



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The View From The **RIDGE**

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
**Summer Quarterly**

**SUMMER 2022**



Superintendent **Amber Fisher** witnessing **Jennifer Ryan** administering the oath of office for **Ryan Egbertson**, Murray Ridge Center's newest Board Member



Murray Ridge Center's Board of Directors  
convening on Monday, June 24th, 2022

## Meet our Newest **Board Member!**

### Welcome to LCBDD, **Ryan Egbertson!**

Sworn in on Monday, June 27th, **Ryan Egbertson** is Murray Ridge Center's newest board member! Ryan is the first person who receives services from LCBDD to sit on our board of directors, and he was appointed to serve by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners. Ryan is a remarkable individual, and we are thrilled to work with him in this capacity.



Welcome to LCBDD, Ryan!



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## JOHN BENNINGTON'S VALOR HOME FOOD DRIVE

This past April 18th, **John Bennington**, a program participant at the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center (EOVC), organized a food drive for the Lorain County Valor Home, which provides transitional housing for homeless male veterans in Lorain County. John is a regular attendee of the EOVC's Service Club meetings, where program participants brainstorm ways to give back to their community. With some help from the EOVC staff, John set up and organized the schedule for the food drive, created the drive's promotional fliers, and went shopping for items with his own funds. He even helped transport the donation package to the valor home and spent some time with some of the residents there. Congratulations on a job well done, John!



John Bennington with a Valor Home resident

## Our Community Cares!



### Kind Donations

This past May, **Wee Care Closet** made a kind donation of brand new shoes, clothes, blankets, and more than 35 filled Easter baskets for our students at Murray Ridge School! Thank you, Wee Care Closet!

## Senior Pictures

Also in May, **Dominic Price**, a local photographer, came out to Murray Ridge School to take senior portraits of our graduating seniors. He took some great photos of our students in their caps and gowns! Dominic, who runs **FirstXXIV Media Group**, has come to previous proms and taken pictures, volunteering his time and talent. Thank you very much, Dominic!





# SUMMER GAMES



Members of the Murray Ridge Track and Field Team met Ohio Governor **Mike DeWine**! From left to right: **Sarah Ward, Stephanie Budweg, Alicia Lawrence, Governor DeWine, Ajonie Glinsey, Coach Tonya Guitar, and Elena Reinhold**

## Congratulations, athletes!

Congratulations to all the Murray Ridge athletes who competed in the State Special Olympics Games in Columbus on June 24-25! In total, individual athletes brought back 24 gold medals, 13 silver medals, six bronze medals, three 4th place ribbons, and three 5th place ribbons. This page shows just a few of the summer games' many highlights!

## 1st Place in Volleyball!

Congratulations to Volleyball Team members **Joe Bellottie, Ryan Brown, Megan Craig, Tony Harris, Hector Lozano, Angelissa Pardo, Shari Reitenbach, and Jeffrey Torres**, as well as head coach **Rick Rovere** and assistant coach **Stacy Rosecrans**!



Murray Ridge volleyball team members waiting for their medals (from left to right): **Jeffrey Torres, Shari Reitenbach, Megan Craig, Tony Harris, Joe Bellottie, Angelissa Pardo, Hector Lozano, and Ryan Brown.**



Murray Ridge Bocce Teammates **Tim Stewart and John Ahart**

## Medals in Bocce!

Great job to our three bocce teams! **John Ahart and Tim Stewart's** team and **Pam McClain and Cassie Kilgore's** team brought home two gold medals each, with **Annie Cirilo and D'Ronda Fleming** earning fourth place ribbons! Congratulations to all, including head coach **Yokita Thomas**, as well as assistant coaches **Michelle Miller and Joe Croftcheck**!

Go to [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org) to see our July Newsletter for the full results of the games!

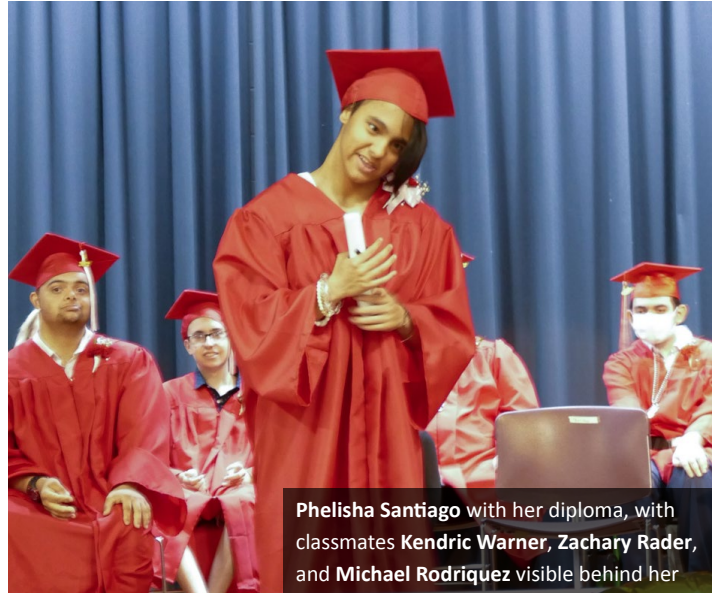




MRS Graduate **Kendric Warner** with Amherst Schools Superintendent **Steve Sayers**

On June 1st, Murray Ridge School held its annual transition ceremony, at which a group of guests – including the key note speaker, **Steve Sayers**, superintendent of Amherst schools – celebrated the accomplishments of some very impressive young people. While each graduate will be deeply missed by school staff, all are excited about what lies ahead. Beyond the walls of Murray Ridge School, there will be many opportunities for the graduates to explore their interests, have new experiences, work at various jobs, give back within their communities, and live lives of increasing independence. Congratulations, **Murray Ridge School Class of 2022!**

## Murray Ridge School Graduation!



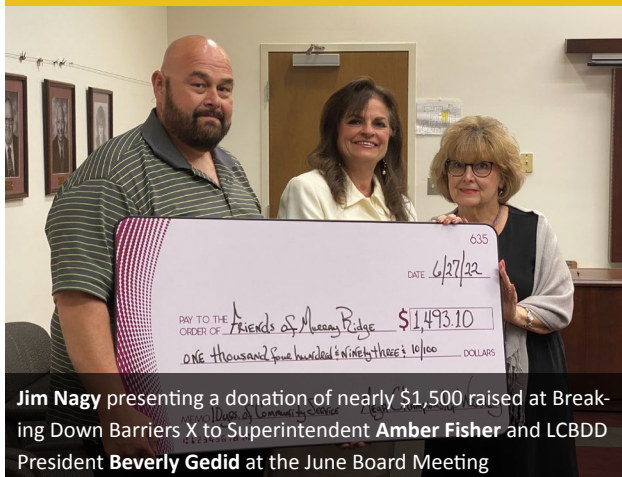
**Phelisha Santiago** with her diploma, with classmates **Kendric Warner**, **Zachary Rader**, and **Michael Rodríguez** visible behind her

## Breaking Down Barriers X Fundraiser

Right: **Mad Dog Manson** (EOVC Program Specialist **Jim Nagy**) throwing his opponent **Soda Pop Johnson** across the ring at **Breaking Down Barriers X** while referee **Marcus Pack** watches for foul play.



Last April, **Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW)** held its 10th Annual 'Breaking Down Barriers' fundraiser for Friends of Murray Ridge. These popular family-friendly wrestling events have raised more than \$15,000 since they began back in 2011! **Jim "Mad Dog Manson" Nagy**, who wrestles for MCW, started the event with co-promoters **Jeff Traxler** and **Brandon Xavier** for the benefit of Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities. MCW strives to be active in its community by working with organizations like Friends of Murray Ridge, Toys For Tots, and many others.



**Jim Nagy** presenting a donation of nearly \$1,500 raised at Breaking Down Barriers X to Superintendent **Amber Fisher** and LCBDD President **Beverly Gedid** at the June Board Meeting

# Early Intervention Success Story



## Meet Drew!

**Drew Cole is a 3-year-old boy who worked with our Early Intervention Program to help address his speech apraxia**

In February of 2020, Ericka Cole told her eleven-month-old son Drew's pediatrician that she didn't think he was hitting his developmental milestones for speech. The pediatrician told her not to worry, but something still didn't sit right with her.

"That 'mom' gut just told me that something wasn't clicking with him," Ericka recalls. After some persistence, she was able to get a referral from her son's pediatrician to pursue speech services for her son.

Drew was diagnosed with apraxia, a motor speech disorder that makes it difficult to speak. He started working with a number of speech therapy programs in addition to Murray Ridge Center's Early Intervention Program.

Rather than serving as the primary source of instruction, the EI program focuses on providing parents and families with strategies and techniques for helping their child on a daily basis. "I wasn't there to fix Drew," explains Bonnie Minnich, a Developmental Specialist at Murray Ridge Center who worked with Drew. "I was there to help [the parents] to be able to provide the great environment for Drew to be able to flourish."

This use of a coaching interaction style has many strengths, but one in particular stands out: rather than intervention occurring just a day or two a week, it becomes a full-time family affair. "It's not just a speech thing, it's how do we retrain the brain," Bonnie points out. "We're there to help the family help the child."

"Working with Bonnie was great," says Ericka. "She always had tips, tricks, and things to help us with." The process was difficult, but Bonnie was very encouraging with the parents, which meant a lot to the family.

Drew's family's dedication and Bonnie's assistance paid off. "By February of this past year, he was finally putting words together," beams Ericka. "Within the last 6 months, he's totally blossomed."

Drew, who now uses four and five word sentences, aged out of the EI program when he turned three this past April. He'll be starting preschool in the Fall, where he'll receive some in-class speech therapy and some private speech instruction outside of school.

"He's a fun kid. He really is," Bonnie says of Drew. "It's been exciting to see him change, and it's been exciting to see mom and dad be a really huge part of it. They try to credit everybody else, but they worked really hard."

## ABOUT EARLY INTERVENTION



Our Early Intervention Program services children from birth to three years of age. We serve families of children who have developmental delays or disabilities. We currently serve more than 400 children, and served 868 children in 2021.

Our Early Intervention Department staff provide specialized instruction to families that focuses on the development of strategies for them to use in promoting the development of their children in their own homes on a day to day basis.





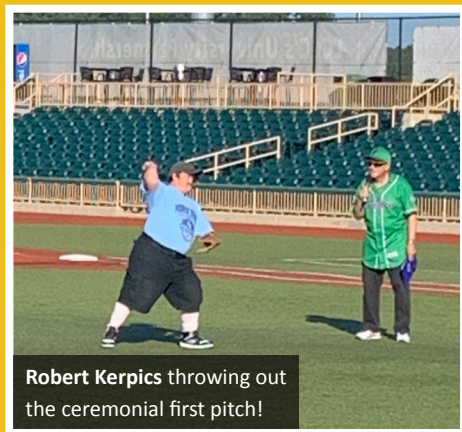
Maintenance Technician **Chuck Heisler**, MRHC Board Member **Pete Barth**, MRHC Board Member **Tim McLaughlin**, **Charles Johnson**, Administrative Secretary **Jennifer Ryan**, MRHC Board President **Jerry Vessalo**, and LCBDD Superintendent **Amber Fisher**



**Linda Brewer**, **Ruth Nelson**, **Jenna Jones**, and **Anna Rollins** under the stadium lights

## Annual MRHC Crushers Game Night!

On Thursday, July 14th, Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) hosted its annual trip to Mercy Health Stadium to watch the Lake Erie Crushers. Sporting complimentary t-shirts, more than 75 tenants of the Housing Corporation attended the event, where they were treated to hot dogs, soda, and other ballpark goodies. Everyone enjoyed a great ballgame, especially with Crushers pitcher Matt Mulhearn maintaining a no-hitter until the 7th inning! However, the most exciting pitch of the game was thrown by Murray Ridge program participant **Robert Kerpics**, who got to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Many thanks for a wonderful evening go to the event's sponsors: **Callihan Electric**, **Dick Esser Plumbing & Heating Inc.**, **Jamie's Carpet Shop**, **Midwest Siding**, **Schlather Insurance**, **Strittmather & Sons Inc.**, **T-Square Construction**, and **White Pine Wealth Management**.



**Robert Kerpics** throwing out the ceremonial first pitch!

## NEW DODD DIRECTOR VISITS MRC

This past July saw a visit by **Kimberly Hauck**, the new Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), as part of her statewide tour of county boards of developmental disabilities. At the meeting, directors of Murray Ridge Center's various departments met to discuss our programs and special projects, as well as the director's goals and vision.



Pictured, left: Members of Murray Ridge Center's Administrative team meeting with **Director Hauck** and Deputy Director of Policy and Strategic Direction **Steve Beha** from DODD  
Pictured, above: **Director Hauck** and Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

# Now Hiring!

## FEATURED positions



### Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for residents of our Meister Road Home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

### Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

### Custodial/Maintenance Positions

We are looking for full-time and PRN (as-needed) custodial staff and Maintenance Technicians. Hours are generally during the day.

### Service and Support Administrator (SSA)

We have openings for full-time Service and Support Administrators. Hours are generally during the day.

### SSA Data/Account Clerk

We are looking for a full-time SSA Data/Account Clerk. Hours are generally during the day.

**We are looking for PRN (as-needed) and 9 month full-time and part-time Speech and Language Pathologists!**

**We provide the training.  
You provide the ♥**

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click on "Opportunities"

**All candidates:**

Must have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED. Must pass background check, drug test, and physical.

[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)

## LORAIN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HOLDING HIRING EVENT

Looking for a job where you can contribute to the community and enrich the lives of others by performing valuable and gratifying work? Don't miss our upcoming hiring event!

**August 5th  
French Creek Reservation Meeting Room  
10AM to 3PM**

Attendees of the event will be able to apply, be pre-screened, and possibly have their initial interviews on the spot! Part-time, full-time, and intermittent (PRN) positions are available.

**Questions? Contact our Human Resources Department at (440) 329-3734 or at [hrdept@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:hrdept@murrayridgecenter.org)**



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Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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**Photo of the Summer:** Elyria Mayor **Frank Whitfield** cutting a rug with **Alex Shearer** at Elyria's summer concert series!

## Contact Us

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