

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

2021 STATE CHAMPS!

OCT 2021

Congratulations to the Murray Ridge Raiders for winning the 2021 Special Olympics Softball State Championship!



Pictured, Front Row: Ryan Busher, Tim Dammeyer, Noah Griffiths, Megan Craig, Diana Clement, Kevin Long, Coach Russ Moyer and Ryan Brown

Back Row: Charles Johnson, Victor Elder, Ryan Eliason, Daniel Montgomery, Jon Torres, Tom Dammeyer, Robert McFadden, Jeremy Foster, Statistician/Volunteer Kris Miller, Bench Mom/Volunteer Deb Roberts, and Coach Brian Chutes

Not pictured: Robert Assanakis, Alicia Lawrence, and Sean Ware

CONGRATULATIONS!

2021 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

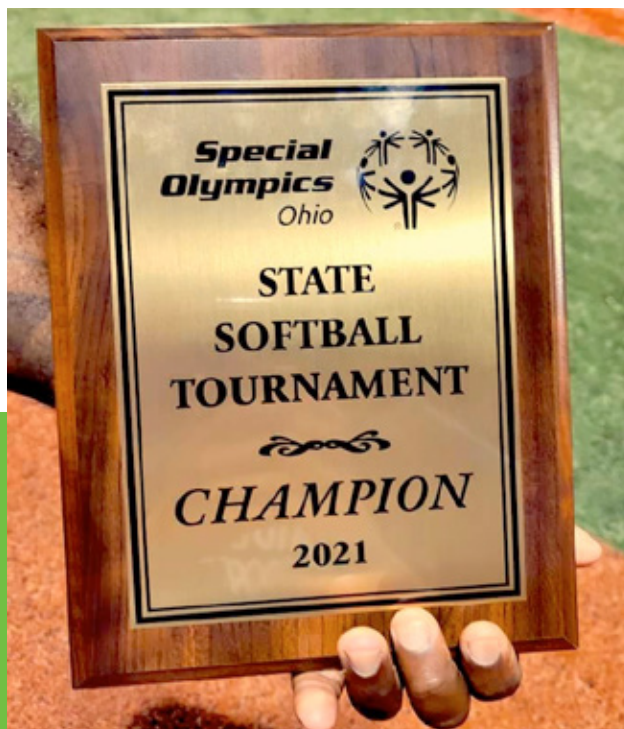


A Great End to a Great Season

The Murray Ridge Raiders, Lorain County's Special Olympics Softball team, won the State Championship Saturday, September 11th in Sandusky against Stark Public 2, with a final score of 22 to 5. It was an end to a great season: the Raiders played eight games this year, with a record of six wins and two losses. Out of the eighteen total players who participated this season, fifteen were able to play in the championship. We at Murray Ridge would like to congratulate everyone involved on a fantastic softball season!

RAIDERS TEAM ROSTER

The 2021 Murray Ridge Raiders softball team includes Robert Asanakakis, Ryan Brown, Ryan Busher, Diane Clement, Megan Craig, Tim Dammeyer, Tom Dammeyer, Victor Elder, Ryan Eliason, Jeremy Foster, Noah Griffiths, Charles Johnson, Alicia Lawrence, Kevin Long, Robert McFadden, Dan Montgomery, Jon Torres, and Sean Ware.



Open Eligibility!

Murray Ridge Center invites all Lorain County adults with developmental disabilities to participate in our Special Olympics Program. If you'd like to learn more about our upcoming Special Olympics Ohio activities and events and how to participate in them, please contact **Shawn Hatcher** at 440-284-2720 or at shatcher@murrayridgecenter.org

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Murray Ridge Center is once again pleased to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. We're proud to salute the Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the local workforce, and the local businesses that provide jobs for these individuals. Through our Supported Employment Program, Murray Ridge Center continues to focus on finding and placing individuals in positions where they can grow and excel in today's competitive job market.

Anyone interested in employing someone with a developmental disability can call our Supported Employment Department at (440) 324-4993.



Dana Hembree

Dana works part time at Amherst Manor in the dietary department. Murray Ridge Supported Employment Job Developer Carol Wallace was instrumental in finding this job for Dana; Carol helped her with various elements of the process, such as her application, resume, interview and online training.

Denka Linder

Denka works at Avon Lake Town Center Nursing Home. Currently, she is in housekeeping, but she will become a State Tested Nursing Assistant in November. She has been working full time since day one, and she successfully navigated working in a nursing home during the pandemic. She lives in Avon Lake and is able to drive/transport herself to work.



Jason St. Marie

Jason works at General Plug, where he does parts assembly, and enjoys living on his own in Elyria. He's a happy person who doesn't like to complain or get himself into a bad mood. In his free time, he likes going to picnics and the Corn Festival. Jason is also an avid sports fan (especially of the Cleveland Cavaliers) and enjoys watching games on TV.



Special Thanks...

In 2020, through our Supported Employment Department, 29 individuals were placed in community jobs. 14 of the jobs were with two businesses: **Thogus** and **General Plug**. We'd like to recognize them for their invaluable contribution to our program participants and for being leaders in the movement for greater inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities!



James Peters

James works as a dishwasher and cleaner for various businesses around Lorain County. He works extremely well with others; his coworkers frequently compliment his positive attitude, and they say that they love working with him because he is such a happy gentleman. James is also a member of the Murray Ridge Special Olympics basketball team.



Summer Picnics at our Opportunity/Vocational Centers

COVID couldn't stop our Opportunity and Vocational Centers from celebrating the summer! Program participants enjoyed our annual summer picnics, where they got to partake in indoor and outdoor activities like bingo, tee-ball, and a water bucket dump.



Bud Opel showing off a t-shirt he made



Joyce Cox knocking one out of the park



Brian Austin having some fun with a squirt gun

First Advocacy Group Meetings

On September 23, Murray Ridge Center hosted its first county-wide Advocacy Group meeting at the Lorain Public Library. The theme of the meeting, "What is Self-Advocacy?", built upon the self-advocacy techniques and strategies discussed at August's "Become Your Own Champion" event. The second meeting, held on October 13, covered internet safety with guest speaker **Richard Guerry**, founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell-Phone Communication. Be sure to check the Murray Ridge events calendar or Facebook page for updates on the monthly meetings. (The snacks for the meetings were funded by the Myrtle's Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County)



A group of Murray Ridge program participants learning how to be better self-advocates at our "Become Your Own Champion" event this past August

The Advocacy Group will meet once a month. For more info, contact Jaclina Rush at (440) 324-2366 or via email at JRush@murrayridgecenter.org

October is Down's Syndrome Awareness Month

Did you know that each year in the United States, about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome? That's about one in every 700 babies born in this country. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition, and it is estimated that today in the United States there are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome. Since the 1980s, American families touched by Down syndrome have observed October as National Down Syndrome Awareness Month: a time to recognize that those born with Down syndrome can indeed live happy, long and productive lives. This October, please join us in celebrating our friends and neighbors with Down syndrome. To learn more, visit the National Down Syndrome Society website at ndss.org.

Amy Daniels: Hail to the Queen!

On October 5th, Amy Daniels was named "Queen of the Day" by Lorie Wilbur's "A Crown Well Deserved" program. Amy was nominated by her coworker, Polly Allman, who thought Amy deserved special recognition for her efforts and contributions at the Murray Ridge School. Amy was presented with a real tiara made by "A Crown Well Deserved" partners Vandermark Jewelers, and she received a heartfelt round of applause from her coworkers at Murray Ridge School. Congratulations, Amy!



"A Crown Well Deserved" founder **Lorie Wilber** presenting the "Queen of the Day" tiara to **Amy Daniels**



Amy Daniels with her nominator **Polly Allman** with the rest of the school staff

"A Crown Well Deserved"

To nominate a woman you know for "A Crown Well Deserved", please send a short story explaining why she deserves an award to Lorie Wilber, P.O. Box 13, Oberlin, Ohio 44074. Be sure to include both your and your nominee's name, address, phone number, and email address!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Oberlin OVC Community Garden

For several years now, the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center has tended a community garden where Murray Ridge Program participants grow a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, green beans and zucchini. They donate all of the produce to Oberlin Community Services. On a recent visit, they donated an impressive 24 pounds of produce!



Program participant **Doreen Alaska** and Adult Program Instructor **Kevin Chutes** in front of the OOVV community garden.



Pictured (clockwise from back left): **Dennis Johnson**, **Ken Lewis**, **Tim Quisenberry**, **Melissa Garza**, and **Angelissa Pardo**

Bash That Trash

This past September, Murray Ridge program participants Angelissa Pardo, Tim Quisenberry, and Dennis Johnson, as well as staff members John Boles and Ken Lewis volunteered with "Bash That Trash", an Elyria-based anti-litter organization run by Melissa Garza. Murray Ridge is always looking for opportunities to volunteer in the community!



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



NEW R.I.C.H.E.S. COORDINATOR

Murray Ridge Center would like to welcome Penni Shuster as the new coordinator of our R.I.C.H.E.S. Award Program! Daughter of retired long-time Murray Ridge Center supervisor Jim Shuster, Penni is an Adult Program Instructor and specializes in planning community connections. She has worked here for 25 years, and was given the Board's Exceptional Service Award in 2017. R.I.C.H.E.S. (Recognizing Individuals' Creative Helpful Excellent Solutions) Awards are given throughout the year to Murray Ridge staff members for innovative solutions.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and as-needed positions to care for residents of our Meister Rd. home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Administrative/Business Support Positions

We have openings for an Administrative Assistant, a Purchasing Assistant, a Secretary, a Courier/Account Clerk, and an Information Systems Coordinator.

Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

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

Custodial/Maintenance

We are looking for as-needed custodial/maintenance help and a full-time Maintenance Technician. Hours are generally during the day.

**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 potential 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

Annual Transportation Safety Instructions

Murray Ridge Center wants you to be safe when travelling. These are guidelines that students, eligible adults, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services.

WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait for the bus at least 10 feet from the road.
- Dress properly - winter clothing, hats, mittens, and boots will help keep you warm in the winter.
- Watch for the bus' red lights.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and door opens before stepping into the roadway.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you use a wheelchair, it must be equipped with a functioning seat belt. The wheels should lock as well.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

BUS SEAT SAFETY RULES

- Follow all of the driver's instructions.
- Speak softly so the driver will not be distracted. At railroad crossings, be quiet.
- Stay seated until your stop and keep the aisle clear.
- Never put head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Never do anything to distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear and free of tripping hazards.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Tell the driver or monitor if you are being bullied.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Do not eat on the bus, as this could present a choking hazard.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

GETTING OFF THE BUS AT HOME

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for the signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signalled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times. If you drop something near the bus, leave it. If you leave something on the bus, never return to get it. The driver may not see you come back and start to move the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you pick it up so he/she knows where you are.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- When you enter or leave a vehicle, watch for slippery or uneven pavement and other hazards that could cause you to fall.
- Have your LCT ID, bus fare, ticket, or pass ready so you don't lose your balance while looking for it.
- Do not carry too many packages – always leave a free hand to grab a railing.
- Allow extra time to cross streets, especially in bad weather.
- If it's dark outside, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
- Do not talk to strangers. If you are being bothered by someone, tell the driver immediately.
- If you use a stop assistance card, remember to show it to the driver as you board the bus.
- Most LCT stops are not sheltered. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, and utilize sunscreen in the summer.
- Whether you are in a bus, car, or van – ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE!

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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Photo of the Month: All 18 members of the Murray Ridge Raiders Softball Team, the 2021 Special Olympics Softball State Champions! See inside for full roster.

Contact Us

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