



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

October 2019

October Is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Murray Ridge Center is once again pleased to participate in **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** — an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. We're proud to salute the nearly 1,000 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the local workforce, and the more than 100 local businesses that provide jobs for these individuals. Through our three Opportunity and Vocational Centers (OVCs) and Supported Employment Program, Murray Ridge Center continues to focus on finding and placing individuals in positions where they can grow and excel in today's competitive job market.

Anyone interested in employing someone with a developmental disability can call our Supported Employment Program at (440) 324-4993.

Check out the stories below for just a couple of recent examples of how our program participants are making a huge difference in our local business community!

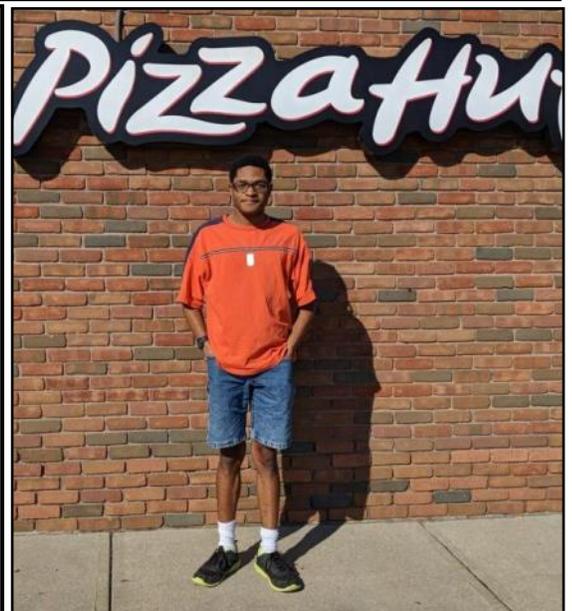


Saundra Kilgore – Saundra has attended our Day Program at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) since 2014. She has participated in training at community-based work sites at Oberlin College (dishwashing/lobby attendant duties), First Church in Oberlin (custodial duties), and Splash Zone (janitorial duties). She was employed by Oberlin College Dining Services in March of this year. Saundra received assistance from Murray Ridge with obtaining the job, and support from a job coach to master her duties on the job. Murray Ridge now provides her with ongoing follow-along supports, and with transportation to and from work. When asked about her job at Oberlin College, Saundra simply says "I love it!"

Bryon Ragin – Bryon also attends the OOVC. He participated in training at the following group employment work sites: Oberlin College (dishwashing/lobby attendant duties) and First Church in Oberlin (custodial duties). In August of this year, Bryon was employed by Pizza Hut in Oberlin as a dish washer.

Bryon's family assists him with transportation to and from work. He received assistance from Murray Ridge with obtaining the job and job coaching to learn his employer's expectations. We now provide him with ongoing follow-along supports.

Staff reports that Bryon is doing well at Pizza Hut. He has perfect attendance and his managers like him. When asked about his job, Bryon says he likes it and says his co-workers are 'nice.'



Special Olympics Update



Raiders Scarlet Team: Pictured Front Row (l-r): **Jeff Torres, Logan Yatson, Jon Torres, Ray Behner, and Diana Clement.** Back Row (l-r): **Coach Brian Chutes, Dan Montgomery, Raul Torres, Steve Locurto, Victor Elder, Tim Dammeyer, Jeremy Foster, and Coach Rick Rovere.**

The Murray Ridge Raiders Scarlet team traveled to Oregon, Ohio on September 14th to compete in the State Special Olympics softball tournament. The Raiders won their first game against the Wood County Wildcats by the score of 15-8, but lost 19-9 in the State Championship Game to the Franklin Hilliard Bobcats. Congratulations to the Raiders Scarlet team on its 2nd place finish at State!

Ten softball athletes also competed in a skills competition and earned three Gold Medals, a Silver Medal, four 4th place finishes and a 5th place finish. Congratulations to skills athletes: **Ken Martin, Alicia Lawrence, Sean McCaffrey, Sarah Ward, Kimberly Herman, Alyssa DeAngelis, Jennifer Hunsucker, Torie Ambers, Pamela McClain, and Mark Vanek.**

Students Help Kids 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace'

Murray Ridge School students are volunteering for work experience at Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SIHP), an organization that helps assemble beds for children in need. **Roger Dorsey** (pictured far right), the founder of the local SIHP chapter, has offered to help students from our school who may be in need of a bed and has also offered to bring a bed to our school on October 11th for the school's "Crew Ceremony" so parents can see the finished product. Pictured with Roger are Liaison Teacher **Julie Kraker** and student **Jason Yee**.



Nominations Sought for the Murray Ridge Center 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. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org.

Cooking With Murray Ridge School

Room B at Murray Ridge School welcomed community Chef Gaga to the classroom for cooking class. The students have been welcoming community chefs and staff chefs to share recipes and learn from others. Chef Gaga cooks daily for her family and was happy to share a dessert recipe with the class.

Students made a microwavable lava cake and used a new pampered chef tool to make homemade whipped topping.

If you are interested in joining Room B for cooking class or would like to send a recipe, please contact Miss Sam at spolczynski@murrayridgecenter.org. The classroom loves to cook and is in need of new chef friends to share their experiences.



Pictured above left: The chef with **Marra Board** and **Mikey Elsleger**
 Above right: **Miss Sam** with **Dorian Dye**, **Mani Campos** and **Mikey Elsleger**
 Below right: **Marra Board**

At the Orchard . . .



Lindsay Bookshar's class at Murray Ridge School visited Apple Hill Orchard to get everything needed to make apple crisp. Shown is **Obed Robledo**.

Just for Kicks . . .



A fun game of kickball was the perfect school-wide event to "kick" off the school year and allow staff and students to enjoy the nice late-summer weather. Pictured is **Brayden Altobelli**.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIM TEAM 2019

ATTENTION ALL SWIM ATHLETES!

Special Olympics Ohio has recently made a change to the Swimming season!

Please be patient and look for announcements and sign up sheets to be distributed the 1st week of November 2019!

This year's Swimming season and practices will begin December 3, 2019 unless otherwise announced! Swimming will now be part of what Special Olympics OH now calls *The Winter Games*, and will be at Bowling Green State University the 3rd weekend in February 2020.

Please stay tuned and I will make further announcements as swimming season approaches!

Shawn D. Hatcher
Murray Ridge Center
Special Olympics Coordinator

Athletes . . . Mark Your Calendars!

This year's Special Olympics Banquet will be held **Monday, November 4** at Lorain County Community College. Invitations will be going out soon. . .

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month



Did you know that each year in the United States, about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome? That's about one in every 700 babies born. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition, and it is estimated that today in the United States there are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome. Since the 1980s, American families touched by Down syndrome have observed October as National Down Syndrome Awareness Month: a time to recognize that those born with Down syndrome can indeed live happy, long and productive lives. This October, please join us in celebrating our friends and neighbors with Down syndrome. To learn more, visit the National Down Syndrome Society website at ndss.org.

Q & A Corner

As the system for serving people with developmental disabilities evolves, those eligible for services and their family members may have many questions. Below are answers to some questions that have arisen.



Supt. Amber Fisher

Q. Why have many county boards of developmental disabilities (DD) stopped directly operating Adult Service Programs?

A. The federal Medicaid agency (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) took the position that it will not be permissible for organizations to provide Medicaid-funded direct services to individuals to whom they also provide "case management" (unless no other certified Medicaid provider is willing to provide the direct services). Service & Support Administration, which is a core function of county boards of DD, is considered case management. Therefore, in 2024 federal funding will no longer be available for support provided to Medicaid waiver recipients through county board-operated Adult Service Programs.

Q. What are the plans for Murray Ridge Adult Services?

A. We are currently in the first year of a 3-year (2019-2021) strategic plan. That plan clearly reflects the intent of the Lorain County Board of DD to operate Murray Ridge Adult Services throughout the timeframe covered by the plan. Prior to the expiration of the plan, determinations will be made about what will occur during the following 3-year period, and you will be kept informed as related considerations/determinations are made.

Q. In late 2018, Murray Ridge Adult Services 'shut the front door.' Remind me what this means, and why this occurred.

A. This means that people who are enrolled on Medicaid waivers can not subsequently be enrolled (or re-enrolled) in the Murray Ridge Adult Service Program. This decision was made because the Ohio Department of DD made it very clear that this was an expectation, and that our accreditation would be adversely affected if we did not take this action.

Q. How will Murray Ridge be involved with my day/vocational support if I attend an Adult Service Program operated by a different provider?

A. Through our Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department we will coordinate your adult services by, among other things, assisting you to identify in your person-centered plan the supports that you need and desire; your SSA will also monitor your services, and help you to keep your plan updated. Additionally, your SSA will authorize payment for Medicaid-funded adult services and, in most cases, Murray Ridge will be responsible for covering the non-federal share of the cost of these services. Soon, the SSA Department will begin enrolling on Medicaid waivers those on the waiting list who have 'Current Needs;' individuals who require "waiver funding for adult day services or employment-related supports ..." (see Ohio Administrative Code: 5123-9-04) are considered to have a "Current Need." (These enrollments are not allowed to begin until everyone who was on the waiting list before 09/01/2018 has been assessed in accordance with OAC 5123-9-04 - see the June edition of the Murray Ridge Courier for more information on this topic.)

Q. If I am actively enrolled in the Murray Ridge Adult Program (i.e. attending an OVC or receiving assistance through the Murray Ridge Supported Employment Department) and become (newly) enrolled on a Medicaid waiver, may I continue at this time to receive support through Murray Ridge Adult Services?

A. Yes; however, you will be encouraged to explore your options.

Donors Choose Projects are Back

Throughout the year, Murray Ridge School teachers in need of a little extra financial support for class projects make use of a program called **Donors Choose** — a civic crowd funding platform founded in 2000 which allows individuals to donate online directly to public classroom projects.

Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff** was able to obtain new aprons and matching chef hats (pictured top right, **Wyatt Bathurst**) for students to look the part as they used their new mixing bowls, mixing spoons, and bakeware for a kitchen skills curriculum. **Julie Maurer's** classroom at Murray Ridge School recently received all new markers and file organizers, pencil boxes and markers, as well as new file trays to help students keep their papers organized and easily accessible! (Shown below left is **Ja'quan Warren**). **Cheryl Swierz's** class received blue and yellow bandannas for a Down Syndrome Awareness Walk, and glow in the dark items for a school dance (shown below center, **Evey Rogers**, and below right, **Steven Fosdick**).

For more information on Donors Choose, log onto donorschoose.org.



Is it a Cold . . . Or is it the Flu?

How do you know if you have the symptoms of a cold or of the flu?

Symptom

Cold

Flu

Fever	rarely	100-102 degrees (for 3-4 days)
Cough	hacking	severe cough
Chest Discomfort	mild to moderate	mild to moderate
Sore Throat	common	sometimes
Sneezing	common	sometimes
Stuffy Nose	common	sometimes
Exhaustion	never	early and severe
Fatigue	mild	can last several weeks
Aches/pains	mild	severe
Headache	rarely	can be severe and last several weeks

Recommendations to stay healthy and prevent the spread of illness:

1. Get a flu shot!
2. Wash hands frequently and thoroughly.
3. Encourage others to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly.
4. Cough or sneeze into a tissue. You can use your sleeve on your upper arm.
5. Regularly disinfect surfaces and items, such as door knobs, phones, and items people touch often.
6. Keep alcohol based sanitizers nearby.



Don't Forget to Get Your Flu Shot!



October 2019

Activities & Events

10/9 - Family Support Parent Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd., Elyria

10/14 - Columbus Day, Agency Closed

10/18 - Agency In-service Day, Agency Closed

10/25 - Murray Ridge Adult Dance 7-9 p.m. at Murray Ridge School*

A Statement of Understanding with required signatures **CURRENT WITH- IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS is an admission requirement for the dance. Contact Jill Camp at 282-2131 with any questions.*

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 		

Murray Ridge Annual In-service is October 18!
 The annual employee in-service promises to be an entertaining and educational day for all. The agency offices will be closed.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on September 30, 2018:

Superintendent Fisher provided updates on a number of State Biennium Budget provisions that impact the Developmental Disabilities (DD) system; these included: funding to increase the rate for certain Medicaid waiver services in order to support increases to wages of direct support professionals who deliver these services, Medicaid Reserve Funds, Budget Commission due process protections, five-year financial forecast requirements, specific requirements for county boards of DD to make available information on and notify those seeking residential services about Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFIIDs), and Summary Suspension (of certification for a provider to deliver services at a particular site) capability of the Ohio Department of DD for the protection of health and safety. The Board appointed Board Member Rebecca Cornman as delegate and Dr. Fisher as alternate to the 2019 delegate assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with DD. Board President Bob Gajdos congratulated ICFIID Administrator Christine Ash and her team on the perfect survey at the Meister Road Home (a residential facility operated by the Lorain County Board of DD).

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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

Visit our Web site
murrayridgecenter.org



Featured Job Openings at the Ridge

Anyone looking for a rewarding career should consider working with or on behalf of local citizens with developmental disabilities at Murray Ridge Center.

Featured current openings include: **Full-Time Maintenance Technician** as well as the following **Part-Time opportunities** -- **Maintenance Technician, LPN, Group Home Aide, Attendance Analyst, and Compliance/Resource Specialist.**

Minimum qualifications for all positions include: valid Ohio driver's license; good driving record; high school diploma/GED; and passing a drug test and physical.

Job descriptions for all current job openings can be viewed on the Murray Ridge Center website, murrayridgecenter.org. Just click on 'Employment Opportunities' then 'Join Our Team.'

News You Can Use . . .

Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) Project STIR Leadership Training

OSDA and the Mahoning and Stark County Boards of Developmental Disabilities invite you to register to attend the next **Project STIR** Leadership training by and for people with disabilities, to be held at the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton, November 18-20. This is a 'hands-on' training for and by people with disabilities, designed to provide the tools to be a good self advocate, connect with others in advocacy and gain leadership skills and experience.

This training is sponsored by the Stark and Mahoning County DD Boards. Registration deadline is November 8. For more information, contact Dana Charlton at the Ohio Self Determination Association by phone at (614) 562-1372 or by email at osda2011@gmail.com.