



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2013

Murray Ridge Center's Annual In-Service

On October 25, 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, and most notably on the passage of our levy in May, stating "I wish to thank everyone who worked on the levy campaign; who encouraged their neighbors, families, and friends to vote FOR Issue 1, and who have participated actively in the on-going effort to educate the community about the importance of the work done at Murray Ridge Center." She then highlighted the successes of the Agency throughout the past year, and each department was asked to stand and be recognized.

Special recognition was given to individuals who this year reached the benchmark of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 40 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 16 staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013. Congratulations to our amazing Murray Ridge staff!

Another notable acknowledgement was the presentation of the annual C.A.R.E.S. award.

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 Federal Aviation Administration's Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center.

More than twenty years ago, the Murray Ridge Production Center was awarded the cleaning contract

for the FAA Air Traffic Control Center in Oberlin. It was a huge challenge – we simply hadn't cleaned anything that large and with that many buildings. There were some interesting moments that first year – such as the unexpected April snowstorm that put our snow shoveling plan into motion 7 months earlier than expected – but thanks to tremendous support from FAA and hard work from our consumers, we quickly became an integral part of the FAA community.

Our contracting officer with FAA liked the work ethic of our consumers so much that we were given

the opportunity to clean two more of their buildings at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport, including the air traffic control tower. Today, 17 of our consumers provide custodial services on the three contracts. They receive training from Murray Ridge staff, earn a very good wage and health and welfare benefits, and have been genuinely incorporated into the FAA family. Thank you to the FAA for its dedication to employing people with disabilities in its facilities.

Murray Ridge would like to thank all of our staff members for their outstanding work throughout the year. As Superintendent Fisher noted, "Everyone in this room will continue to have invaluable contributions to make because of your expertise, your unique insights and external connections and, most importantly, because of the way that you connect on a daily basis with people with developmental disabilities. You make all of the difference, and I am honored to be a part of your team."



FAA representative Janet Ramey thanked MRC for its dedicated work throughout the years.



FAA representative Janet Ramey, Director of Vocational and Transportation Services Jeff Miller, Board Member Bob Gajdos, Board Member Dan White, and Board President Michelle Hunt smile from the stage.

Throughout the past year...

Early Intervention:

- Secured a new playgroup site in North Ridgeville
- Joined the State Autism Diagnosis Education Project, and is the team leader for Lorain County
- Received training in a Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning curriculum

Murray Ridge School:

- Boy Scouts attended Camp Avery, where each camper was paired with a scout from another local troop
- Held annual school-wide talent show
- First ever catered prom, "Hollywood Nights"

Opportunity/Vocational Centers:

- Expansion of the art program, with artwork being displayed at local libraries and at the Metro Parks Mercy Recreation and Health Center
- Increased production opportunities at all 3 OVCs

Community Employment:

- Ranks 7th in Ohio for the number of people in CE per 100,000
- Added 3 new organizations to the venues in which our consumers volunteer
- Will begin working on a joint project with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation to create integrated employment opportunities for additional consumers

Residential staff:

- Received a perfect licensure survey this summer at the East College home
- Programmatic and efficiency-related initiatives taken at the Meister home
- Installed Care Tracker System at the Meister home

Service and Support Administration/Investigative Agents/Family Support

Coordinator:

- Began conducting Provider Compliance Reviews
- Expanded its provider training program
- Increased the number of consumers being assisted to reside in their own apartments
- Assumed administrative responsibility for TDD Waiver

Administrative Departments:

- IS Department expanded use of iPads within Agency
- Investigative Agent unit implemented and trained the entire provider community on new (M)UI rule
- Nursing Department continued to address highly specialized health needs of consumers
- Human Resources completed key projects for purposes of rule compliance
- Continued media coverage on our breadth of services
- Maintenance implemented a number of key projects to keep our buildings in good repair



Workshop Director Gary Lyons poses with 40 Years of Service Award winner Dave Babcock.



RICHES members (l to r): Kathy Justy, Diane Knoble, Krista Brown, Jennifer Doseck, Tammy Stanley and Starr Price. Absent: Judy Hartung and Tracey Halstead

Book Signing a Success at Murray Ridge School



Denise Zarrella, Avon Lake resident and 19 Action News Reporter poses with Murray Ridge School student Stephanie Jackson at a book signing on October 18 at Murray Ridge School. Stephanie is holding a copy of "Not Even the SKY is the LIMIT!" The book is the result of Zarrella's own beautiful journey to find out what life with her daughter, Gianna, would be like. Gianna has Down syndrome and was previously in the Early Intervention Program at Murray Ridge Center; she now receives assistance through the LEAP Program with Avon Lake Public Schools. Zarrella donated \$418 from sales of the book to Murray Ridge School! Thank you to all who came out to support Denise and Murray Ridge!

Oberlin OVC Holds Open House

On October 2, the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center opened its doors for its 20th Anniversary Open House. More than 40 community members toured the OOV, including consumer and staff family members and friends, consumers and staff from the Lorain and Elyria OVCs, business representatives from contracting companies, and representatives from the LCBDD Board and management team.

"Our 20th Anniversary Open House provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents and efforts of our consumers and staff," said Workshop Director Rich Haase. "We greatly appreciate those who attended to see first-hand some of the many good things we do here at OOV."

Supervisor Judy Hartung explains various jobs at the OOV to staff member Kathy Witte's parents (above right). Shasta Knarr smiles as she demonstrates her job (bottom right). Angela Murphy and Jennifer Jones sort papers and stuff envelopes (bottom left)..



Horsing Around at Murray Ridge School

On October 11, Dr. Jeffrey Buckley, DDS from Oberlin, brought in an enormous horse and miniature ponies for the students and staff of Murray Ridge to enjoy.

These gentle creatures spent hours interacting with students, allowing for feeding and petting by interested children.

Thank you to Dr. Buckley and his staff for this annual event!



Michael Dimitrievich (above), Logan Terrill (right), and Keilee Taylor and her little brother visit and pet the horses brought in by Dr. Buckley.

Bowlers Strike Big at Tournament!

Congratulations to our Murray Ridge Raiders bowling team for its impressive performance at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus on Sunday, October 27th!

Division 29 Gold medal team – Tony Daniels, Andrew Donald, Jamie Dunbar, D'Ronda Fleming

Division 28 Bronze medal team – Angie Miller, Maria Poling, Jason Rulong, (1 absent)

Division 27 Bronze medal team – Mindy Eckenrode, Tashia Freeman, Janice Nicola, Juanita Young

Division 28 fourth place team – Andrea Frcka, Ken Freeland, Kim Herman, (1 absent)

Division 26 fifth place team – Effie Edwards, Grant Holbrook, Gerald Warden, Mark Wright



National Down Syndrome Awareness Month Celebrated at Murray Ridge School



Teachers and staff at Murray Ridge School proudly display their t-shirts "Murray Ridge School steps up for Down Syndrome," honoring October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

In October, Murray Ridge Center celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness Month in recognition of the many achievements and abilities of people with Down syndrome.

People with Down syndrome are living longer than ever before. The life expectancy of individuals with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades – from 25 in 1983 to 60 today. Children with Down syndrome are increasingly attending postsecondary education and many adults with Down syndrome participate in the workforce, bringing enthusiasm, reliability and dedication to their jobs.

Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition; one in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome. Quality educational programs, like those at Murray Ridge Center, a stimulating home environment, good health care, and positive support from family, friends and the community enable people with Down syndrome to develop to their full potential and lead fulfilling lives! Thank you to all who helped us celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month!

Raiders Skills Team Shines at Competition!

Raiders Skills Athletes at the State Softball Tournament on September 14!

Gold: Tom and Maria

Silver: Pam and Torie

Bronze: Katie, Cassandra, Kari, and Alex.

Also competing: Alyssa, Dennis, Linda, and Donna

Great job Raiders!



Murray Ridge Center's Inland Trail Marathon

On Sunday, November 3, Murray Ridge Center held its 8th annual Inland Trail Marathon | Half Marathon | 5K in Elyria.

This year is the first year of a new race course, and participants in the race were treated with cool weather and clear roads!

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

RESULTS:

Marathon Men: Tim Bell, 3:07:42.2 (picture below)

Marathon Women: Kimberly Bennett, 3:41:03.9

Half-Marathon Men: David Hathaway, 1:20:41.4

Half-Marathon Women: Rose Stoloff, 1:39:17.6

5K Men: James Meholic, 17:55.0

5K Women: Pati Habenicht, 25:49.7



Quilt Donation Brings Warmth to Murray Ridge School

On October 24, the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Amherst donated 10 quilts of various sizes, designs, and colors, to 10 students at Murray Ridge School.

The church has an eight-member quilting group that meets weekly in members' homes. The group supplies quilts to many local organizations within Lorain County, having supplied receiving blankets to Cornerstone Pregnancy Center, and quilts to the Mercy Cancer Center in Elyria, Amherst Dialysis Center, and Haven House in Lorain.

"Our hope is that the quilt recipients will be able to feel the warmth of God's love as they are wrapped in these blankets," said quilting group member Laura Bell. "I had a daughter with severe multiple impairments who was fortunate enough to attend a school like Murray Ridge. Special needs children are close to my heart, and the group is thrilled that you are able to use these quilts."

Thank you to the Trinity Evangelical Free Church for this wonderful, warm donation.

Tom Hardy smiles with his new blanket. Tom is just one of 10 students who received this warm gift.





November 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 	29 	30

Activities & Events

- 11/11 - Agency closed for Veteran's Day holiday
- 11/18 - Special Olympics Banquet, Spitzer Conference Center at LCCC, 6:00 pm
- 11/22 - LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 11/27 - Murray Ridge School closed for day before Thanksgiving Day
- 11/28 - Agency closed for Thanksgiving Day
- 11/29 - Agency closed for day after Thanksgiving Day
- TBD - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.

Travelling Art Show!

Once again, Murray Ridge Center will showcase the artistic talents of our consumers through its annual Travelling Art Show. Each month, MRC artwork will travel to different libraries within Lorain County. In November, the artists will be featured at Avon Public Library.



See the schedule below, and make plans to stop in at your favorite library to peruse the amazing pieces!

Lorain Public Library - South Branch	December
Lorain Public Library	January
North Ridgeville	February
Columbia	March
Avon Lake Public Library	April
Domonkas	May

Apple Pickin'

This fall, the Early Intervention Department held its annual outing to the Apple Hill orchard. All EI infants and toddlers, along with family and friends, picked apples, had a snack, and went on a hayride through the orchard. Thank you to all who participated in this fun-filled day!



EI participant Jackson Lare picks apples at the orchard.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
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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.

Inclusive Playground FREE Admission!

Visit the Lorain County Metro Parks Inclusive Playground! For the remainder of the year, admission is FREE! This unique playground incorporates water play (shut down for season), structured play, and natural play environments. People of all ages and abilities will be able to use the area and enjoy the play features. Stop in and visit today!



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Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website
www.murrayridgecenter.org to see
our open positions!

Happy Thanksgiving!

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