

# The View From The *Ridge*



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

## A Message from the Superintendent



Greetings 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

# Murray Ridge Consumers Visit Special Places



**The 'Christmas Story' House Museum:** Sarah Ward (above) a program participant at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) is shown posing with a 'Ralphie' cut-out and sampling the bathtub from the famous holiday movie. **The Greater Cleveland Aquarium:** Enjoying the stingray touch tank (right) are OOVC program participants (from left): **George Opel, Austin Turner, Doreen Alaksa, Mark Vanek, Zoey Moore** and staff member **Walter Campbell**.



Several program participants from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) recently visited the **Riddell** football equipment company's Production and Distribution Facility in North Ridgeville.

LEFT: **Daylon Bodiford**. BELOW LEFT: **Stephen Holley, Larry Diaz, Robert Sarrano, Greg Weller** and **Daylon Bodiford**. RIGHT: **Carl Jeans, Leif Hammonds** and **John Armstrong** trying on actual game-worn pro and college helmets. BELOW RIGHT: **Melinda Eckinrode, Grant Holbrook, James Papenfuss** and **Alexshawn Averett**.





## Holiday Time 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).



### **And, of course . . . The Choraleers!**



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).



## 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).



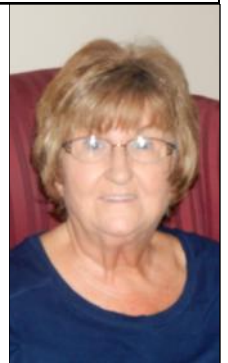
## Murray Ridge Welcomes New Board Member

Elyria resident **Rebecca Cornman** is the newest member of the Murray Ridge Center Board. She was appointed by the Lorain County Commissioners to a term which expires in January, 2022.

"I had a cousin who attended Murray Ridge School, worked in the workshops, and lived in the group homes for most of her life. She looked at me, and my sisters as her sisters," Cornman said. "I have been aware of how much Murray Ridge did to help her have a healthy, normal life full of friends and things to do. Our family was very grateful for what was offered to her to make her life full and happy. We can't just take in this life. Being on the board is my way of giving back."

A graduate of Lorain High School, Cornman has lived in Lorain County her entire life. She holds an Associate's Degree in Business from Lorain County Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Business from David Myers College in Cleveland. Cornman worked in the Purchasing department of Nordson Corporation and retired from Nordson after 20 years. She then opened Classy Kid's Closet children's resale shop in Amherst.

Cornman was also a member of the Murray Ridge Production Center Board. She has been married for 43 years, and has one child, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



## Exceptional Service Award Winner Named

Congratulations to **Mo Silvis**, Adult Program Instructor at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) for being awarded the most recent Exceptional Service Award. Mo was nominated by the mother of a consumer who has been involved with the agency since 1984. In the nomination, she said:

*"I am nominating Mo because of Mo's efforts to stay connected. She always lets me know what's going on during the day with (my daughter). She has some behavior problems when she doesn't get her way. As an example, one day she had money for the Santa Shop in her purse, but couldn't find it. She became upset, but Mo texted me and was told that the money was in the side pocket of her purse. So they found the money and gave it to her and she was fine."*

*"Mo makes things a whole lot better for ( my daughter) and a whole lot better for everybody else. Mo is just really in tune with all the consumers at EOVC. She's a very feeling person. She really goes above and beyond her job and does her very best for all of the people there."*



Presenting the Exceptional Service Award to **Mo Silvis** (left) was Board Member **Dan White** (right).

## 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).

### March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Each year, Murray Ridge Center works with more than 2,000 Lorain County residents through **Early Intervention, Murray Ridge School, Service and Support Administration, Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Supported/Community Employment, Special Olympics, Supported Living/Residential Services and Family Support.**

During National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Murray Ridge Center is pleased to recognize the special contributions that individuals with disabilities make in our community. Look for our flyers throughout the community.

### Autism Event Set for March 21 At Murray Ridge School

A program entitled "**Autism . . . One piece at a time,**" will be held Thursday, March 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria. The free event, open to parents professionals and community members will feature resources from several area organizations as well as a presentation by **Martiza Molis**, author of the book '**Autism in Our Home: The Making of a Bittersweet Family**' which is an essential reference for overwhelmed families of children with autism. To RSVP, email [EI@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:EI@murrayridgecenter.org) or call (440) 284-3655. For questions, contact Heather Knoble or Stacie Starr at (440) 329-3760.



# Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

## Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

## 2019 Spring Course Series

### Evening Sessions:

April 09, 2019: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

April 11, 2019: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

April 16, 2019: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

April 18, 2019: Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

### Location:

Murray Ridge Center LCBDD  
Lorain County Board of Developmental  
Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.  
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035  
Building at the rear of Murray Ridge School  
\*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA  
lot. Please enter in back door.

## Register

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD  
(440) 284-3655  
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

### Facilitator:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD



**Learn** about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

**Gather** useful tips and local resources!

**Discover** ways to succeed!

## Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD: Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD: Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

## Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH: provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



# Raiders Basketball Wraps Up Another Great Season; Congratulations on a Job Well Done!



## **TEAM 1 (left):**

Pictured left to right are: Coach Tyler Robinson, Ray Behner, Rob Messenger, Jeremy Foster, Ryan Eliason, Logan Yatson, Dorian Chaffin, Joe Garsky, Jeff Torres, Johathan Torres, Head Coach Russ Moye. (not pictured: Isaiah Wicks)

## **TEAM 2 (right):**

Front row (l-r): Ryan Brown, Matt Anthony, Raul Torres, Tom Dammeyer. Back row (l-r): Tim Dammeyer, Coach Orlando Jones, Daniel Montgomery, Tony Harris, DJ Overall, Hector Lozano, Leif Hammonds, Coach Leroy Keen.



## **TEAM 3 (left):**

Front row (l-r): David Zsigray, Marko Govich, Jesse Kimbro (kneeling), Sean Ware, Angel Rivera (kneeling), Bill Lacko, Chat Kothe. Back row (l-r); Head Coach Brian Chutes, Noah Griffiths, Kevin Long, Bryon Ragin, Mark Oliveras, Charles Johnson, James Peters, James Papenfuss, Coach Jim Ward. (Not pictured: Robert Assnakis).



## **LADY RAIDERS (right):**

Front row (l-r): Stephanie Budweg, Diana Clement, Katie Weaver, Sarah Ward, Elena Reinhold, Megan Craig. Back row (l-r): Brittany Botson, Alicia Lawrence, Maria Poling, Shari Reitenbach, Chelsie Jenkins, Katie Bryant, Katie Mihalek. Third row (l-r): Coaches Diane Landin and Lisa Hardway. (Not pictured: Jennifer Hunsucker).



Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
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Elyria, OH 44035

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

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