

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

MAR 2022



Austin Carpenter giving a DD Awareness Month flier to **Casey Smith**, the manager of **The Foundry Restaurant** in downtown Elyria

March is **National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**



Tim Quisenberry and Austin Carpenter giving a flier to **Charles DeAngelis**, the Head Manager of the **Northwest Bank** in downtown Elyria

Every March, Murray Ridge Center joins local, state, and national agencies to recognize **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** — a time for all of us to celebrate the unique and vital contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make in our communities. It's also a perfect time to amplify the message about the important role individuals with developmental disabilities play throughout our community as volunteers, co-workers, citizens, neighbors and friends.

Murray Ridge is a provider of services; and plans, funds, and monitors services provided by other agencies and independent providers to people with developmental disabilities. Through the services and support offered by Murray Ridge Center, every year thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to develop critical skills, expand their vocational horizons, and receive necessary care.

EASTER VOLUNTEERING AT OVCS



This past February, **Elyria Parks and Recreation** enlisted the help of Murray Ridge program participants in preparing Easter Eggs for the City of Elyria's Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Volunteers from the Oberlin and Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Centers put together plastic eggs, which required delicate finger dexterity, color matching, and sorting skills.

Front row: Marcella Davis, Amanda Spreng (purple mask)
Back row: Annie Cirilo (green top), Shania Williams, Jaime Velez, Brione Monk, Staff Eva Torres, Annie Pugh, Abby Kisner, Yaletti Arroyo (red mask)

MEAL DELIVERIES

Helping Our Community

The Amherst Office of Aging has a program that delivers fresh, hot meals to seniors, and Murray Ridge Center adult program participants have been volunteering in this effort. According to **Beth Wissinger**, an Adult Program Instructor at LOVC, volunteering in the meal delivery program helps Murray Ridge program participants build confidence and engage with their community. Their volunteer efforts are so appreciated that a number of the seniors in the program specifically ask for the Murray Ridge Center crew to deliver their meals to them! In addition to delivering meals, volunteers help pack the meals, bring seniors their newspapers, and do anything else they can to be helpful. By all accounts, the Murray Ridge crew loves having the opportunity to help people in need throughout its community.

Hector Ortiz, Zuli Perez, Amherst Office of Aging meal delivery program organizer Carrie Adams, and Chelsie Jenkins.



Zuli Perez delivering food to one of the sixty seniors enrolled in Amherst Office of Aging's meal delivery program! The program in Amherst delivers more than fifty meals every day.

NEW INVESTIGATIVE AGENT SUPERVISOR: VALERIE DEPTULA

Congratulations to **Valeria Deptula**, who was recently promoted to Investigative Agent Supervisor! Valerie has been with Murray Ridge since 1993, and her numerous roles at Murray Ridge include: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Preschool Teacher, Early Intervention Specialist, Early Intervention Supervisor, and Investigative Agent (IA). Her knowledge of our agency and the IA role will undoubtedly be a great asset to us as Valerie begins her new role.



What is an Investigative Agent?

Murray Ridge employs four Investigative Agents, also known as IAs, whose purpose is to investigate and prevent incidents that adversely affect the health and welfare of local citizens with developmental disabilities. Our IAs investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and other offenses against people with developmental disabilities, and assist with prevention planning by looking

closely at factors contributing to both individual incidents and to any identified trends and patterns. IAs also train all staff at Murray Ridge and others who serve eligible individuals on identifying and reporting rights violations and other incidents that adversely impact Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some highlights of what our students at Murray Ridge School have been up to! For more fun pictures, be sure to check out the Murray Ridge School Facebook Page!

1, 2, 3, 4...

Students in **Mrs. Kristi Zgrabik's** class have been working on their counting skills! Below, a personal aid provides individual instruction to **Scarlett Wallace**.



Winning Hearts

This photo of preschooler **Sebastian Serano** was just too cute not to share!

On the Move!

In the picture below, **Sa'Niyah Birdsong** was excited to show off her mobility cane, which allows her to get around Murray Ridge School much more easily.



CONSUMER PROFILE

JOSIAH SIMPSON

Josiah Simpson is a connoisseur of the finer things in life: he likes music, dancing, good food (especially Chick-Fil-A), and fancy clothing. He is supported by his mother, father, and brother, and says his family is very important to him. He works with **Cheryl Glatz**, his **Murray Ridge Service and Support Administrator**, and has a Level 1 Waiver. Josiah also receives respite support from **Annette Elston**, his **residential provider**.

Josiah lives with his mother, Irene Jones, who is the CEO of **Josiah's House Inc.** This **day program** is named after—you guessed it—Josiah, and is located in Independence. Josiah has been attending his eponymous day program since it opened, and he always looks forward to going. He especially likes when they do a dance therapy activity called "The Train".

The Josiah's House day program has been operating since 2010, and currently serves 18 individuals. Its services include Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, dance therapy, and transportation. It also has a partnership with the Valley Cafe, where program participants can work, serving sandwiches and ice cream. And soon, Josiah's House will even have its own radio station called WIDD!

Community and family are very important to Josiah, and he is sure to participate in all the community events organized by the Josiah's House day program. He particularly looks forward to participating in the program's annual fashion show. Josiah brightens the lives of everyone around him, and he makes sure that he does it with style!



Top left: Josiah enjoying a meal at the Josiah's House day program



Bottom left: Josiah at home on Christmas, wearing a fun Christmas sweater



Bottom center: Josiah looking sharp in a tuxedo

Bottom right: Josiah at the Josiah's House day program

Top right: Josiah and his mother, Irene, at the Josiah's House day program.

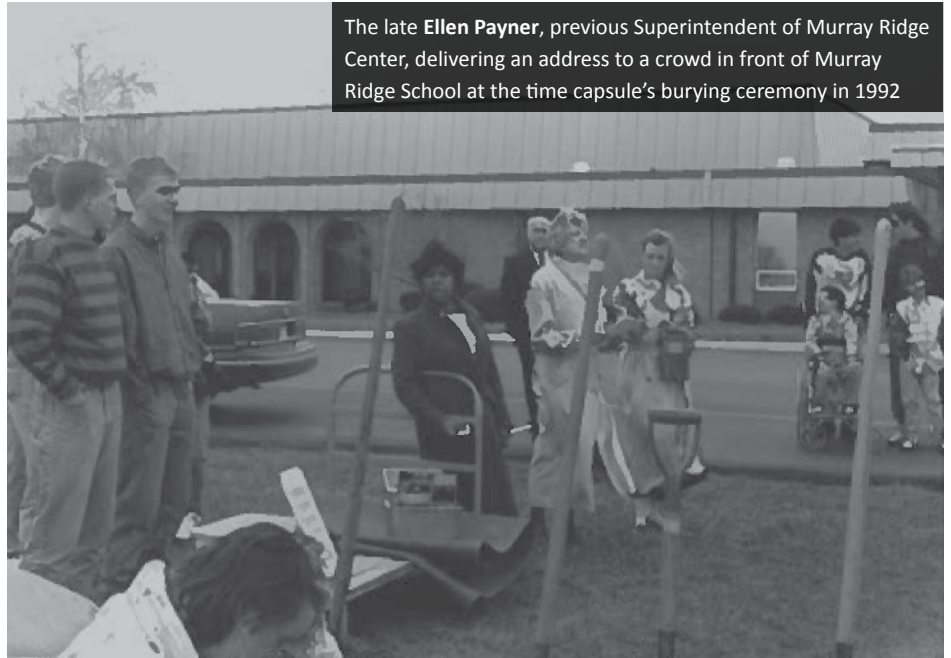


30 Year Old Murray Ridge Center Time Capsule To be **Unearthed March 31st!**



Murray Ridge School students at the time capsule's burying ceremony back in March of 1992

On Thursday, March 31st, at 1:00PM in front of Murray Ridge School, we will be unearthing memories from our agency in a capsule that was buried 30 years ago! The unearthing ceremony will include an address from Superintendent Amber Fisher, refreshments, and a revealing of the capsule's contents. We're very much looking forward to seeing what memories the time capsule contains!



The late **Ellen Payner**, previous Superintendent of Murray Ridge Center, delivering an address to a crowd in front of Murray Ridge School at the time capsule's burying ceremony in 1992

Special Olympics Ohio Winter Games Results

On March 5th, Special Olympics Ohio held its annual Winter Games at Bowling Green State University, and representatives of Murray Ridge Center earned enough medals to pave the road home in gold! Murray Ridge Center had eight athletes compete in Basketball Skills and seven athletes in Aquatics (swimming). Congratulations to everyone involved!



Amy Triglio competing in the 100 meter race

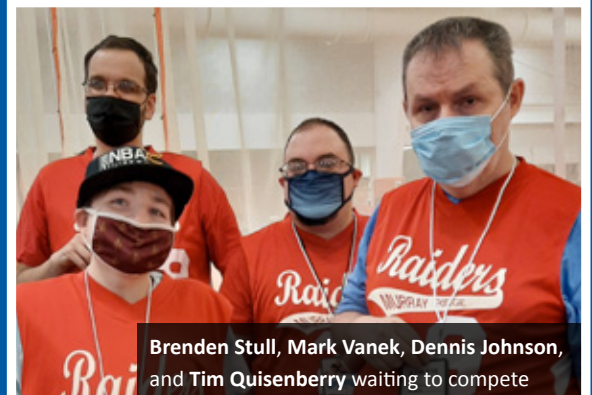
Results by event:

Basketball Skills

Sally Gordon: 5th place
Zuleka Perez: 1st place (Gold Medal)
Joseph Linden: 1st place (Gold Medal)
Brenden Stull: 4th place
Michael Elliot: 1st place (Gold Medal)
Tim Quisenberry: 1st place (Gold Medal)
Dennis Johnson: 2nd place (Silver Medal)
Mark Vanek: 3rd Place (Bronze Medal)

Swimming

Doug McCartney: unable to attend
Amy Triglio: 4th
Shari Reitenbach: 1st
Ryan Eliason: Two 1st place finishes
4X25 Relay Team: 2nd
Members: Ryan Eliason, Kenny Martin, Richard Smith, and Amy Triglio
Justin Tucker: 4th



Brenden Stull, Mark Vanek, Dennis Johnson, and Tim Quisenberry waiting to compete

MEGA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING PRESENTS **LIVE PRO WRESTLING**

APRIL 30TH, 2022. SATURDAY

MEGA
WRESTLING

DOORS 6:00PM • BELL TIME 6:30PM



FRIENDS OF MURRAY  RIDGE FUNDRAISER

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

LOCATION: LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIELDHOUSE
1005 ABBE RD NORTH. ELYRIA, OH 44035

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS \$10 FOR MURRAY RIDGE
CONSUMERS, STAFF AND THEIR FAMILY IN ADVANCE.
PURCHASE FROM THE FRONT DESK AT ANY OVC.

WWW.MEGACHAMPIONSHIPWRESTLING.COM

Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

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 Kevin Naughton, 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 Kevin at (440) 329-3734 or kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Interested Parties Invited to Help With School Wellness Policy

As part of the National School Lunch Program, Murray Ridge School has a Local School Wellness Policy. If you are interested in being involved with the development, implementation, periodic review, and/or updating of this policy, please contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational Services at (440) 329-3760 or dswift@murrayridgecenter.org.

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 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 PRN (as-needed) custodial/maintenance help and two full-time Maintenance Technicians. Hours are generally during the day.

Courier, PT

We have an opening available for a part-time courier in our business department. Hours are generally during the day.

Secretary

We have an opening for a full-time secretary. 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 Clerk. Hours are generally during the day.

We are looking for PRN (as-needed) 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.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 146
Elyria, OH 44035

Photo of the Month: Mark Vanek, Dennis Johnson, Tim Quisenberry on the winners' podium at the Special Olympics Ohio Winter Games!

Contact Us

Phone :
440.3293734

Address :
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Web & Email :
www.murrayridgecenter.org
kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

