



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2018

Murray Ridge Center Holds Annual Agency In-Service; Recognizes Community Members and Staff

Volunteer of the Year Award — Sam Battle

Sam Battle first began working with individuals with developmental disabilities back in his high school days. He saw how poorly people with disabilities were sometimes treated by others, and came to learn that "it's not so bad to be different." In 1978, when he was hired by the Lorain County Advocacy Program to coordinate community based programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, he recognized the popularity of bowling in Lorain County and began the Ridge Runners Bowling League. What started 40 years ago with 35 bowlers today has 88 and has become a place where bowlers, volunteers and family members gather to enjoy a good time together.

C.A.R.E.S. Award — Myrtle Buxton

Myrtle Buxton and her late husband, Bill, led a relatively simple and frugal life. They were dedicated to their beloved daughter, Nina, who was involved with Murray Ridge for years before her passing in 2006. So, back in 2012, when Myrtle was looking for a worthy organization to assist, Murray Ridge was a natural fit. Her first amazing donation was used to purchase a much needed wheelchair accessible para-transit vehicle — and over the next six years she donated much more to Murray Ridge, all anonymously. She passed away in June of this year at 96 but her generosity to Murray Ridge carries on through her estate.



Murray Ridge's two most prestigious awards were presented by Superintendent Amber Fisher at the agency's recent In-Service Day at LCCC.

At left, Sam Battle is shown accepting the Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award for his many years of work with the Ridge Runners Bowling League.

At right, Gary Koepp accepts the C.A.R.E.S. Award on behalf of the late Myrtle Buxton who generously donated funding to Murray Ridge during the final years of her life and through her estate. Mr. Koepp was Mrs. Buxton's Business Manager.



More Agency In-Service Program Highlights

On October 12, the staff of Murray Ridge Center gathered at Lorain County Community College (LCCC) to celebrate the men and women who work tirelessly each and every day in our school, Early Intervention Department, Adult Services programs, Residential Department, Service and Support Administration Department, and other administrative and support roles.

In addition to the presentation of the agency's C.A.R.E.S. and Volunteer of the Year Awards (see story on page 1), here are some of the highlights of the day.

ANNUAL ADDRESS

Superintendent Amber Fisher delivered the annual address, asking each department to stand and be recognized as she highlighted the many successes Murray Ridge Center has had the past year — including overwhelming passage of our levy in May — and what we have to look forward to in the future.

Among her remarks was the announcement that Murray Ridge Center **will be receiving a three-year accreditation**, the highest currently available, from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

"Moving forward, we must continue to concentrate on delivering and arranging for excellent services, and helping people with developmental disabilities to pursue their goals, while living meaningful, productive lives filled with friendship and happiness," she said.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF

Special recognition was given to individuals who this year reached the milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service to our Murray Ridge consumers. Also recognized were staff members who contributed hundreds of volunteer hours, in addition to their regular duties throughout the year, to support the mission of Murray Ridge, and the staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. Congratulations to our amazing Murray Ridge staff!

35 Years



Kathy Justy (center) with her supervisor Jeff Miller (left) and Superintendent Amber Fisher.

30 Years



Jill Camp (center) with her supervisor, Cindy White (left) and Amber Fisher.

30 Years



Donna Smith (center) with her supervisor Jeff Miller and Amber Fisher.

30 Years



Lydia Hawkinberry (center) with her supervisor Kevin Eye (left) and Amber Fisher.

More Photos from the Agency In-Service



Staff celebrating 25 years of service along with their supervisors.



Staff celebrating 20 years of service, along with their supervisors.



Above Left: (from left): Renee Mele (OOVC), Rick Adkins (LOVC), Shawn Hatcher and Noreen Romano (both EOVC).

Above Center: R.I.C.H.E.S. employee suggestion committee members (from left), Kristin Dickerhoff, Amanda Giovannazzo, Jordan Brown, Paul Doseck, Tanya Guitar and Starr Price.

Above Right: Christine Ash, Administrator of the Meister Road Home with Janet Standfield, a cook/aide at Meister.

Left: Murray Ridge School Developmental Specialist Kathy Bevaque with Aide Kamaria Jones.

Right: Sandy Desai from Service and Support Administration (SSA) with Betty Spradling from Purchasing.



Special Olympics Banquet 2018



Top Row (from left): Keynote Speaker Michael Kelly, News Director of WOBL/WDLW Radio; 'Coach of the Year' Noreen Romano; Special Olympics Coordinator Shawn Hatcher with 'Hall of Fame' inductee Eric Johnson; 'Sportsmanship and Kindness Award' recipient Kevin Long; and Torie Ambers showing the new 'Raider Rag' pep towel.

Left: Board Member Dan White with Stephanie Budweg.

Bottom Left: Members of Murray Ridge's State Championship Soccer Team.

Below: The crowd closed the program by waving their 'Raider Rags.'



Murray Ridge Special Olympics Success Continues



BOWLING: The Murray Ridge Fall Bowling Team recently brought back two gold medals from the State Bowling Tournament. At left (top) are: Wendy Smitkowski and Walter Schrenkel (standing) and Joseph Cechura and Lori Norton (seated). Left (below) are Donna Wolfe, Mindy Eckenrode and Sarah Ward.

SOFTBALL: Several Murray Ridge athletes brought back gold from the recent State Softball Skills Competition, including: Brandon Varner (top right) and Sarah Ward (below right).



Exceptional Service Award Winners Named



Pictured, l-r: Exceptional Service Award winner Shawna Livingston; Board Member Bev Gedid; and Early Intervention Supervisor Heather Knoble.

Shawna Livingston, a Developmental Specialist in the Murray Ridge Early Intervention Program, was recently presented with an Exceptional Service Award for the 2nd Quarter of 2018.

In the nomination letter submitted by the Kerepesi Family, Shawna was described as, "Helpful, encouraging, inspiring, comforting, compassionate, committed, caring, patient, reliable, kind and (having) a great personality. . . We can't thank Shawna enough for the light she turned on in our son's mind, body and actions. We are grateful for all the help from Murray Ridge, and most of all, Shawna."

Emily Ambrosio, of the Murray Ridge Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department, was recently presented with the Exceptional Service Award for the 3rd Quarter of 2018.

Emily's nominator praised her for the patience, compassion and resourcefulness with which she assisted a young adult to address significant challenges.

"I cannot say enough about the wonderful work that Emily has done in getting him situated with his new life. She truly has been a blessing for this young man and now, because of her, he is in such a better place and happy!!!!"



Pictured, l-r: Exceptional Service Award winner Emily Ambrosio; Board Member Dan White; Superintendent Amber Fisher.

Kris Sommer Achieves Bowling 'Perfection'

| PLAYER | | TEAM: Those Guys | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Tot. +hdcp. |
| Kris | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 300 300 |
| Mic | | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | X | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 134 134 |
| Ray | | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | X | 6 | X | 0 | X | 161 161 |
| Bob | 150 | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | 80 | 96 | 112 | 128 | 144 | 160 160 |
| Seth | 150 | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | 80 | 96 | 112 | 128 | 144 | 160 160 |
| Speed 14.90 m.p.h. | | 915 1167 | | | | | | | | | |

Congratulations to Murray Ridge Supported Employment Program Participant Kris Sommer, from Vermilion, who bowled his first-ever 300 game in a Thursday evening league at Rebman Recreation in Lorain. He works at the Rest Area group employment site two days a week and also participates in Special Olympics.

Nominations Now Being Accepted for Murray Ridge 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? If so, nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award!

If you are a community member, consumer, 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 Murray Ridge Board of Trustees for consideration. To submit your nomination, or if you have questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org.

One More 'Happy Halloween' From Murray Ridge Center!



Murray Ridge had a great time this year celebrating Halloween at our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and at Murray Ridge School.

At left, are Lutz Fazekas and Alycia Harwood from the EOVC; **at right**, is Nailah Rivera with teacher Ryanne Gelp; and **below**, school staff get into the holiday spirit.



Murray Ridge to Operate a Point of Distribution In the Case of Certain Emergencies

In the event of a county-wide health emergency requiring the distribution of medicine or treatment, Murray Ridge Center, in conjunction with Lorain County Public Health, will operate a temporary Point of Distribution (POD) to provide medicine or treatments to consumers (people with developmental disabilities who have been determined eligible for services from the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities), and their immediate caregivers.

Family members who live in households with children and adults with developmental disabilities will be eligible to receive medication/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center closed POD. Caregivers assigned at the time of POD operation to work with individuals with developmental disabilities who do not live with family will also be eligible to receive medicine/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center POD for themselves and members of their immediate households.

Should the need to operate a Murray Ridge Center POD occur, specifics will be communicated on the Murray Ridge Center Facebook page, on our website, and/or through local media and other communications.



November 2018

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 | |

- 11/12 - **Agency closed for Veteran's Day holiday**
- 11/13 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, Murray Ridge School - Students Off
- 11/14 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 11/21 - **Murray Ridge School closed for day before Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/22 - **Agency closed for Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/23 - **Agency closed for day after Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/26 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 11/28 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

'Acts of Giving Back' Program Still Going Strong!



Attendees of the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) recently held a fundraiser which raised \$270 for 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' — a local nonprofit that builds beds for Lorain County Children who don't have a bed to sleep in.

Several individuals from the OOVC visited the organization to present the check (far left) and to try their hands at building a bed (pictured at left is program participant Jeff Moore).

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our website
murrayridgecenter.org



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News You Can Use . . .

- **A Special Needs Christmas Pancake Breakfast** will be held Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m.-noon at Avon Middle School. Pancakes, Crafts and Photos with Santa will be available. This is a free, first-come/first-served event, but advance tickets for special needs children and their families must be picked up at the Reed Allen State Farm Office at 36966 Detroit Rd., Avon. For questions or additional information, email Jill Wallace at snjwallace0312@hotmail.com or call (440) 934-8600.
- **Adaptive outdoor recreation near Cleveland: 5 great activities.** A reporter for Cleveland.com recently searched for adventures for people with physical challenges. Want to see what he uncovered? Log onto the story at: <https://www.cleveland.com/expo/life-and-culture/erry-2018/10/d11485ba5c5293/best-adaaccessible-outdoor-rec.html>

We sometimes receive information on offerings that may be of interest to those we serve (classes, summer camps, etc.) While we do not 'vouch for' or promote such offerings, we realize that these may be of interest to our consumers, families and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning of such events and opportunities, contact Heather Gurchik, Director of Service and Support Administration at (440) 324-2366.

Happy 37th Anniversary to the Meister Home

Congratulations to the residents and staff of Murray Ridge's Meister Home which celebrated its 37th anniversary on October 28.

The facility originally opened as a children's home . . . and three of the first residents to move into Meister back in 1981 are still current residents there!