



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

# The Murray Ridge Courier

February 2013

## Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Continues the Season of Giving

Come January, many feel the "season of giving" has disappeared with the leftover fruit cake and crumpled wrapping paper. Now that the holidays have passed, our willingness to give to those who are in need may be beginning to wane.

At Murray Ridge Center, however, the desire to give remains strong, as demonstrated by our talented consumers with the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center's Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Club.

You may remember last April when an article appeared in this newsletter describing the charitable deeds of the newly created Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Club - the brainchild of Penni Schuster and Josh Rosecrans, two staff members at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center. In January 2012, when weaving looms and yarn were donated to Murray Ridge, Penni gathered twelve consumers interested in the craft of weaving and put them to work, teaching them how to use the looms and yarn to create warm winter hats. The goal of the project was to donate the hats and scarves the following winter.

The group got busy and, in the year that followed, the women have knitted more than 50 hats and scarves for adults, and more than 20 hats for the children.

The decision on where to donate was easy for the group: keep it local and donate to a good cause, one that the consumers felt inspired to support. Catholic Charities and Blessing House, both of Lorain, were the first-place winners.

The Lorain Family Center of Cleveland Catholic Charities, known in the neighborhood as "8th Street," offers services to help individuals and families meet their immediate basic needs. Services provided include hot meals, choice pantry, clothing/ furniture referral assistance, prescription and utility assistance, and GED instruction. It also serves as a day shelter for persons who are homeless or otherwise vulnerable.

Blessing House serves as a safety net for children of families in crisis by providing a temporary safe home for children and support for their families. Its children's crisis care center is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and is always ready to help families during their times of need.

On January 29, both organizations welcomed The Murray



Janice Didomenico, Sr. Mary of Blessing House, Dawn Nelson, and Stephanie Herrmann pose in front of the wall of handprints at Blessing House.

Ridge Center Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Club with open arms and an eagerness to learn more about who we serve in Lorain County. They found inspiration in the time and patience it took the consumers to create their knitted masterpieces, and were equally impressed with Murray Ridge's desire to pass those creations along to those in need.

Catholic Charities' Program Director Lynn Wrice-Head was overwhelmed by the women who visited with her to make the donation. After remarking on their handiwork, she noted, "This is extremely helpful. We are totally dependent on donations, and hats and gloves are very much needed, especially during these hard winter months."

The Blessing House was equally thrilled with Warm Hats, Warm Hearts. Sr. Mary Berigan, Co-founder and Director of Blessing House, has a special place in her heart for Murray Ridge; the very first child served at Blessing House was from Murray Ridge Center, and that child's handprint can still be found in the hall of the house. Sr. Mary also brings her therapy dog, Moses, to Murray Ridge School for student interaction and therapy. With this recent donation, she found even more reason to support Murray Ridge. "The kids love the hats and scarves! These aren't the ones you can find in the store! They love knowing these were handmade, just for them, by someone in the community, and that their hat or scarf is truly one of a kind."

But it wasn't just the donation recipients who were touched by the selflessness of Murray Ridge consumers. Club director and Murray Ridge staff member Penni Schuster found this circle of giving to be an excellent example of basic

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human kindness. "I feel this project is a lesson in paying it forward," she said. "The consumers really have taken it to the next level by thinking of places they can donate the hats and blankets."

And the goodwill has prompted increased self-esteem among the Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Club. Tiffany, one club member, commented "It makes me feel good knowing the hats I make keep people warm."

"It makes me feel happy knowing the items are going to people who really need them," remarked another club member Latasha. "It makes me feel very fortunate."

This remarkable club has shown the staff at Murray Ridge Center, other attendees of our adult day programs, as well

as citizens of Lorain County that despite a disability, the *ability* of our program participants to give to those in need has created a lasting impression that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.



EOVC staff member Penni Schuster and Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Club members Stephanie Herrmann and Janice Di-domenico show off their donations at Catholic Charities.

## Eat at RubyTuesday on February 5 to Raise Money for Friends of Murray Ridge!

Friends of Murray Ridge will be participating in an event sponsored by RubyTuesday restaurant in Elyria, 5274 Abbe Road, on February 5 and March 21, 2013.

The Ruby Tuesday GiveBack Program offers a charitable donation to local organizations that host a dining event. Their contribution is based on 20% of the net sales from guests that bring in a GiveBack flyer (right) when they dine for **either lunch or dinner** at the Elyria Ruby Tuesday on February 5, 2013 and March 21, 2013 (you do not need to participate on both dates for your purchase to qualify).

This is an incredible opportunity to raise money for Friends of Murray Ridge!

The best way to ensure good participation is to **PROMOTE** this event!! Tell your friends and family, tell neighbors, post it on Facebook (share the link from our Murray Ridge Facebook page), and get the word out that Friends of Murray Ridge will be participating in the GiveBack event on February 5, 2013 and March 21, 2013.

**REMEMBER: You MUST present the flyer (right) at the time of dining to ensure that your bill is added to our grand total. If you need additional flyers or have any questions, please contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734.**

## Special Visitors

Murray Ridge Center welcomed many special visitors in the month of January! On January 4, Darrell Shumpert, pastor of Greater Christ Temple and host of a cable access program called "A Fresh Perspective," visited Murray Ridge School and the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center. And on January 16, Commissioner Tom Williams and his assistant, Neil Lynch, also visited MRS and the EOVC.



Murray Ridge Center February 2013



Pictured (left), l-r: Director of Education Dann Swift, School Supervisor Lenni Oeffering, Neil Lynch, Commissioner Williams, Superintendent Fisher. Pictured (above), l-r: Dann Swift, Darrell Shumpert, Early Intervention Supervisor Valerie Deptula.



Clip and take flyer with you to RubyTuesday on Feb. 5 to ensure 20% of your bill goes to Friends of Murray Ridge!

ENJOY A MEAL WITH US AND WE'LL GIVE BACK.

# Ruby Tuesday

## COMMUNITY **GiveBack** PROGRAM

**100% OF THE GIVEBACK AMOUNT IS DONATED DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION.**

Ruby Tuesday is extremely proud to be part of your hometown and believes in giving back. As a fellow member of the community, we invite you to participate in...

### Ruby Tuesday's Community **GiveBack** Program.

Grab your family and friends and join us at the 5274 ABBE RD NORTH location on the dates listed below. Please present this flyer to your server, and we will give back **20%** of your purchase to the organization.

HOW IT WORKS

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



*To make a reservation, call us at 440-934-1200 or visit us online at [rubytuesday.com](http://rubytuesday.com)*

Organization's Name: **FRIENDS OF MURRAY RIDGE**

Event Name: **FRIENDS OF MURRAY RIDGE**

Date(s) of Visit: **2/5/2013 3/21/2013**

# Ruby Tuesday

**For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu, visit [rubytuesday.com](http://rubytuesday.com)**

5274 ABBE RD NORTH, ELYRIA OH

## New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



**Vicky Alferio** joins MRC as an Adult Program Instructor with the Community Employment Department. Vicky is a graduate of LCCC and has prior work experience at Murray Ridge. She lives in Wakeman with her husband, Tyler, and their dog, Bear.

**Ciarra Barbee** will be working as a Group Home Aide PT. Ciarra is a graduate of Elyria High School and has taken courses at LCCC. Ciarra lives in Elyria, and in her free time loves to shop and hang out with family and friends.



**Matt Blackford** will be working as an Adult Program Aide at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center. Matt previously worked at MRC as a Workshop Sub and as a summer camp counselor at Murray Ridge School in 2007-2008. Matt currently lives in Oberlin.

**Heather Brown** has been hired as a QDDP for the Meister Road group home. Heather is a graduate of Kent State University, and has previously worked at RMS of Ohio and Our Lady of the Wayside. She lives in Elyria with her son, Jakob. In her free time, Heather enjoys reading, solving crossword puzzles, and playing board games.



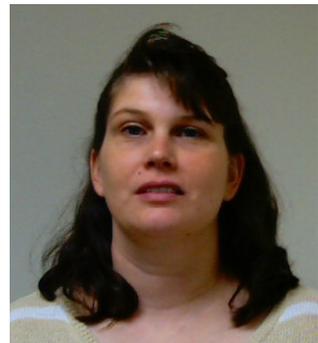
**Cynthia Murray DeBerry** will be working as a Group Home Aide - PT at the South Professor Group Home. Cynthia has a BA from Ohio Dominican College in Social Work. She has three grown children and lives in Elyria. In her free time, Cynthia loves to read and explore nature.

**Terri Mahon** will be working as a Teacher's Aide at Murray Ridge School. She previously worked at MRS through Oberlin City Schools. Terri lives in Pittsfield with her husband, Jim, and son, Tyler. She enjoys camping with her family and watching Nascar and motocross.



**Tom Mangan** will be working as an Adult Program Aide at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center. He previously worked at MRC as a Sub Workshop Aide. Tom is a graduate of Elyria High School and spends his free time playing sports, video games, and bowling with his friends.

**Sue Null** will be working as a Clerical Counselor at the South Professor Group Home. Sue is currently working towards her BS in Human Service/Management. Sue lives in Oberlin with her husband, Randy, daughters Tiffini, Jessica, and Sarah, and son Jonathon.





**Paul Nolen** will be working with the Custodial Department at MRC. Paul is a graduate of Elyria High School. He currently lives in Lorain where he is an active member of his church. In his free time, Paul enjoys fishing, working on cars, and playing and watching sports.

**Gina Olszowy** will be working as a Language Development Specialist at Murray Ridge School. Gina obtained her BS from OSU and her MA in Speech Pathology from Cleveland State University. She lives in Avon with her spouse, Dana, and son, Ethan, who is four.



**Ashley Sivec** will be working as a Group Home Aide PT at the Liberty Lane Group Home. She is a graduate of Keystone High School and currently lives in Wellington with her daughter, Lacie. In her free time, Ashley enjoys spending time with her daughter and working with others.

**Misty Spriggs** joins MRC as a Secretary I at the SSA building. She previously worked as a Sub Aide at the East Ninth Group home. Misty is a graduate of North Ridgeville High School and currently resides in Olmsted Township. She enjoys spending time with her family.



**Janet Stanfield** will be working as a Residential Assistant/Cook at the Meister Road Group Home. Janet previously worked at Flat Rock as a Direct Service Provider. Janet lives in Lorain with her son, Corey. She enjoys making cards, scrapbooking, and working on her house.

**Jacob Szabo** has been hired as a Service and Support Administrator at MRC. Jacob is a graduate of Cleveland State University with a BA in Urban Affairs. Jacob lives in Elyria. He is very involved with the college-aged ministry in his church and is a big Cleveland Indians fan!



**Joyce Thibo** will be working as a Teacher's Aide at Murray Ridge School. Joyce is an Elyria High School graduate who still resides in Elyria with her husband, Gary. She has a daughter, Melissa, and son-in-law, Steve, and three grandsons; Cole, Camden, and Cade.

**LUNCH MENUS FOR 2013**

Lunch menus for Murray Ridge Center will no longer be printed in the Murray Ridge Courier. **Adults attending the Opportunity/Vocational Centers** will receive monthly calendars indicating the menu for that month.

**Murray Ridge School students** will receive monthly lunch selections in the MRS Tribune that is sent home at the beginning of each month. Please call Jennifer Judkins at 329-3734 with any questions regarding menus.

# Ohio DD Awareness & Advocacy Event

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership in which this year's annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff and statewide Legislative Advocacy Day activities will be hosted together. The 2013 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event will be on March 5, 2013 at the Ohio Statehouse.

The Ohio Statehouse venue will host the Awareness program in the Atrium as always, and registration for individuals meeting with legislators will be headquartered nearby in the Statehouse, allowing for a flow between venues.

Attendance at the 2013 DD Awareness and Advocacy Day is open to all. Participants wishing to meet with their legislators will be required to register in advance. Details coming soon!

## Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

On Friday, January 25, the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities awarded its quarterly Exceptional Service Award to Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center employee, Gloria Henline.

Gloria has been working at MRC for 19 years. She provides vocational skills training to individuals with a wide range of abilities. Gloria provides side-by-side training, makes visual models, and solicits the creation of mechanical jigs and fixtures to help consumers with significant limitations perform vocational tasks.

In a nomination letter submitted by the parent of a consumer, Gloria was described as someone who understands how to work with all people, particularly those on the autism spectrum and others with challenging behaviors. Gloria's supervisor, Terri Camp, describes her as patient and kind, and one who can help individuals form appropriate and positive relationships with others.

In accepting her award, Gloria thanked the LCBDD for the honor, and ended her short speech by saying "I'm just doing my job...and I love my job."



Gloria accepts the Quarterly Exceptional Service Award from Board Member Dan White, with Supervisor Terri Camp, at the Board Meeting on January 25.

### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on January 25:**

At the **Organizational Meeting**, the Board re-elected Michelle L. Hunt, President, Kurt Koeopf, Vice President, and Bob Gajdos, Secretary. President Hunt then made all Board-committee appointments.

At the **Regular Meeting**, Gloria Henline was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for her work with adult consumers at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center. In other business, the Board approved the annual resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6 through 21 at Murray Ridge School. Dann Swift, Director of Education, updated the Board on options for the Murray Ridge School summer camp 2013; formal requests for funds will be submitted to the Board in March. The Board unanimously approved a draft of the 2013 Annual Action Plan/Programs and Expenditures for public review, and gave a 30-day notice of a public forum on the document, which is scheduled for 12 p.m. on February 25 at the Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria. The document will be available for inspection at all Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Murray Ridge School, the Service and Support Administration Building, the Administration Building, and at each of the six residential facilities of the Board. The Funding/Forecasting/Medicaid Services Manager, Nikki Dye, updated the Board on 2012 expenditures, which had been adjusted to reflect the actual vs. anticipated figures. Dr. Fisher updated the Board on developments including the scheduled return of individuals currently attending Creative Learning Workshop to Murray Ridge Adult Services, and a decrease in the federal contribution to the cost of Medicaid Services. Superintendent Fisher then requested approval for a new policy, *Early Intervention Referral to Help Me Grow (HMG) Program*; the Board unanimously approved the policy. The March Board meeting was moved to March 22.



# February 2013

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		

## Activities & Events

- 2/5 - The Ruby Tuesday GiveBack Program, lunch or dinner, Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Elyria, 5274 Abbe Road
- 2/7 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 2/8 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, Murray Ridge School, 7-9 pm
- 2/14 - LCBD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/18 - **Agency closed for President's Day holiday**
- 2/22 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

## Free Training! SSA Hosts "Being an Optimistic Parent"

"Being an Optimistic Parent" is a free training session for parents or caregivers with children on the autism spectrum or with another developmental disability coupled with behavioral issues. **\*Please note: this session is for adults only, no child care will be available.**

**When:** Thursday, February 21, 2013  
6:30-7:30 pm

**Where:** Murray Ridge Service & Support  
Administrative Offices  
9740 Murray Ridge Road  
Elyria, Ohio

**Why:** This session will focus on the general characteristics of children with developmental disabilities that make discipline a confusing and difficult task for parents and caregivers. Strategies and techniques for changing behaviors will be explored with an emphasis on proactive approaches.

**RSVP:** Sherry Lacko  
SSA/Behavior Analyst  
[slacko@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:slacko@murrayridgecenter.org)  
Angela Corrao  
SSA/Assistant Behavior Analyst  
440-324-2366/440-233-4600

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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Elyria, OH 44035



## 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](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).



## Annual Spaghetti Dinner

- Saturday, March 2 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake
- Sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group

This Italian feast, which includes spaghetti with meatballs, fresh bread, salad, desserts, and beverages, is being generously donated by the AmVets Post 55. Activities will include a gift basket auction and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$8 for persons 6 years of age and up, and free for kids 5 and under. Sponsorships are available. Call Andrea Elek for more information, 440-323-2741.

