

# The View From The

# Ridge



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE FOR A LIFETIME

## Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Observed

Every March, Murray Ridge Center joins local, state, and national agencies to recognize **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. This month celebrates the unique and vital contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make in our communities.

Through the services and support offered by Murray Ridge Center, more than **2,000 children and adults** with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to develop critical skills, expand their vocational horizons, and receive necessary care.

Murray Ridge is a provider of services; and plans, funds, and monitors services provided by other agencies and individual providers to people with developmental disabilities.

The Lorain County Commissioners adopted a resolution at their March 6 meeting 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 lifelong services that Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities receive from Murray Ridge Center.

**Pictured (l-r) are Superintendent Amber Fisher, Marty Hahn, Ashley Tarrant, Commissioner Lori Kokoski, Commissioner Sharon Sweda, Commissioner Matt Lundy, and Diane Davis in front.**

### ***Lorain County Commissioners Proclaim March as Developmental Disabilities Month***



# Students Showcase Talents at Murray Ridge School

More than 65 students from Murray Ridge School impressed their peers with talents such as singing, dancing, playing an instrument, and telling jokes at the 8th Annual Talent Show on March 13. Teacher Cheryl Swierz coordinated the show, with help from Music Teacher Lissa Lopez. Each teacher was responsible for signing up the students in his or her class, and helping the students with the basics for an act. Rehearsals took place every Thursday in February and continued in March up until show time.

More than 150 visitors were in the crowd. Supervisor Stacie Starr emceed the show. In Stacie's closing of the show, she stated, "the closing act that sang **Whatever it Takes** was so appropriate, as the families do whatever it takes at home and we do whatever it takes at school, together we work so hard for each student to reach their potential. The biggest thing here is to focus on the students' abilities rather than disabilities, and abilities were certainly seen today." Congratulations to all of our talented students who participated in this year's show!



L-R: Evey Rodgers and Jennifer Sislowski



L-R: Diane Davis, Owen Richardson, Brady Johnson



L-R: Aiden Harper, Sariah Lugo, Audrey Dodge



L-R: Matthew Maraldo, Lorenzo Cooke, Christian Martin, Corde Barnewll, Terrence Nagy, Bentley Spooner



L-R: Naya Scribner, Nathan Reynolds, Alexis Throckmorton, Christopher Ackley



Stephanie Jackson signs and Shawn Selmon sings.

## 'Earth Day' Cleanup



Seniors Group members from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) shared with staff that they wanted to do something to celebrate Earth Day 2019 on April 22.

The group traveled to Elyria's scenic Cascade Park and picked up trash they saw on their walk through the park - another great example of how Murray Ridge program participants volunteer and contribute within their community.

Shown cleaning up the park are **Leroy Davis** and **Karen Bridge**.

## OOVC Consumers Helping Lorain County Youth



In recent months, program participants at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) have been volunteering to assemble Kernels for Life training resource kits for Communities That Care of Lorain County, a coalition of community members and organizations that focuses on the issues of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and other anti-social behaviors in the community with particular attention to the impact on the youth of Lorain County. Murray Ridge Center is one of many participants in the Communities That Care of Lorain County coalition.

Kernels for Life is a prevention program being done in partnership with the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board of Lorain County. The project targets young people ages 4-14 and is designed to reduce problem behaviors and improve performance and relationship skills at home or in the community. In the near future, trained facilitators will be training parent groups and providing the kits assembled for use in their own homes.

Pictured top left is **Brandon Varner** and **Austin Turner**. Shown below left is **Heather Bennett Bachman**.



## Cheerleading Squad Recognized

In late 2018, Coaches Glenda Kaz and Penni Shuster held tryouts for three days for a Cheerleading Squad. All participants of the tryouts had to learn a "Hi Hello" cheer, as well as a dance routine. Practice was held twice a week until the beginning of the basketball season. The Cheerleading Squad cheered at all the home games for each basketball team. The Cheerleading Squad was composed of individuals from the Elyria and Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Centers. Penni Shuster stated, "it was really great to see them come together and bond not only as a team, but in friendships." At the end of the basketball season Coaches Glenda and Penni held an awards ceremony. Each member received a trophy. Co-Captain Stephanie Basstock made a very touching speech at the awards ceremony. She stated how meaningful the season had been for her because of all the close friends she had made, and that she is really going to miss her new friends until next season. Coach Penni stated that she and Glenda look forward to the next season and really appreciated all the hard work the girls put in every week.



**Front row: Torie Ambers; Second row (l-r): Coach Penni Shuster, Casey West, Britiny Bennette, Captain Alyssa Deangelis, Coach Glenda Kaz; Third row (l-r); Theresa Ramos, Co-captain Stephanie Basstock, Michelle Lott.**

## Murray Ridge Continues Supported Employment Marketing Campaign

**Tyson Saw My Potential;  
Will You?**

**Thank You Tyson.**

**Murray Ridge Center**  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

**Tyson**

**Jerry Ohle** is featured on one of the agency's bus bench signs. The campaign is designed to feature not only employees with developmental disabilities, but also their employers.

## Murray Ridge Center Continues Giving Back

**Beverly Ross**, a program participant at our Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) recently decided to make Get Well Cards (shown below left) despite having Cerebral Palsy, which affects her fine and gross motor skills. Pictured delivering the get well cards to a volunteer at University Hospital Elyria are (from left) **Bev Ross, Ashley Kriegmont** and **Austin Carpenter**. The get well cards were delivered to patients on their meal trays.



## Nominations Sought for 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 Chris Vasco, Community Education/Volunteer Director.

Please 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. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or [cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org).

**An Introduction to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD): Comorbidity, Red Flags and Interventions**



**May 21, 2019  
12:00pm-2:00pm**

**Lorain County Transportation Center  
40 East Ave. (Rear of building)  
Elyria, OH 44035**

Registration Link:  
<https://reg.planetreg.com/E425534112216>

Contact: [Alexis.Martin@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Alexis.Martin@odh.ohio.gov)

Join us as we discuss FASD and interventions to assist clinicians, individuals and families. The event is free and open to the public. Application for CEUs will be submitted.



# MURRAY RIDGE PRESCHOOL

## 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. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school districts. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School.*

## WE OFFER:

- *Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom*
- *An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment*
- *Full-time nurse on site*
- *Door-to-door transportation services*
- *A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards*
- *Dynamic, ODE-certified staff*
- *Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes*
- *Music classes*



## 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



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG

## Murray Ridge Speaks Up

**Murray Ridge Speaks Up** is a self-advocacy initiative that involves strategies for consumers to advocate for themselves in a positive manner.

On March 19, self-advocates from the three Opportunity/Vocational Centers had a combined meeting at the Mercy Recreation Center in Amherst, where **Officer J. Podrosky** presented a PowerPoint on cyber-bullying, community safety, and street smarts.

The most important thing learned was that harassing and threatening people on the phone is a crime. Consumers were instructed to call the police if this happens and "block" the bully on their social media. Officer Podrosky also told everyone to never give out private information on the phone.



## Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website,  
[murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org)  
to see our open positions!



## Christine Rosenbaum Remembered by Ohio State Senate



Christine Rosenbaum's grandson Aaron Rosenbaum (left) and son Jon Rosenbaum are pictured with the Ohio Senate Plaque that is now on permanent display in the Murray Ridge Center Board Room.

The Ohio Senate presented family members of the late Christine Rosenbaum a plaque recognizing her many years of work on behalf of those with developmental disabilities — and the family in turn presented the plaque to Murray Ridge Center for permanent display in its Board Room.

According to Superintendent Amber Fisher, Rosenbaum, "was really a legend, an incredible advocate for people with disabilities. She was there from the very beginning, and in 1967, she helped establish our service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities."

Rosenbaum, a registered nurse, was an original member of the Lorain County DD board and served as its president from 1971-74. She was active in the opening of Murray Ridge School in 1969 and worked diligently to help pass nine tax levies to support Murray Ridge.

"Christine Rosenbaum left an indelible impression on the lives she touched and she will be remembered as a dedicated activist and leader who contributed immeasurably to the world around her," read the Ohio Senate plaque. "Although the void her death has created can never be filled, her legacy of care, commitment, and compassionate social reform will surely live on."

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our website  
[murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org)

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



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

### Superintendent

Amber L. Fisher, Dr. P.H.

### Board Members

Robert Gajdos, President  
Keith L. Boey, Vice-President  
Beverly Gedid, Secretary  
Rebecca Cornman  
Kurt Koepf  
Vassie Scott  
Daniel White