



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

December 2013

Murray Ridge Honors Special Olympic Athletes at Annual Ceremony

At Murray Ridge Center's annual Special Olympics awards banquet on November 18, 141 athletes were honored for their participation throughout the year in more than nine sports.

athlete was awarded a red insulated lunch bag with the Special Olympics logo and Murray Ridge Special Olympics imprinted on the front.

At Murray Ridge, we strive to assist all of the individuals we serve to discover and master skills, and we are thankful to the staff members and volunteers who take the time to coach, mentor, and support our athletes in the many competitions throughout the year.



Keynote Speaker Dan Hornbeek congratulates Special Olympics athlete Isaiah Wicks at the annual banquet.



The evening's keynote speaker was Dan Hornbeek, a 2013 Lorain County Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame inductee. During his tenure as a wrestling coach at Elyria Catholic High School, Dan's teams were Conference Champions and Sectional Champions. Eight wrestlers under his tutelage advanced to the state tournament; one became a State Champion and three others received medals.

For more than 20 years, Dan also served as a scorer and tournament director for local sectional and district wrestling meets as well as other invitational tournaments.

At the awards banquet, notable achievements throughout the year were recognized, and each



Above, Bob Burkhardt, Habilitation Manager - Recreation, congratulates Murray Ridge Sports Hall of Fame inductee Terry Scott on a great year. Left, Special Olympics athlete Mike Cooper (center), smiles with his parents, Larry and Pamela Cooper, who made a donation for new basketball backboards for the gym where the teams play games.

Support our Murray Ridge Basketball Teams!



The Lady Raiders! Back (l-r): Britiny Bennett, Jodi Stump, Jennifer Jones, Brittany Botson, Diana Clement; Middle (l-r): Maria Poling, Jennifer Hunsucker, Stacy Smith; Front (l-r): Sarah Ward, Alicia Lawrence. Absent: Stephanie Budweg, JoAnn Gall, Shari Reitenbach, Megan Craig, Katie Mihalek, Maria Pincura.



Raiders Team 1 (right)! Back (l-r): Corey Risdon, DJ Overall, Ryan Eliason; Middle (l-r): Head Coach Leroy Keen, Tim Dammeyer, Isaiah Wicks, Raul Torres, Jeff Torres, Asst. Coach Tyler Robinson, Asst. Coach Rick Rovere; Front (l-r): Kevin Krugman, Ray Behner, Carl Jeans, Ryan Brown, Leif Hammonds. Absent: Jon Torres.

MURRAY RIDGE RAIDERS HOME GAMES

9750 Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria

Date:	Time:	Team:
December 7	10:00 AM	Lady Raiders vs. Geauga Lady
	11:30 AM	Men's Team 3 vs. Geauga 2
	1:00 PM	Men's Team 1 vs. Geauga 1
December 12	6:30 PM	Men's Team 2 vs. Summit DD2
December 18	5:30 PM	Men's Team 3 vs. Medina DD Blue Lightning
	7:00 PM	Men's Team 2 vs. Medina DD Flash
December 21	10:00 AM	Men's Team 3 vs. Cuyahoga MBB Grinders 2
	11:30 AM	Men's Team 1 vs. Cuyahoga



Raiders Team 2 (left)! Back (l-r): Asst. Coach Wesley Partin, Eric Johnson, Charles Johnson, Patrick Whitworth, Mike Evans, Mike Kovacic, Doug McCartney, Head Coach Russ Moye; Middle (l-r): Stephen Locurto, Victor Elder, Mike Cooper, Jason St. Marie, Hector Lozano, Jeremy Foster; Front: Steven Crites. Absent: Kris Sommer.



Raiders Team 3 (right)! Back (L-R): Head Coach Jim Ward, Kurt Caris, Tracy Horn, Tony Harris, James Peters, Tom Dammeyer; Middle (L-R): Todd Buchanan, Bill Lacko, David Zsigray, Matt Anthony, Marko Govich, Angel Rivera, Asst. Coach Sean Morris Front (L-R): Jessie Kimbro, Mark Evans. Absent: Benji Lewis.



MRS Students Donate Items to Local Charity

Kristin Dickerhoff, a primary teacher at Murray Ridge School, decided to teach her students how to give back, in a series of assignments she called "How we are important participants in our community."

She started by asking students to create a family tree with pictures brought in from home. They then looked at their families at home, friends at school, and the community as one large family, and discussed the importance of giving back.

These lessons inspired Kristin and her class to collect items to donate within Lorain County.

Throughout the month of October, Kristin and her class collected items from home and from school, going door-to-door twice a week to Murray Ridge School classrooms and using various communication devices to request non-perishables and food items. The students then sorted the donations into two categories – To Eat or Not To Eat – and delivered the donations to the Salvation Army in Elyria.

"I think this project taught my students how food is not always accessible and not to be taken for granted," Kristin said. "They had to work hard to gather all of the donations, sort them, and then they

worked hard in the Salvation Army pantry room stocking the shelves as well. Food is a necessity but many go without, so I wanted the students to feel grateful for the wonderful food they receive at

school and be able to give back to those who are less fortunate. While we were there, the students got the opportunity to see families at the Salvation Army receiving the food that we donated, so it was a great experience that we will do annually in our room."

The students had such a positive reaction to the collecting and donating activity that Kristin plans on making this a yearly tradition, and perhaps even adding a toy drive for the holiday season!



Beth Fetzer, Quontae Taylor, Kristin Dickerhoff, Jacob Gladding, Billy Dimitrievitch, Josh Richter, Dante Iglesias, Mary Germain, Diane Knapp, and Chris Dodson pose at the Salvation Army.

Murray Ridge Center wishes all Lorain County residents

a safe and joyous holiday season, and best wishes for a wonderful new year!



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 December, the artists will be featured at Lorain Public Library—South Branch.



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

Lorain Public Library	January
North Ridgeville	February
Columbia	March
Avon Lake Public Library	April
Domonkas	May

Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

On November 22, the Lorain County Board of DD honored Judy Ault, Adult Program Aide at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center.

In the nomination letter, Joy Johnson, parent of MRC consumer Lauren Johnson, commended Judy on her extreme kindness and willingness to help anyone she encounters.

Her supervisor, Gregg Heiden, echoed Joy's sentiments, adding that Judy provides excellent personal care to folks with multiple programming and health needs, is respected by co-workers, and is a pleasure to work with at Murray Ridge.

Thank you, Judy, for your exceptional service!



Above, Judy Ault (center) poses with parent and nominator Joy Johnson. Right, Judy accepts her award from Board Member Dan White.



Important Weather-Related Announcements



Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, and on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, as it has in the past.

There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School." Conversely, adult consumers who attend our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and their parents/caregivers should disregard the "Murray Ridge School" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge—Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers."

If "Open—No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers," parents/caregivers are welcome to transport adult consumers to their day service sites. Regular programming will be provided. Consumers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to transport individuals to Murray Ridge Center will be based on the ability of our buses to travel safely on city and county roads. Regardless of whether or not transportation is available through Murray Ridge Center, if our Opportunity/Vocational Centers are open, but there is an individual concern about the weather, adult consumers should feel free to stay home. Likewise, parents/caregivers of Murray Ridge School students who have individual concerns regarding the weather should feel free to keep their child at home.

Please be aware that transportation to enclave sites is generally available even if transportation to the Opportunity/Vocational Centers is cancelled. Murray Ridge Center does not broadcast the status of enclave transportation on the television or radio. Consumers should assume that enclave transportation will be available unless they receive a phone call from a member of our Community Employment program.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222

December 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 	31 				

Activities & Events

- 12/5 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 12/6 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 12/11 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 12/12 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 12/20 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 12/23 - 1/5/14 - Murray Ridge School closed for winter break
- 12/24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 - Agency closed for winter holiday



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on November 16, 2012:

The Board presented Judy Ault, an Adult Program Aide at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center, with an Exceptional Service Award. Board member Dan White provided an update on Murray Ridge Special Olympics programs; Board member Henry Patterson provided an update on the Community Education and Community Employment campaigns. The 2014 budget was approved, as submitted. In other news, Board President Michelle Hunt was chosen as the Board delegate to the upcoming OACB delegate assembly. Superintendent Fisher provided an update on strategic initiatives to assess Adult Program facilities, to orchestrate additional socialization opportunities for eligible adults and children, and to acuity-adjust certain day services rates. It was announced that the Inland Trail Marathon was a great success; many thanks to all who volunteered!

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.

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!



47160 Hollstein Drive
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(440) 984-3470

Work at the Ridge!

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

Happy Holidays!

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