



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2012

Murray Ridge Center's Annual In-Service

On October 26, the staff of Murray Ridge Center came together to celebrate the men and women who work tirelessly each and every day in our school, Early Intervention Department, Adult Services programs, group homes, SSA, and administrative and support roles.

Superintendent Amber Fisher delivered the annual address, thanking each department of MRC for its efforts throughout the year, stating "It is our responsibility to do the very best we can, every day, to assist people with developmental disabilities to live safe, comfortable, fulfilling, and productive lives. Year after year, no matter what the challenges, I find that each department of the agency fulfills this responsibility admirably." After highlighting their successes, each department was asked to stand and be recognized.

Special recognition was given to individuals marking 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of dedication and service to our Murray Ridge consumers. Also recognized were some 100 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 14 staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012. Congratulations to our amazing Murray Ridge staff!

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

C.A.R.E.S. stands for Community Awareness, Recognition, Education and Service. Every year, a C.A.R.E.S. award is presented in recognition of an individual or organization that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping people with developmental disabilities. This year's recipient was the Lorain County Metro Parks, which was honored for its integration into the design of its new Amherst site of a general sensory room and inclusive play area. The playground will feature items such as adaptive swings, a sand pit, a fishing pond, a splash park, a tent village, and many other structures that will allow individuals with and without disabilities to play together in the community. We were honored to welcome current Director Jim Zeimnik, Assistant Director Jennifer Bracken, and former Director Dan Martin – who's vision and perseverance made this area possible – as they accepted the award on behalf of the Lorain County Metro Parks.

R.I.C.H.E.S. awards are presented throughout the year, with the Diamond Award presented at the In-Service. This year there was no Diamond Award winner, as most entries received by the committee came in late June and it typically takes about a year to process the winning submission.



C.A.R.E.S. award winners from the Lorain County Metro Parks (l-r, Dan Martin, Jennifer Bracken, and Jim Ziemnik).

The R.I.C.H.E.S. committee poses before the start of the in-service at its game table where members gave out great prizes!



Three staff members were, however, recognized for their great ideas, one of which the committee hopes will win Diamond in 2013.

Betty Hall of the Murray Ridge Production Center submitted an idea regarding the consumer-designed greeting cards being created in the Murray Ridge Opportunity and Vocational Centers (OVCs). Her idea was to highlight the person behind the design and will not only give the designer a sense of pride in his/her artwork, but will also give the recipient of the card a better understanding of our agency.

The second submission came from Kathy Justy. Kathy's idea showed a great deal of awareness of and concern for our consumers and staff alike. Kathy researched the benefits of adding painted crosswalk designations between the buildings at EOVC and Admin. Many of us travel between buildings on a daily basis and, by adding the crosswalks, we can enhance safety.

The third submission was from Larry Schuman who submitted an idea to place emergency signs in agency vehicles used to transport consumers. The signs would provide general information to emergency responders from the community about how to interact with people with developmental disabilities. Not all of our consumers are verbal, and many get agitated and fearful in an unexpected situation. To an outsider trying to help, these responses can easily be misunderstood.

Murray Ridge would like to thank all of our staff members for their outstanding work throughout the year. As Superintendent Fisher noted, "We are committed to doing our best on behalf of those we serve. One needn't look long distances to be truly amazed about what we've been able to achieve and sustain."



Superintendent Fisher, 30-year award recipient Joanne Wolfe, and Jeff Neal celebrate Joanne's years of service. Also celebrating thirty years with the agency this year are Dale Griffin, Dorthee Moore, and Kathe Pollock.

Throughout the past year...

Early Intervention:

- All EI Specialists completed training in Responsive Teaching through Case Western Reserve University
- Reduced travel expenses every year for the past four years
- Saw a 9% increase in enrolment this past year

Murray Ridge School:

- Has provided numerous tours for local businesspeople and Lorain County political figures
- Remains one of the largest DD schools in Ohio
- MRS's Girl Scout troop was featured in Ohio Magazine in June

Opportunity/Vocational Centers:

- Developed a Creative Art Program where consumers can showcase art internally and within the community
- Initiated a MOVE Program (Mobility Opportunities Via Education) at all three OVCs, designed to help individuals develop their abilities to stand, sit, and walk

Community Employment:

- Runs 19 enclave sites which employ more than 200 individuals per week
- Works with 100 local businesses to provide work for more than 600 Murray Ridge individuals with developmental disabilities

Residential staff:

- Completed renovations at Liberty Lane and Meister Road to improve accessibility and resident quality of life
- Received perfect licensure surveys at the Academy Court, Liberty Lane, South Professor, and Meister Road homes

Service and Support Administration/ Investigative Agents/Family Support Coordinator:

- Impacted more than 1,000 eligible individuals and their families
- Created efficiencies and took leadership roles in raising funds for worthy causes

Administrative Departments:

- Record-breaking coverage in local and state media
- Completion of numerous and ambitious projects

Murray Ridge Center Fun & Wellness Expo

The Murray Ridge Center Fun & Wellness Expo was held on Saturday, November 3 at Murray Ridge School. Community organizations were on-hand to discuss their businesses, while Lorain County residents played games, browsed the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center artwork, and participated in fun events like pumpkin and face-painting. Thank you to all who came out to support our community!



Andrea Elek (left) paints the face of Jackson Hartung while Charles Johnson, Jr. (above) speaks with WOBL announcers who broadcasted live from the event and interviewed multiple consumers and staff members during their two-hour show.



Shelby Prieto and Dana Swift show off their painted faces (above).



Reid Judkins (above) paints a pumpkin. All pumpkins were generously donated by Fitch's Farm Market in Avon.

Chris Hartung (right), helps two of his sons, Daniel and David, create a craft project at the Murray Ridge Center's Early Intervention table.

Murray Ridge Center's Inland Trail Marathon

On Sunday, November 4, Murray Ridge Center held its annual Inland Trail Marathon | Half Marathon | 5K in Elyria. The race, which is the nation's second fastest Boston Qualifier, had many unexpected visitors.

After the cancellation of the New York City Marathon due to Hurricane Sandy, runners who were turned away from that famous race rented cars or hopped on flights and headed to Elyria for the chance to still compete. Surprisingly, though, the marathon winner was a local; John Kruszka, an Avon resident, finished the 26.2 mile run in two hours, 47 minutes and 56.6 seconds to win by seven minutes over Pittsburgh's Doug Baskinski, 41 (2:55:03.3).

Thank you to all the runners and volunteers who came out to support this event!



Marathon winner John Kruszka (above) poses with his wife, Melissa, and their two children after winning the race.

Two runners (right), in the United States from Australia to run the cancelled New York City Marathon, rented a car and drove to Elyria for the opportunity to still compete.

The marathon runners (above, right) started the race at 8:00 am with temperatures in the low 40's.





November 2012

Activities and 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 - Fun & Wellness Expo, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria
- 11/4 - Murray Ridge Center Inland Trail Marathon
- 11/5 - Special Olympics Banquet, Spitzer Conference Center at LCCC, 6:30 pm
- 11/12 - Agency closed for Veteran's Day holiday
- 11/16 - LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 11/21 - Murray Ridge School closed for day before Thanksgiving Day
- 11/22 - Agency closed for Thanksgiving Day
- 11/23 - Agency closed for day after Thanksgiving Day
- TBD - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.



Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.15, Adults = \$3.25

November 19 - 23

December 10 - 14

November 5 - 9

November 26 - 30

November 12 - 16

December 3 - 7

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

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

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

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Exceptional Service Award

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Jennifer Judkins, Public Relations/Volunteer Director. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis at regular scheduled meetings, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with DD. Some examples include summer camps and special interest classes. Many such 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 such consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

The Murray Ridge Choraleers

The Choraleers are getting ready for the Holiday Season! If you are interested in booking a performance, please contact Tina Tucker, at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (440) 774-7400.

Happy Thanksgiving!

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.