



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

January 2018

## A Message From The Superintendent



Superintendent Amber Fisher

2018 promises to be an important year for Murray Ridge Center and people with developmental disabilities within our community.

Last year marked the 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of county boards of developmental disabilities and, through our '50 Acts of Giving Back' initiative, many of those we serve volunteered to meet needs of others in Lorain County. This year-long project, which involved 213 separate events or 'acts' performed by more than 180 people with developmental disabilities, continued and formalized a spirit of generosity and goodwill that has long been exhibited by our program participants. Interested individuals who are served within our Adult Program will continue to 'give back' through volunteer work, and as members of service clubs that have been established at all three of our Opportunity/Vocational Centers.

Workforce participation is another important way in which many people with developmental disabilities make valuable contributions locally. In recent years, our Service and Support Administrators have focused on assisting with the exploration of individual paths to community employment. In 2017, our Supported Employment Department provided community-based work opportunities for hundreds of adult program participants, and exceeded its strategic target relevant to facilitating new competitive job placements.

In the year ahead, finding creative and cost-effective ways to assist and prepare those we

serve to participate meaningfully in community life will continue to be a focus. This challenge will apply not only within our Service & Support Administration Department, and our Adult and Residential Programs, but also to our School Program. Helping infants and toddlers with or at risk for delays to maximize development and functionality within their natural environments will be the priority of our Early Intervention Department.

Another challenge of critical importance this year will be the passage of an issue to appear on the May 08 ballot: the renewal of a 1.6875 mills levy that will expire after December 31, 2018. This levy currently accounts for approximately one third of the Agency's revenue, and some of the funds that come from this levy are used to pull down federal dollars that can only be accessed if local match monies are used. Needless to say, continuation of the current levy funding is imperative for the provision of necessary support for Lorain County residents of all ages with developmental disabilities; this levy, if passed, will not increase taxes.

We will conclude this year with the preparation of a three-year (2019-2021) strategic plan for fulfilling our mission in the years ahead. We will always remember that our success is anchored in the support of our community; the daily dedication of our amazing staff; the outstanding collaboration with other local agencies and service providers; effective partnerships with families and other caregivers of those we serve; and the remarkable efforts and contributions of people with developmental disabilities. I wish all of you a very happy and successful year!

*Amber Fisher*  
Superintendent

# Murray Ridge Swimmers Bring Home 13 Medals at State Aquatics Meet

Congratulations to the 12 swimmers who participated in the Special Olympics Ohio 2017 State Aquatics Meet on December 9-10 at the Ohio State University in Columbus! Tremendous effort was given by all of our hardworking Special Olympics athletes! Here are the results:

## **Gold:**

Melissa Figula (50m breaststroke)  
Noah Griffith (50m freestyle)  
Kenny Martin (100m freestyle)  
Kenny Martin (50m backstroke)  
Sherri Reitenbach (25m freestyle)

## **Silver:**

Katie Bryant (25m freestyle)  
Ryan Eliason (100m freestyle)  
Lutz Fazekas (50m freestyle)  
Sherri Reitenbach (25m backstroke)  
Womens 4x50 freestyle relay  
Mens 4x50 freestyle relay

## **Bronze:**

Katie Bryant (50m backstroke)  
Amy Trigilio (25m freestyle)

## **Fourth Place Ribbons:**

Melissa Figula (25m freestyle)  
Jeremy Foster (100m freestyle)  
Martha Lombeida (50m freestyle)  
James Peters (50m freestyle)  
Amy Trigilio (25m backstroke)

## **Fifth Place Ribbons:**

Stephanie Budweg (50m backstroke)  
Stephanie Budweg (50m freestyle)  
Ryan Eliason (50m butterfly)  
Noah Griffith (25m freestyle)  
Martha Lombeida (25m backstroke)

## **Sixth Place Ribbons:**

Lutz Fazekas (25m freestyle)  
Jeremy Foster (50m freestyle)  
James Peters (25m freestyle)



Top, the team warms up in the pool before the meet. Middle, Melissa Figula smiles after receiving a fourth place ribbon. Bottom, the team smiles before the start of the competition.



## Second MRS Student Receives Amtryke Bike From North Ridgeville Kiwanis

On December 19, Mackenzie Dvorscak (right) became the second student at Murray Ridge School to receive an Amtryke therapeutic tricycle courtesy of the North Ridgeville Kiwanis Club through the Amtryke Project, which has the mission of helping children with disabilities become more active while having fun.

An Amtryke is a tricycle that is modified to meet the individual needs of children and adults with disabilities. As a child grows, the Amtryke can be modified. It is primarily used for therapy, but the tricycles also provide a sense of freedom and mobility.

Mackenzie was identified by Murray Ridge School staff as a student who would benefit from an Amtryke. Arrangements were made by Physical Therapist Renee Phillips to have the appropriate application forms submitted to the Kiwanis, and, once received, the bike was assembled by Kiwanis members Lee Fenrich, Gary Krone, Tony Baldassar, and Ed Bahl, and presented to Mackenzie.



Above, Mackenzie rides her bike with assistance from members of the North Ridgeville Kiwanis, her parents, and Murray Ridge staff.

In March 2017, Murray Ridge School first grader Lana Ayala was the first to receive an Amtryke therapeutic tricycle from the North Ridgeville Kiwanis. Lana was nominated by her Physical Therapist, Rebecca Farmer.

The Amtryke Project is in line with the mission of the North Ridgeville Kiwanis Club, which serves both the community and children through activities such as service projects, collecting children's shoes and socks for donations, and providing Christmas gifts to North Ridgeville Community Care for children in need. As the national Kiwanis motto states,

the club is committed to "helping to change the world, one child at a time."

To learn more about the Club and how you can make a difference in the lives of children in the community, please contact its President Scott Hosler at [n.r.kiwanisclub@gmail.com](mailto:n.r.kiwanisclub@gmail.com).

## Important Weather-Related Announcements

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, and on Murray Ridge Center's Facebook page. **There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:**

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

There has been a change to how the information for our Adult Activities Centers is displayed by Fox 8 on its website and on television.

On fox8.com, the information is now under the 'Daycare' tab in the School Closings section.

On Channel 8, information about the status of our Adult Activities Centers will now scroll beneath the School Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen under 'Daycare', from left to right. These listings are in alphabetical order by county; however, no county names will be listed due to the limitations of Fox 8's computer systems. Therefore, you must continue to monitor that 'Daycare' listing, as you will have no indication which county is being listed at any given time.

You can also sign up to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click the Closing Text Alerts under the School Closings section of the Fox 8 website.

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities 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 Activities Centers."

If "Open—No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities 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, even if school is in session.

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 Supported Employment Department.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222.





# THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



*The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!*

## **Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:**

- \* Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- \* Conduct fundraisers
- \* Address special financial needs of consumers
- \* Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

# M R S G

*For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquín Page at 440.453.2576.*



# Holiday Happenings at Murray Ridge!







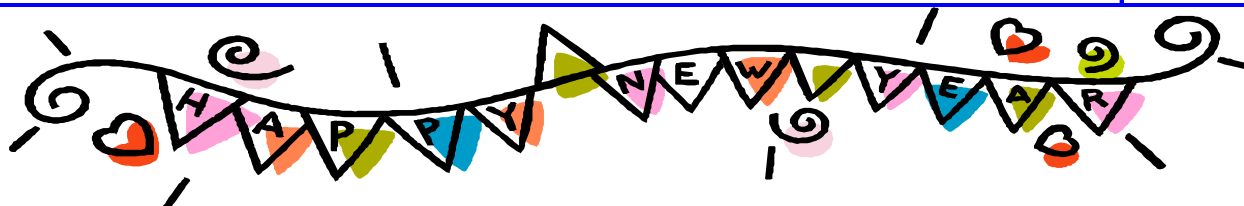
Happy Holidays from Murray Ridge Center! Top left, participants from our Adult Program marched in the Amherst Miracle on Main Street Parade on December 1. Below, Adult Program participant Jessie Frisch (with Quality Assurance Manager Jeff Camp) made his annual rounds at Murray Ridge Center buildings, collecting donations for Make-a-Wish! This year Jessie collected \$105.20!

Murray Ridge School had its share of holiday festivities! Kenny Kingsley (bottom, right) got a special visit from Santa. Bottom left, student Sariah Lugo enjoys holiday cookies, and bottom, center, student Patrick Boey creates bird feeders out of pine cones!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and relaxing winter break! We look forward to the great things Murray Ridge Center attendees and staff will accomplish in 2018!



January 2018							Activities & Events
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	01/01 - Agency closed for New Year holiday
	1 	2	3	4	5	6	01/15 - Agency closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1/17 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
14	15 	16	17 	18	19	20	01/29 - Organizational and Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29 	30	31				



### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on December 18, 2017:**

Board member Dan White shared that a staff member has been selected for next quarter's Exceptional Service Board Award; this award will be presented at an upcoming staff meeting. The Board unanimously approved an annual agreement with the Murray Ridge Production Center. Heather Gurchik, Director of Service and Support Administration, recommended and the Board approved increases to the cost ceiling for supported living services provided in Individual settings, and to the foster care per diem rates. Dr. Fisher updated the Board on the prospects for the sale of houses that were previously Board-operated group homes on East Ninth St. in Elyria and East College St. in Oberlin. The Board unanimously passed a resolution requesting a ballot issue for the renewal of its expiring 1.6875 mills levy; the revenue generated through this levy represents more than 30% of the Board's revenue and, if passed, the ballot issue will not cost the taxpayers anything additional.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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## Work at the Ridge!

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



## 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, 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. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis at regular scheduled meetings. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).

