



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

January 2019

A Message From The Superintendent



Superintendent Amber Fisher

Happy New Year to all service recipients, families, staff, and other partners and friends of Murray Ridge! 2018 was certainly a busy and successful year at Murray Ridge Center. Among our

accomplishments were the passage of a renewal levy that went into effect on 01/01/2019, thereby ensuring the continued availability of critically important funds to support eligible individuals; the receipt of a three-year Department of Developmental Disabilities accreditation, the highest accreditation award available; and the development of a three-year (2019-2021) strategic plan. Our work in 2018 has set us on a good course for 2019 and the years ahead.

In keeping with Ohio's Employment First Initiative, assisting eligible individuals of working age to secure and retain community employment will continue to be a priority in 2019. Examination of transportation issues as they relate to community employment will be an area of focus this year. Additionally, our Service & Support Administration (SSA) Department will focus on enhancement of assessment and service planning related to assisting individuals to advance on their paths to community employment.

Expansion of supports that enable eligible individuals to experience community life will be an important goal in 2019. To this end, both our SSA Department and Murray Ridge Adult Services will implement a number of related strategies included in our three-year plan, while the staff of Murray Ridge School and the Meister Home continue to pursue community-based

opportunities for our students and group home residents. Additionally, interested Adult Program participants will continue to be involved with service clubs at all three of our Opportunity & Vocational Centers and, through our Acts of Giving Back Program, to volunteer in many capacities to help those in need within our community.

In the year ahead, we will also focus on exploration of new ways to address identified, unmet needs and desires of those we serve through provider recruitment, community resources, and financial assistance. We will continue and expand the provision of informational sessions on topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and others who care for and support them. Self-advocacy, assistive technology, and transition of youth into jobs and adult services are just a few of the topics that will be covered. We invite you to let us know of topics of interest.

Our goal is to continue, enhance and, as feasible, expand the supports available to local children and adults with developmental disabilities. To this end, we look forward to collaboration with community businesses and partners, service providers and other caregivers of people with developmental disabilities, our amazing Murray Ridge staff, and the wonderful individuals who we are privileged to serve. You are all deeply appreciated!

Amber Fisher
Superintendent

Holiday Happenings at Murray Ridge!



THE GRINCH

brought his special holiday style to Murray Ridge School this year. He visits with: **Deja Sherman** (right), **Amelia Radulici** (center) and **Kyle Offenberg** (below).



SANTA CLAUS

made many new friends at the school this year, including: **Owen Richardson** (top), **Marvelous Seymore** (center), and **Evey Rodgers** (below).



"Not Forgotten Box"

Congratulations to the staff from the Administration Building for a great show of support to the 'Not-Forgotten Box' toy drive sponsored by the Chronicle-Telegram and the Salvation Army. According to **Mary Linsky** from Accounts Payable, staff donated 123 toys to the charity this year — the best year of donations yet!!



MORE Holiday Happenings . . .



Left: 'Santa' Jesse Frisch from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) collecting for Make a Wish Ohio (with Paul Doseck from SSA).

Right: Addyson Price having fun decorating holiday cookies at Murray Ridge School.



Far right: Santa and Mrs. Claus (bearing a striking resemblance to staff members Rich Haase and Terri Camp) visiting the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC).



The Meister Road facility held an annual family Christmas party, featuring delicious food prepared by the Meister cooks and many other tasty treats. Shown ringing the bell with Santa (left) is Jacqui Thomas. Also shown is Meister Recreational Aide Brittny Seitz doing her best 'Dancer' the Reindeer imitation.



Ready for a holiday performance are Choraleers (front); Tom Altman, Torie Ambers, Alyssa DeAngelis, Tim Quisenberry; (back) Carol Anderson, James Peters, Shari Reitenbach, Michelle Murray, Steven Mendak, John Hanshumaker, Shasta Knarr. (Not pictured are members James Wilson, Angel Rivera and Kista Atkins).

An 'Ugly Sweater' Never Tasted so Good!

Congratulations to (l-r) **Jen Doseck**, **Heather Knoble**, **Kim Ohl** and **Amber Bowers** from the Early Intervention (EI) Department at Murray Ridge Center who represented the agency at the 17th Annual Zero-Proof Mix Off at Lorain County Community College on December 6. The Mix Off is an annual event sponsored by the Safe Communities Coalition of Lorain County, where attendees sample zero-proof drink concoctions while increasing their awareness of zero-proof options and the importance of sober driving. The EI Department entered this year's contest with a drink called "The Ugly Sweater!" which consisted of lime sherbet, green Hawaiian Punch and Sprite. Many thanks to our incredible EI staff for another tasty entry!



Weather-Related Announcements Reminder

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 Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

REMINDER: Last year there was a change made as 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 will be under the 'Daycare' tab in the School Closings section.
- **On Channel 8**, information about the status of our Adult Activities Centers will now scroll from left to right beneath the School Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen under 'Daycare.' 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, if you choose to use the TV to determine the status of the Adult Centers, you must continue to monitor that 'Daycare' listing until it has run a complete cycle.
- NOTE: You can also sign up with Fox 8 to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click on 'Closing Text Alerts' in 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.



Murray Ridge School, OVCs Partner to Help Homeless

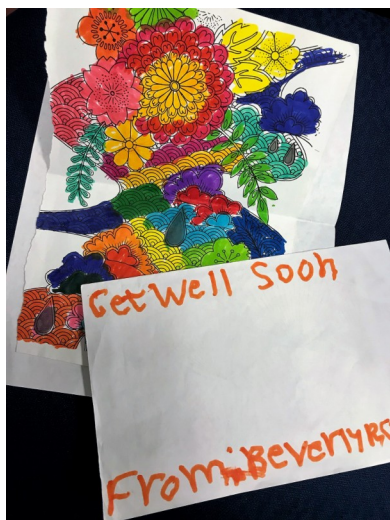
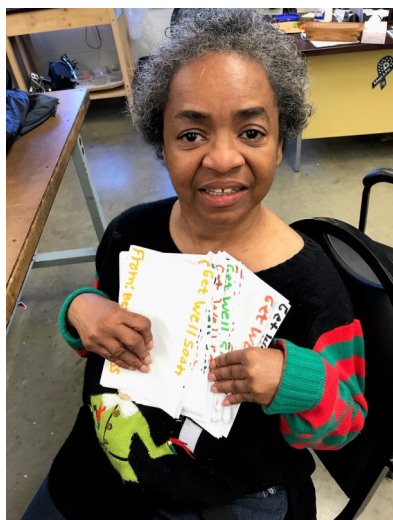
Community Service Groups from Murray Ridge Center's Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers – along with students from Murray Ridge School – have teamed up in a Blessing Bags for the Homeless project in support of the Hearts for Smiles community outreach program of Christ Lutheran Church in Lorain. The Murray Ridge groups were busy for weeks collecting and purchasing clothing, personal items, food and other supplies for these bags.

Adult Program participants from our Opportunity/Vocational Centers also worked with Murray Ridge School students on assembling the Blessing Bags, providing a great example of how our Adult Program participants can serve as positive role models for our students.

Pictured below are students and Adult Program participants shopping for items for the Blessing Bags. Shown top right is OT Lisa McCall, and Zuleyka Perez Melendez from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC). Below right, joining Lisa and Zuleyka in packing the bags are OT Assistant Lea Friend (left) and Speech Pathologist Patty Clickner.



Special 'Get Well' Wishes from the Heart



Back in August, Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) program participant **Beverly Ross** decided to make Get Well Cards. Beverly has Cerebral Palsy and that affects her fine and gross motor skills. However, she has still been able to make 34 cards in that time. Each card contains the message, "Get Well Soon From: Beverly Ross," and features inside a mosaic style picture she has colored in with markers. Beverly's cards are being considered for a January EOVC Service Club project.

Exceptional Service Award Nominations Sought

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 at regular scheduled meetings. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org

EOVC Seniors Step 'Back in Time'

The impressive vintage murals at Pioneer Park in Downtown Elyria recently inspired a unique photo shoot for some senior program participants from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) as adult program staff members Ken Lewis and Sherri Lhotsky captured the seniors seemingly stepping back in time. Shown below are **Tom Smith** (top left), **Karen Bridge** (top right), **Rosa Ortiz** (bottom left), and **Carol Barnes** (bottom right).



January 2019

Activities & Events

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		

- 1/1 - Agency/School closed for New Year's holiday.
- 1/16 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/16 - Family Support Parent Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/21 - Agency closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- 1/28 - Organizational and Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on December 17, 2018:

Board Member Dan White announced that a nominee had been selected for the next Exceptional Service Board Award, which will be presented at an upcoming staff meeting. Board member Beverly Gedid reported on the Public Relations Committee meeting. The Board approved the 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan, which included some additions as a result of the Public Forum held on December 12, 2018. The Board unanimously approved an annual agreement with the Murray Ridge Production Center. The Board officially updated its 2015 submission to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities entitled "Benchmarks/Strategies Relative to Free Choice of Provider Rule." The date of the January, 2019 Organizational Meeting was set for Monday, January 28.

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,
murrayridgecenter.org to see our
open positions!



News You Can Use

The Milestones Autism Resources website (milestones.org) recently compiled a list of '**Sensory Friendly Attractions to Get You Through the Winter.**' Among the attractions listed were: **Quicken Loans Arena** (which offers 'The Quiet Space' to accommodate guests with sensory processing needs); **Children's Museum of Cleveland** (which also offers a sensory-friendly room and more); **Cleveland Museum of Natural History** (which is hosting a Sensory-Friendly Sunday on February 24); Playhouse Square (providing sensory-friendly performances throughout the year); and the **Akron Zoo** (which was the first zoo in Ohio to become certified as a sensory inclusive zoo).

