

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

OCT 2022



Some of our adult program participants went to help set up shop at the **Your Turn Consignment Sale** in Amherst! Back row, left to right: **Steve Slutzker**, **Bridget Boardman** (coordinator for Your Turn Consignment), **Tiffany Harris**, and **Becky Sue Burianek**. Front Row, left to right: **Alyssa DeAngelis**, **Lori Rhodehamel**, **Alex Shearer**, and **Michael Telloni**.

October is 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.



Thank You!

Thank you to **Your Turn Consignment Sale**, a seasonal pop-up consignment business run by **Bridget Boardman**, for choosing us as the recipient of proceeds from its recent fundraising event! In addition to providing a generous donation, Bridget invited groups of our adult program participants to volunteer at her sale, where they were able to practice some vocational skills like stocking, customer service, money handling, and more. Inclusive events like these are great for bringing our Lorain County community closer together and fostering self-advocacy by our program participants.



Chinese Kenpo Instructor **Mike Dancull** leading a class at Tracy's Karate Studio of Amherst

Self-Defense Class at Tracy's Karate Studio

Murray Ridge Center would like to thank **Mike Dancull** from Tracy's Karate Studio of Amherst for hosting private classes for individuals from various Adult Day Programs in Lorain County. Mike ensures the classes are fun and educational, while teaching real life self-defense skills and accommodating different skill levels. Thanks to his flexibility, 27 individuals have had the opportunity to branch out from the normal day-to-day activities and practice a new skill in the community. Tracy's Karate Studio of Amherst will continue to be a welcoming option for eligible adult Lorain County residents looking to develop a new skillset. The self-defense classes were organized by the SSA Department and funded by the Myrtle's Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County.



Back row left to right: **Eli Fisher, John Armstrong, Hector Ortiz, Tyler Watkins, Chelsie Jenkins, Tony Daniels, Robert Serrano.** Front row, left to right: **Jean Morosky, Amanda Spreng, Abby Kisner, Earnest Harrell, Ken Martin, Brione Monk, and Instructor Mike Dancull.**

Back row, left to right (standing): **OVC Secretary Tina Tucker, SSA Hope Meyers, Saundra Kilgore, Jeremy Foster, Tiffany Harris, Sarah Ward, Adult Program Instructor Diania Landin, Maria Poling, Kevin Plata, Andrea Stewart, Steve Slutzker, and Janet Kleve.** Front row, left to right (kneeling): **Alicia Lawrence, Elena Reinhold, SSA and Parade Committee member Jaclina Rush, Developmental Specialist Kathy Bevaque.**

2022 WOOLLYBEAR FESTIVAL & PARADE

Murray Ridge Center was proud to once again take part in the annual Woollybear Festival Parade in Vermilion, Ohio! Thank you to everyone involved for making this a fun, inclusive event!



Thank you, Vermilion community!

Dressed for a Fest!

Our more than 20 representatives came to the parade decked out in orange and brown, sporting fun woollybear antennae made by our Adult Program participants at our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center.



Charles Johnson with Parade Committee member **Jen Ryan**



Murray Ridge Center is on the march!

Murray Ridge School News

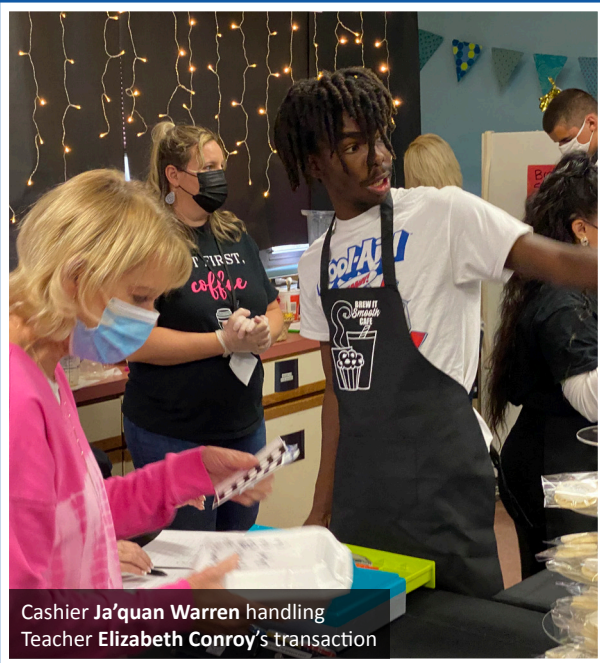


To tune in to the **Murray Ridge School News**, go to the Murray Ridge School Facebook page each Wednesday and follow the link on the news feed!

With a successful broadcast on October 12th, students from **Kristin Dickerhoff** and **Taylor Blascak's** class have officially started a weekly news show every Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM! During the show, students will be presenting Murray Ridge School news, current events, weather, and sports updates, as well as interviews with special guests. This will be a great way for students to build confidence, practice public speaking, and collaborate on a fun and unique project. Great job, everyone!



Murray Ridge School News, signing off! Left to right: **Jenny Sislowksi**, Teacher **Taylor Blascak**, Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff**, **Nicholas Green**, **Ja'Laysia Brown**, **Alexis Throckmorton**, and Personal Aide **Amy Marrero**, with **Jayden Nagy** and **Ja'quan Warren** in the back

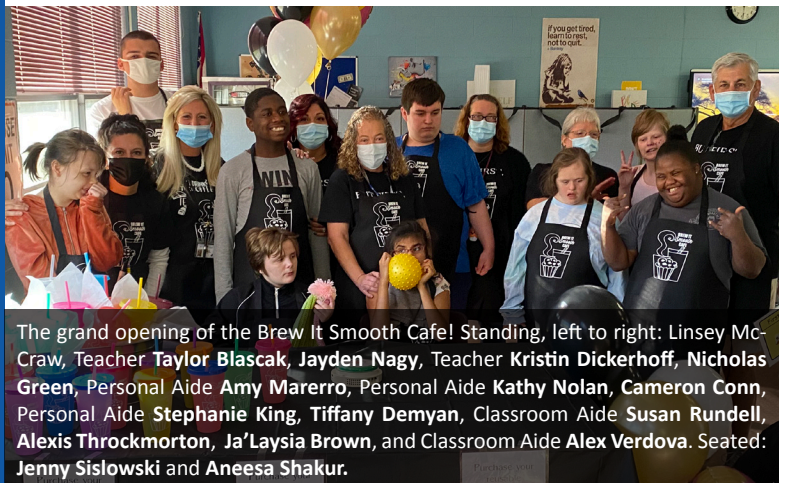


Cashier **Ja'quan Warren** handling Teacher **Elizabeth Conroy's** transaction

The "**Brew it Smooth Cafe**" opened for staff and students on October 13 with the help of a fully funded Donors Choose project (as well as the kindness of former Murray Ridge therapist Dena Smith who gifted us our cold brew machines)

Big Things Brewing at Murray Ridge School!

Teachers **Kristin Dickerhoff** and **Taylor Blascak**, with the help of their awesome therapy team, **Jenn Hakko** (SLP) and **Jamie Novak** (OT), have helped students open a fully functional cafe within the school building! A lot of work went into the project, including designing the cafe, creating a logo, deciding on what to serve, researching how to run a cafe, and practicing customer service skills, as well as having some fun testing some smoothie recipes, cold brew coffees, and yummy treats! We are lucky to have such a fabulous team, and the students will gain many life skills working the cafe together.



The grand opening of the Brew It Smooth Cafe! Standing, left to right: **Linsey McCraw**, Teacher **Taylor Blascak**, **Jayden Nagy**, Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff**, **Nicholas Green**, Personal Aide **Amy Marrero**, Personal Aide **Kathy Nolan**, **Cameron Conn**, Personal Aide **Stephanie King**, **Tiffany Demyan**, Classroom Aide **Susan Rundell**, **Alexis Throckmorton**, **Ja'Laysia Brown**, and Classroom Aide **Alex Verdova**. Seated: **Jenny Sislowksi** and **Aneesa Shakur**.



ROBERT SPRAGUE
OHIO TREASURER

Every October, we recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month and celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of workers living with disabilities. Now is also an appropriate time to acknowledge the many milestones that have contributed to creating a more inclusive workforce that's created new career opportunities for people living with disabilities.

Ohio is proud to be home to a diverse and inclusive workforce, and people living with disabilities play an important role in maintaining a strong economy.

In the Treasurer's office, we have a valuable tool to help eliminate financial barriers and increase access to employment. Through STABLE Account – Ohio's ABLE program – the Treasurer's office plays a key role in the effort to enhance financial independence and stability for people living with disabilities and their families.

A Message from the Ohio State Treasurer

Expanding Employment and Opportunity through STABLE Accounts

Before STABLE accounts, people living with disabilities could only save \$2,000 before losing means-tested benefits such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These regulations discouraged saving, investing, and joining the workforce – and asset limits often kept individuals living in the financial margins.

STABLE accountholders can save up to \$16,000 each year without jeopardizing federal assistance. If the accountholder is employed, they can save an additional \$12,880 each year. Earnings on STABLE accounts grow tax-free, as long as funds are spent on qualified expenses, such as education, transportation, healthcare, assistive technology, personal support services, and many others.

By removing barriers to employment, STABLE accounts help people living with disabilities to build a strong foundation for independence. We've heard many stories of accountholders buying cars, paying rent, and even putting down payments on their first homes. This financial stability is powerful and can provide the peace of mind that comes with having a plan for the future.

Employers can also play a vital role in increasing access to STABLE accounts. Our office has introduced a payroll deduction option that employers can make available to employees, allowing them

to put a portion of their paychecks directly into a STABLE account. Additionally, employees who have a loved one living with a disability may also open and contribute to an account on the family member's behalf.

Thus far, we've developed partnerships with the State of Ohio, Edison Community College, and several cities, counties, and private employers to make a payroll deduction option available to employees. This functionality can be replicated in businesses of all sizes, and our team stands ready to help more employers make this option available.

Today, STABLE Account serves more than 30,000 accountholders – triple the number of accountholders we served just over three years ago. By encouraging employment and creating a more inclusive economy, STABLE Account is strengthening the Buckeye State and helping Ohioans reach their full potential.

We ask for your partnership in making the payroll deduction option available to employees. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office at (614) 466-2160. For more information about STABLE accounts and to sign up, visit www.stableaccount.com.

**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.

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!



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.

Virtual Zoom Meeting!

2022 Virtual Fall Series

Evening Sessions:

October 17, 2022: Section 1, 5-7:30 p.m.
October 19, 2022: Section 2, 5-7:30 p.m.
October 24, 2022: Section 3, 5-7:30 p.m.
October 26, 2022: Section 4, 5-7:30 p.m.

Registration Information:

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
Agency mobile # (440) 731-0358
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

Facilitators:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
Angelique Yost, parent/former foster parent



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to help them to reach their fullest potentials.

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; Behavioral Strategy; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

No fee to attend.



Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH provided by the MHARS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, now including EI.
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours



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

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on September 26, 2022

The Board unanimously passed revisions to its policies on Separation, Retirement, and Military Leave. The Board passed a new Technology First policy, addressing its commitment to exploring technology solutions for people served through both initial and on-going person-centered assessment. The Board appointed Board Member Cathie Leimbach as delegate and Superintendent Amber Fisher as alternate to the 2022 delegate assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities.

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.

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.

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.

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

Custodial/Maintenance Positions

We are looking for full-time and PRN (as-needed) custodial staff 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 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

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Photo of the Month: (Left to right) Chase Blackham, Murray Ridge Center Intern Rachel Stewart, Ken Kiser, Emelie Grosel, Molly's Vineyard's eponymous Molly Anders, Jalitza Rodriguez, LOVC Adult Program Instructor Beth Wissinger, Tony Muniz, and Justin Opfer (in front) during a visit to Molly's Vineyard in Vermilion.

Contact Us

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