

The View From The

Ridge



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

March 2018 Declared Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by County Commissioners

The Lorain County Commissioners adopted a resolution on March 7, 2018, declaring the month of March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Lorain County.

Three program participants accompanied Superintendent Amber Fisher to share their stories and to thank the Commissioners for their support of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD), more commonly known as Murray Ridge Center. During the meeting, Dr. Fisher also highlighted the services that more than 2,000 Lorain county citizens with developmental disabilities receive from Murray Ridge Center.



Above, left: Members of the Murray Ridge family meet with the Lorain County Commissioners to formally declare March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! Pictured l-r, Commissioner Lori Kokoski, Superintendent Amber Fisher, Murray Ridge Adult Program attendee Stephanie Budweg, Commissioner Ted Kalo, Murray Ridge School student Jose Smith, Murray Ridge Adult Program attendee Alexshawn Averett, and Commissioner Matt Lundy. Above, right: Superintendent Amber Fisher stands with Stephanie Budweg as she explains the services she receives from Murray Ridge.

MRC Says Goodbye to Longtime Board President Michelle Hunt



Murray Ridge Center said goodbye to Board President Michelle Hunt when her term on the Board officially ended at the monthly meeting on January 29. Hunt, who has served on the Board since September 21, 2006, was given a plaque to commemorate her time on the Board, presented by Superintendent Amber Fisher (left).

Throughout her time on the Board, she went above and beyond her duties as Board President to immerse herself in the Murray Ridge community by continuously fighting for the rights of those it serves and taking active roles in the many activities and events for Murray Ridge staff and consumers. Last year, Michelle coordinated our 50th anniversary celebration, an enormous undertaking. Also in 2017, Murray Ridge honored Michelle with the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award.

OVC Adult Program Participants Honored at Appreciation Luncheon

Volunteers from the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center attended an Appreciation Luncheon at Oberlin Community Services (OCS) on February 16.

What started out as a part of our 50 Acts of Giving Back initiative has evolved into monthly volunteering, wherein participants from our Adult Program package bread, stock food bank shelves, separate eggs into cartons, and weigh pasta.

Consumers have also worked together to create a garden area and grow vegetables that were then harvested and donated to the OCS food bank throughout the entire summer.

At the appreciation luncheon, Murray Ridge volunteers had the chance to speak to the group about their love for volunteering, their positive experience at the food bank, and the close relationships they have formed with the staff and other volunteers at Oberlin Community Services.

Murray Ridge congratulates our program participants for making a positive difference in their community!



Pictured are Oberlin Community Services staff Rosa and Murray Ridge Center volunteers Carol Anderson and Doreen Alaksa.

Thank You For Helping Us To Continue To Provide Lifelong Support!

Every year, the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, more commonly known as Murray Ridge Center, supports more than 2,000 local children and adults. We provide Early Intervention to promote the development of infants and toddlers with delays; and at Murray Ridge School, we educate students with significant intellectual, and often medical and behavioral challenges. Every year, we also fund or provide day and vocational services for nearly 1,000 adults, with an emphasis on promoting community membership and employment. And, last year Murray Ridge supported residential services for more than 600 eligible individuals, and assisted many families to care for members with developmental disabilities at home. All at Murray Ridge are grateful for more than 50 years of support from our community, to help those we serve lead healthy, fulfilling, and productive lives. Thank you for helping us to continue to provide lifelong support!



Deja Sherman, Lindsay Bookshar (teacher), Julie Noble (personal aide), Steven Fosdick, Desiree Aponte as super heroes at the annual Murray Ridge 500 held at Murray Ridge School.



Craig Myers and Theresa Godhard, a Service and Support Administrator, work together to develop his annual Individual Service Plan (ISP); they discuss what is important to/for him and what he wants to achieve in life.

Lori Norton (right), Adult Program participant at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC), "rockin' it!" with one of the musicians at Music In The Park held in Elyria on Thursday afternoons in the summer!



Residents of Murray Ridge Center's Meister Road Home take advantage of a sunny day!



Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

Jessica Smith (left), was presented with the Exceptional Service Award—4th Quarter 2017, at a Murray Ridge Center Service and Support Administration staff meeting on January 31st.

In the nomination letter submitted by the McDermott family, whose family member Hanna receives services through Murray Ridge, Mira McDermott wrote "Our family has been appreciative of her compassion and understanding during this highly stressful time. She is never too busy to answer a question or to educate us on the process...she is a benefit to Murray Ridge Center."

Thank you, Jessica, for your exceptional service!

Murray Ridge Raiders Team 1 and Basketball Skills Team Take on State!

The weekend of March 24 and 25, Murray Ridge sent its Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Team 1 and Skills Team to the State tournaments! These competitions were the culmination of a season of hard work and dedication by the athletes.

On Saturday, March 3, 2018, 23 Skills Athletes competed at the Area Qualifier held at Elyria High School. They all did a fantastic job, bringing home the following ribbons: 12 First place, 9 Second Place, 1 Third Place, and 1 Fourth Place! On March 24, 10 of those athletes travelled to Strasberg, Ohio, where they competed in the State tournament and brought home three 1st place medals, two 2nd place medals, three 3rd place medals, and one 4th place ribbon.

On Sunday, March 4, Raiders Team 1 defeated Summit County to become the Special Olympics North Section Champions! The team traveled south to Dover, Ohio where they finished 4th in the State Basketball Tournament as they fell to the Richland County Bears by the score of 55-47.

We are so proud of BOTH of our Murray Ridge Raiders teams who represented us so well at the State Tournaments and throughout the entire season! Way to go, Raiders!



Above, Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Skills Team checked in for State competition in Strasberg! Pictured, Front row, l-r: Eronne Chambers, Charity Anderson, April Huhn, Renee Mele. Middle row, l-r: Coach Laura Roby, Pam McClain, Tim Quisenberry, Andrew Prihoda, Coach Jeff Colatruglio. Back row, l-r: Lutz Fazekas, Dennis Johnson, Mike Ward, Michael Elliott.



Successful Fundraising Leads to Exciting Adventures for Murray Ridge School Students

On March 26th, Teacher Samantha Shaw took her primary class from Murray Ridge Center on a field trip to Art House, Inc. in Cleveland. The studio's purpose is to provide high quality visual and creative arts classes for people of all ages and skill levels, and its goal is to enrich the lives of those who live in the community, to encourage and strengthen the careers of local artists, and to promote learning through the arts.

In order to take the field trip, Shaw's students raised \$300 through classroom fundraising efforts to cover the cost of the trip; these fundraisers included a cookie sale every other month for holidays and seasons - Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Spring. Shaw bakes the cookies and brings them to class; the students frost the cookies and decorate them using sprinkles. Shaw's class makes an average of 25 dozen cookies each cookie sale. In addition to cookie sales, this month the class made homemade crunchy and chewy dog treats. Students measure and mix ingredients, then roll small balls or use cutters to make bones. The students will continue to make dog treats during non-holiday months based on the really great feedback they've received from staff and their pups!

At Art House, each student was able to experience the pottery wheel using clay and a motor pedal. Students also were able to make a couple of pinch pots (or in one case - taco!) at the table. Each student was provided a variety of glazes to coat the clay. Pieces will be fired in the kiln and available to pick up after spring break.

These are not the only trips Shaw has taken through her fundraising efforts. Her class has gone to several different places this year – The Science Center, the Car Show, Hastee Tastee, Old Towne Pizza, Natural History Museum, Playhouse Square, Splash Pad, the Aquarium, Botanical Gardens, and Amherst Movie Theater. Parents have been asked to send in less than \$15 for the entire year to supplement the cost. The remaining funds – more than \$1,250 – have been covered by the hard work and fundraising efforts from the classroom students and staff.



Top: Room B poses together for their routine group picture after an incredible field trip experience. (Back l-r) Miss Renee, Miss Adrienne, Miss Shelley, Owen Richardson, Jaquan Warren, Jacksuel Albarran, Miss Sharon, Nathan Reynolds, Miss Sam (Front l-r) Evan Clarke, Diane Davis, Marra Board. Middle, Owen Richardson and classroom aide Shelley Stipe get their hands dirty and engage in messy sensory play working the clay medium to create ceramics bowls. Bottom, Nathan Reynolds and personal aide Sharon Smith work together to operate the wheel pedal and wet the surface before working with their clay.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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