



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

May 2012

Kindness Builds a Ramp That Opens Doors for a Child With Disabilities



Jayden Hall relaxes in his new wheelchair.

On April 28, Jayden Hall was given what every child deserves: a chance for mobility, a chance to receive an education, and a chance to be out in the community.

Born with multiple disabilities, Jayden was adopted by his great aunt, Lisa Jones, at six months of age. Lisa and her

husband, Ollie Smith, have dedicated their lives to caring for Jayden, now three years old.

Jayden has been involved with Murray Ridge Center since he was three months old, receiving monthly visits from our Early Intervention Specialists. In the fall, Jayden hoped to attend Murray Ridge School, but Lisa and Ollie were not hopeful that they were capable of moving him in and out of their home each day.

Months ago, Jayden received a wheelchair. The wheelchair allowed Jayden to be at "seeing level," rather than on the floor or being carried around. While the wheelchair has been a blessing, his aunt found that getting him in and out of the house presented major difficulties.

This is where Murray Ridge Center became involved. Six months ago, Lisa contacted Valerie "Val" Deptula, the Early Intervention Supervisor at Murray Ridge School, asking for help. Lisa and Ollie could not afford

a wheelchair ramp for their home, and were looking for assistance.

Val contacted Family Stability of Lorain County, an organization made up of different county agencies geared towards helping citizens in times of need. Family Stability graciously donated \$1,000 towards the cost of the ramp.

Unfortunately, building a ramp proved to be more costly, with bids of almost \$3,000. Finally, Val contacted friend and builder Brian Poyle who offered to help. Murray Ridge School then approached Home Depot of Lorain, who not only donated the remainder of the supplies not covered by Family Stability's \$1,000, but also sent two volunteers to help build the new ramp.



Volunteers work on constructing the new ramp.

On the morning of April 28, Jason and Val Deptula, Brian Poyle, and Home Depot volunteers arrived at Jayden's home and built the new ramp.

Jayden's aunt and uncle were thrilled with all Murray Ridge Center has done to help this child they have happily accepted into their home.

Continued on page 2

Better yet, Jayden now has a chance to come and go from his home. This ramp has afforded Jayden and his family access to his medical appointments, and the ability to attend Murray Ridge School in the fall where he will have the opportunity to learn and grow and live the life every child deserves.

Thank you to Home Depot and all the volunteers that helped change the life of one very special little boy.



The finished ramp.



Volunteers (l-r) Brian Poyle (Brian Poyle Builders), Jason Deptula, Jarred Brenner, Suzanne Sutton (Home Depot), Bob D'Aloise (Home Depot), Erin Brenner (front).



Circle of Life on the Ridge Murray Ridge School Performs Annual Play

On April 27, Murray Ridge School presented its annual play, this year titled "Circle of Life on the Ridge."

The musical, written by teacher Gary Hawke with musical numbers composed and performed by teacher Nevan Eilbeck, followed the animals of South Africa's grassland ecosystem. The scenes throughout portrayed the relationships between the animals and their environment, and how we can learn from our animal friends important lessons that can be applied to everyday life.

"Circle of Life on the Ridge" included students from all classes, some dressed as wild animals, others singing and playing instruments in the student choir and drum core.

Congratulations to our Murray Ridge School students on a wonderful play, and thank you to the teachers and staff that helped make this year's play another memorable production!



Elephants TT Tilley (left) and Savon Heston (seated) show off their costumes. Mark Axford, Charlotte Viergutz, and Logan Balko (seated) act out the play onstage.



Playground For Kids of All Abilities Coming to Mercy Recreation and Health Center

Lorain County Metro Parks recently unveiled Lorain County's newest inclusive play area at the Mercy Recreation and Health Center in Amherst. The goal of this playground is to create a space where children of all abilities will be able to enjoy the outdoors with their family members.



wheelchair as they roll through one water feature after another.

Citizens can support this playground by donating a monetary gift. As part of the donation, supporters will be able to decorate a tile with the assistance of local artists. These tiles will then be placed throughout the playground. For

Through a partnership with Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Murray Ridge Center), the Lorain County Board of Mental Health, and parents of children with disabilities, the playground has been designed to accommodate children of all abilities. The outdoor area will include swings, a sand pit, fishing pond, a tent village, a tree house, slide, sunflower maze, sled hill, and more. During the summer months, children can cool off in the water play area, which will have different settings for children with different disabilities. Children in wheelchairs will be able to use ponchos to protect the

those who aren't artistically inclined, they can select a predetermined design that will be created by one of our artists. Tiles are available for \$1,000, \$500, \$250, and \$100. A custom size tile is available for \$5,000 and an artist can design the tile to your liking. Donations can be made online at ww.metroparks.cc/playground or by mailing a check to Lorain County Metro Parks, ATTN: Outdoor Play Area, 12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050. For more information about this exciting project, please call (440) 458-5121.

Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

Christine Ash, Residential Program Manager at Murray Ridge Center's East College and South Professor Group Homes, recently received the quarterly Exceptional Service Award from the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Christine was nominated by Laura Shumaker, cousin of South Professor resident Sharon Kinney. In her nomination letter, Laura expressed her appreciation for Christine and all she does for the consumers living at the home. "Christine is the heart of the home," she said in her letter. "Christine's heart is wide open and everyone feels the love."

Congratulations, Christine! And thank you for your exceptional service at Murray Ridge Center.



Christine accepts her award from Board Member Dan White.

New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Juan Molina joins us as a Service and Support Administrator. Juan received his undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University and his Masters of Public Administration and Economic Development from Cleveland State. Juan lives in Elyria and enjoys reading, working out, and listening to music. He is also a big sports fan!

Constance (Connie) Burman will be working as a Permanent Aide at the Meister Road group home. She previously worked for Murray Ridge Center as a Group Home Sub Aide. Connie lives in Lorain with her son, John, who is 16 years old.



Angela Corrao will be working as a Service and Support Administrator and Assistant Behavioral Specialist. Angela has worked with a variety of social services agencies throughout her career, focusing on children and families, adult mental health, and court services. She currently lives in Lorain with her four month old rescue puppy, Mia.

Becca Thacker joins us as a part time Group Home Aide at the Academy Court home. Becca earned her BA in English literature from Viterbo University. She plays the cello and is very involved in fine arts, singing, and reading. Becca is also currently taking sign language courses, something she has always wanted to learn. She currently lives in Elyria.



Stacey Zaborowski will be working as a Nurse for Murray Ridge School. She previously held the position of Sub RN. Stacey graduated from Messiah College in Grantham, PA. She currently lives in Lorain with her husband, Joel, and three children: Makenzy (18), Andrew (15), and Joshua (10). Stacey enjoys gardening and spending time with family.

Cordi Squire will be working as a Clerical Counselor for Murray Ridge Center. She worked as a Sub Group Home Aide for the past year. Cordi graduated from Wellington High School and received her Physical Therapy Aide diploma from Penn Foster online college.



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on April 27, 2012:

Christine Ash was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for her work as a Residential Program Manager at Murray Ridge Center's East College and South Professor Group Homes. Superintendent Amber Fisher reviewed the Cost Savings and Revenue-Generating Initiatives spreadsheet which details how changes made to various departments have impacted our overall sustainability for the future. Director of HR Tom Forhan also presented and the Board approved several new policies, including *Auditor of State's Fraud Reporting System* and *Reporting of Discriminatory or Retaliatory Comments*. The Board approved the 2012-2013 agency calendars. In other news, George Gedid of the Murray Ridge Support Group reported on funds raised from the annual Spaghetti Dinner.

A PRESCHOOL OPTION

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. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School (see below).

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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Even though the winter this year was mild, everyone is still looking forward to those long, warm summer days. With that in mind, this Eye on Health focuses on two key tips to make summer fun a little safer.

Eye On Health

Kevin Eye, Director of Nursing Services



Use sunscreen. Exposure to the sun, even on overcast days, can cause sunburn in as little as 30 minutes for some people. Frequent use of sunscreen minimizes the risk of getting burned on those hot summer days. Additionally, the American Cancer Society recommends sunscreen as a frontline protection against skin cancer. Look for sunscreen that provides “broad spectrum” protection against both UVA and UVB radiation. Also, be aware the FDA has noted that any sunscreen with a SPF above 50 has no additional protective value.

Stay hydrated. Thirst is one of the first signs of heat exhaustion. Drinking plenty of non-caffeinated and non-alcoholic beverages will go a long way in preventing dehydration and heat exhaustion. Along with thirst, signs of heat exhaustion include headache, weakness, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and profuse sweating. If you or someone you know is having these signs on a hot summer day, drink water or sports beverages and get cool (with a cool shower, in an air conditioned area, in the shade, or in front of a fan). If symptoms persist or worsen, seek medical attention to prevent a serious, life-threatening condition known as heat stroke.

Until next time, be well.

Murray Ridge Center Honors Oberlin College Students with Volunteer of the Year Award

Murray Ridge Center honored the Murray Ridge Oberlin College Alliance, or MROCA as they are known on the Oberlin College campus, as the winner of the 2012 Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award. The award was made at the agency's annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception where Murray Ridge Center recognizes with gratitude all the volunteers for the time and commitment they've given throughout the past year.

The Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award was created seven years ago by the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities to commemorate the life of a woman who personified the spirit of helping people. Each year, a volunteer is nominated to receive this distinction in honor of the example inspired by Mrs. Hupfer during her time with Murray Ridge Center.

MROCA is comprised of students from Oberlin College dedicated to working with individuals with developmental disabilities. These exceptional young men and women have volunteered hundreds of hours this year alone. At Murray Ridge School, MROCA volunteers spend an hour each week in three different classrooms assisting with lessons. At the Board's three Opportunity and Vocational Centers, Oberlin College stu-

dents conduct the Murray Ridge Storytelling ExCo, which provides consumers with three weekly storytelling workshops, and bi-weekly meetings where they engage consumers in discussions regarding disability literature and contemporary issues faced by the DD community.

Because of their continued dedication to Murray Ridge Center, ability to create more opportunities to work with Murray Ridge consumers, and interest in fostering the connection between Oberlin College and the more than 2,000 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities we serve, Murray Ridge Center congratulates MROCA as recipient of the Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award.



Picture (l-r): Murray Ridge Center Superintendent Amber Fisher, MROCA co-chairs Sarah Volk and Caroline Vilter.

May 2012

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		

Activities & Events

- 5/1 - Dancing Wheels Performance, Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/3 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 5/5 - Area 12 Special Olympics Spring Games, Wickliffe (Track & Modified Volleyball at the High School; Bocce at the Italian American Club)
- 5/10 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/11 - Murray Ridge School Senior Prom: 6:30—9:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/12 - Special Olympics soccer and traditional volleyball tournaments, Oregon, OH; 60+ Murray Ridge Bowling Tournament, Wickliffe.
- 5/17 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 5/18 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/18 - Special Olympics Track and Field Day, Ely Stadium, Elyria
- 5/23 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 5/24 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/25 - LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center, 285 Artino St., Oberlin
- 5/25 - Murray Ridge 500, Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/28 - Agency Closed in Observance of Memorial Day



Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.05, Adults = \$3.25

May 7-11
May 28-June 1

May 14-18
June 4-8

May 21-25
June 11-15

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped 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

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

Return Service Requested

Visit our Web site
www.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 Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

Volunteer This Summer

Have fun and educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. We need volunteers to help us staff booths and participate in parades at several events throughout Lorain County this summer. If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at any of the parades, please contact Jennifer Judkins or Tracey Carroll at 329-3734.



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.