the agency, the idea must be original, the submitter must implement the idea with the involvement of several departments, and the submitter must have done extensive research on his/her submission.

Jim's suggestion was the Mega Championship Wrestling Breaking Down Barriers event held at Lorain County Community College. That event brought in over \$1200 in proceeds to the agency. Doug's suggestion involved a work site sanitary glove box storage system that would contain all three sizes of glove boxes in one place – making them easy to access and re-stock, and offering a more orderly method of storage.



Valerie Deptula, Stephanie Bondra, and Heather Knoble from Early Intervention.

The day's thoughtful presentations included Valerie Deptula, Heather Knoble, and Stephanie Bondra on Early Intervention, and Gentle Teaching with Jeff Neal and Sherry Lacko. Our keynote speaker Kim Langley spoke to Murray Ridge staff regarding Effective Communication and The Science of Optimism.

Murray Ridge would like to thank all of our staff members for their outstanding work throughout the year. As Superintendent Fisher noted, "At Murray Ridge, the strong and pervasive commitment to our consumers and mission drives extraordinary effort on behalf of those we serve. I thank you all for your tremendous impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities."



Throughout the past year...

Early Intervention:

- Served 659 infants and toddlers
- Completed 279 eligibility evaluations
- Visited 5,990 homes
- Introduced Project Bridge to Lorain County

Murray Ridge School:

- Held their spring play "Once Upon a Time" with nearly 50 student actors
- Welcomed many visitors and guests for tours
- Utilized grant money and donations for innovative initiatives such as White Boards

Opportunity/Vocational Centers:

- Changed their names from Work/Activity Center
- Increased use of technology for consumers
- Created new Activity Rooms
- Offered new opportunities through Recreation and Special Olympics

Community Employment:

- Placed 36 additional individuals in community-based work crews
- Placed 32 consumers in volunteer positions
- Provided 26 trips per day for consumers to reach job sites

Residential staff:

- Built an addition to the Meister Rd home
- Remodeled Liberty Lane home for better accessibility
- Celebrated 30 year anniversaries at Meister, East College, and East 9th group homes

Service and Support Administration:

- Facilitated 69 Level I waiver enrollments
- Implemented a new on-line Medicaid Services System and Cost Projection Tool
- Added a Behavior Analyst to the SSA team

Investigative Agents and Nursing:

- Worked daily to promote the health and safety of Murray Ridge consumers

Administrative Departments:

- Supported all business, Information Systems, maintenance, human resource, and communication initiatives

OVC Halloween Happenings

Kelly Hart (right) and staff person Joaquin Page (below) from Elyria.



Josh Rand and Mike Ward (below, right) and Ray Kelley (left) from Oberlin.



A Special Thanks

Thank you to the staff of Murray Ridge who donated personal care and household items to the Lorain County Safe Harbor/Genesis House! Your contributions will be used for the women and children who stay at the shelter and participate in their after-care program.

Lorain County Safe Harbor/Genesis house is the only domestic violence shelter in Lorain County. For more information, visit www.geneshouseshelter.com or call 440-244-1853.



Halloween Dance a Scary Success!



The Annual Halloween Dance and 2nd Annual Costume Contest were held at Murray Ridge School on October 28. Our first place winner was Elvis (Robert Conrady from the East Ninth group home, pictured left). Other winners included Papa Smurf (second) and Ace Frehley of Kiss (third). All of the runner-ups received free dance tickets for a future MRSG dance. Thank you to all who participated in this fun and scary night!

Woollybear Festival 2011

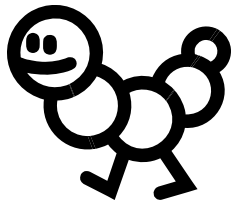
Thank you to all consumers and staff who participated in the 39th Annual Woollybear Festival on October 9!



Jeremy Foster, Tim Quisenberry, Kaitlin Bryant, and Christy Berkley take a break.



Jennifer Jones poses in front of the decorated van.



Roberta Whitesel, Angie Miller, and James Peters.



Marko Govich, Tim Quisenberry, Kaitlin Bryant, James Peters, Noreen Romano, Roberta Whitesel, Christy Berkley, Tracey McClune, Angie Miller, Jeremy Foster, and Kevin Plata get ready to march!



Jeremy Foster, Charles Johnson, and James Peters

Murray Ridge Center Art Show Visits Local Libraries

Artists from the Murray Ridge Opportunity/Vocational Centers will become famous this month as the first of seven local Lorain County Public Library shows debuts at Avon Public Library.

10 pieces of artwork, ranging from painting, drawings, scratch art, and sculptures, can be seen throughout the month of November. Pieces will be changed as needed, so visit often and see the many talents of our consumers!










Upcoming library shows

- December: South Lorain
- January: Domonkas
- February: North Ridgeville
- March: Elyria
- April: Columbia
- May: Main (Lorain)

November

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 			

- 11/3 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmiry Road in Elyria
- 11/5 - Fun & Wellness Expo, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria
- 11/6 - Murray Ridge Center Inland Trail Marathon
- 11/7 - Special Olympics Banquet, 6:00, The Spitzer Conference Center, LCCC
- 11/11 - Veteran's Day, Murray Ridge Center closed
- 11/17 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road
- 11/18 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 11/23 - Day before Thanksgiving, **Murray Ridge School closed**
- 11/24 - Thanksgiving Day, **Murray Ridge Center closed**
- 11/25 - Day after Thanksgiving, **Murray Ridge Center closed**
- 11/30 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmiry Road, Elyria



Lunch Menu



Youth = \$3.05 Adults = \$2.90

Oct. 31 - Nov. 4

Nov. 21 - Nov. 25

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

Nov. 7 - Nov. 11

Nov. 28 - Dec. 2

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

Nov. 14 - Nov. 18

Dec. 5 - Dec. 9

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

Congratulations to our Murray Ridge Special Olympics Bowlers!

On Saturday, October 22, Murray Ridge brought home numerous medals from the Special Olympics Ohio State Bowling Tournament held in Columbus, OH. Winning Gold were Terry Jones and Philip Sumutku in doubles and Dana Phillips, Wendy Smitkowski, Sally Gordon, and Kelly McMillan in team competition. Winning Silver in their division were Dennis Johnson and Tim Winemiller; Silver medal winners in team competition were Effie Edwards, Kathleen Gardinier, Donna Wolfe, Kista Atkins, and Jessica Johnson. Earning Bronze were Doug McCartney and Pamela McClain in doubles. Patrick Curry, Ande Rivera, Adam Russell, and Tracy Horn finished 5th in their division. The bowlers were coached by Roger Dorsey and Tonya Cechura of OOVV.



Pamela McClain and Doug McCartney celebrate!

Congratulations!



Andres Rivera, Tracy Horn, Adam Russell, and Patrick Curry



Dog Days at Murray Ridge School



L-R: Steven Fosdick, Moses, CJ Martin, & Obed Robledo.



Alexis Throckmorton gets a hug!



Patrick Boey visits with Moses and Sr. Mary.

On October 27, Moses and his owner, Sr. Mary Berrigan from Blessing House visited Murray Ridge School. The Behavior Support Office has been inviting service dogs into the School for monthly visits for the past five years through Therapy Dogs International (TDI) – a volunteer group organized to provide qualified handlers and their therapy dogs for visitation in a variety of facilities and settings.

Pet therapy offers Murray Ridge Students the opportunity to visit with a safe animal. The therapeutic benefits range from comfort and companionship to emotional well-being. Therapy dogs promote healing and improve the quality of life for those who visit with the pet. TDI's standards are very high. Not all dogs qualify to become certified as a therapy animal. Visits provide stimulation for conversation and can also encourage interest in physical therapy. TDI dogs elevate the mood of the facility – including staff members – who are always excited to see a dog in the school! It is wonderful to watch the unconditional love a therapy dog provides. Four-footed therapists (THREE, in Moses' case!) enhance the well-being of others. It is clinically proven that through petting, touching, and talking with animals, the blood pressure of many individuals is lowered, stress is relieved, and depression and isolation is lessened.

Out and About



Early Intervention enjoyed the annual visit to the Apple Hill apple orchard. EI students and their caregivers enjoyed apple picking and a hay ride through the orchard. Thank you to all who participated!

(Above) Reece Robinson poses in her witch's hat.



(Right) Avery Dudziak and her mom get ready for a hay ride.



Evening Recreation Outing at Schoepfle Garden (Lorain County Metro Park) Anne Born (staff), Juanita Young, Debbie Ehlert, Elizabeth Burger, Amber Tomsco, Jordan Murphy, Paul Kropp, and George Opel.



Meister Road Celebrates 30 Years

On October 14, the Meister Road Home celebrated its 30th birthday with an Open House for families and friends complete with cake and a slide show depicting the many residents and staff members throughout the years. Happy Birthday to Meister Road, and to East College and East Ninth Street homes, who also celebrated 30 years of operation.



Clayton and Lori Rhodehamel.



Vito Faga with his family.



Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org

Happy
Thanksgiving!

We will be closed on November 24 and 25



Murray Ridge Center
will be closed on
Veteran's Day,
November 11, 2011.



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