

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

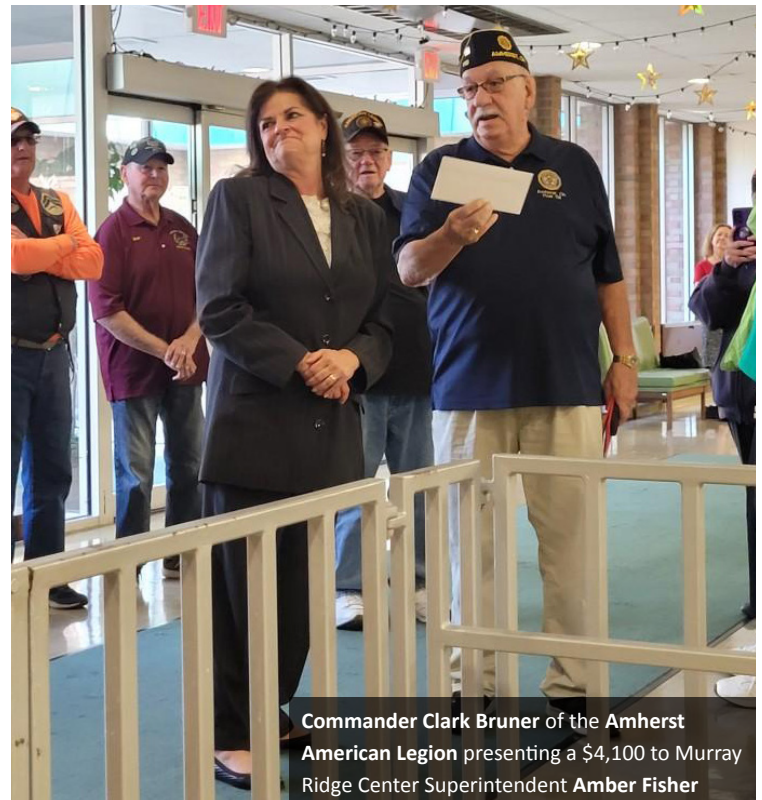
NOV 2022



Members of Murray Ridge's Scarlet and Grey Basketball Teams
with members of the Amherst American Legion

Thank you, Amherst American Legion!

On October 11th, **Commander Clark Bruner** of the **Amherst American Legion Post 118**, along with his Post Officers and a contingent of about a dozen Post Members (who arrived on motorcycles), presented Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher** with a \$4,100 check as a donation to our Special Olympics Program. Also present for the donation were Murray Ridge's Scarlet & Grey basketball teams, who were having their first practice of the season. The funds for the donation came from the proceeds of a recent golf outing held by Amherst American Legion. We are incredibly grateful for this generous donation!



Commander Clark Bruner of the **Amherst American Legion** presenting a \$4,100 to Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

AWARDS

Years of Service

The following staff members reached years of service milestones in 2022:

5 Years of Service

- Martha Amato
- Emily Ambrosio
- Cindy Castora
- Elizabeth Conroy
- Harry Koenning
- Mike Kolenda
- Amanda Krieg
- Kelly Kurowski
- Diane Lawson
- Lisa Neely
- Austin Remo
- Annette Sandrock
- Lyn Welch
- Greg Westgate

10 Years of Service

- Connie Burman
- Ben Christopher
- David Dukate
- Gary Huff
- Caitlyn Keil
- Jorgann Mendosa
- Sue Sands
- Shannon Swanner
- Stacey Zaborowski

15 Years of Service

- Sarah Bohannon
- Tonya Guitar
- Kristen Johnson
- Crystal McCartney
- Renee Patchin
- Letty Soeder
- Sharlene Wharton

20 Years of Service

Recipients pictured (upper right) left to right with their supervisors: Tim Hall (recipient), Jeff Miller, Terri Brosch (recipient), Caitlyn Keil, Bob Bari (recipient), Anita Graham, and Amber Fisher

Recipients not pictured: Danielle Burgess, Jodi Denes, Diana Markwood, and Marty Wells

Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following staff members for perfect attendance from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Emily Ambrosio | • Sherry Lacko-Chutes |
| • Sheila Amerla | |
| • Christine Ash | • Lester Prados |
| • Florence Ayivor | • Lisa Reed |
| • Kathy Bevaque | • Sandra Schreur |
| • Brian Chutes | • Jeffrey Squires |
| • Jennifer Doseck | • James Ward |
| • Heather Gurchik | |



25 Years of Service

Recipients pictured (lower left) left to right with their supervisors: Shawn Hatcher (recipient), Terri Camp-Borgsteadt (recipient), Gary Lyons, Amber Fisher, Heather Gurchik (recipient), Mary Lynn Woodyard (recipient), Cindy White, Karen McKenzie (recipient), Dann Swift, Sherry Hardin (recipient) and Laura Yates

Not pictured: Todd Bernabale, Petra Collins, Jerri Evans, Bob Hokes, Tracey Lewis, Sandra Schreur, Shannon Tandarich, and Jeanette Zapor

Pictured (right): 25 Year Award recipient Bev Monteleone at the In-Service program



30 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

Jim Nagy

Jim Nagy was hired on July 7th, 1992, and began working at the HSC building, which is now the Administration Building. He started out as an Aide, but has been a Program Specialist for 28 years now.

Jim says that what he has enjoyed the most about working at Murray Ridge is the fact that he has had the opportunity to make a difference in the consumers' lives in a positive way. He says, "Working at the Murray Ridge Center has taught me one invaluable fact: none of us will retire as millionaires working in this field, but we make our millions in so many other ways in the service of our consumers."



Jill Camp, Jim Nagy, and Amber Fisher at the Agency In-Service Program

Remote Recipients



Keith Rawlinson

Keith Rawlinson joined Murray Ridge in July of 1992. Since that time, he served as a Habilitation Specialist who also worked on adaptive equipment, and then moved into a position working on adaptive equipment full time.

Keith says that what he enjoys most about working at Murray Ridge is never being quite sure what to expect. He says, "I never know what devices I will be asked to design and build, or what problems I will be asked to solve". Many can attest to Keith's amazing skill and ingenuity when it comes to modifying and fashioning devices that enhance experiences and enable those we serve to participate more fully in a wide range of activities.



Mo Silvis

Mo Silvis started her Murray Ridge career in the Residential Program, back when we operated six homes. She began as a part-time group home aide at the East 9th St. Home in Elyria, and she eventually moved to a full-time position at what is now called EOVC, and was subsequently promoted to a Workshop Specialist position there. Although the title of the position has been changed to Adult Program Instructor, what has not changed is Mo's assignment to Area B-2.

Mo considers herself very fortunate to have been able to stay in one area for so many years, reminiscing that she was even called the FOSECO Queen, a label she was given because of the production done by consumers in Area B-2 for the FOSECO company.

C.A.R.E.S. Award Presented to Mayor Frank Whitfield



Each year, Murray Ridge Center recognizes an individual or organization that has gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' in helping people with developmental disabilities with the C.A.R.E.S. Award, which stands for Community, Awareness, Recognition, Education, and Service. This year, we were pleased to present this award to **Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield**, an individual who regularly takes time out of his incredibly busy schedule to meet with and advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages.

Mayor Whitfield was elected in November of

2019, and during his time in office has continuously supported the interests of local citizens with developmental disabilities, not only by having a presence at our programs and events, by also by being a staunch supporter of self-advocacy and an inspiration to self-advocates with developmental disabilities. He's been a regular attendee and participant at our community events, and a frequent visitor at Murray Ridge School.



Mayor Frank Whitfield accepting the C.A.R.E.S. Award from Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

Having such a dedicated and earnest ally in such a visible, public position is a very valuable and appreciated support of our mission, and of those we serve. Thank you, Mayor Whitfield for the time, the dedication, and, above all, the care that you've shown for our Murray Ridge Center family.

2022 Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient: Phil Tollett



Phil Tollett and Amber Fisher

Every year, in order to commemorate the life of a woman who personified the spirit of helping people, the Lorain County Board of DD presents a deserving individual with the **Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award**. This year, we honored **Phil Tollett**, who exemplifies all that we cherish in our volunteers, and who over a period of many years has regularly given his time and talents to support our mission, programs, events and consumers.

Phil has served multiple terms on the MRPC non-profit board since 1988, and is currently Board Chair. His professionalism and witty humor are greatly enjoyed by his fellow board members.

Phil's introduction to Murray Ridge came via his family's business, Northwest Vending. For many years, Northwest Vending provided all vending

services to Murray Ridge facilities.

Also, over many years, numerous Murray Ridge events were enhanced with support from Phil. From the Run for the Ridge to consumer picnics and parties, Phil has donated drinks and snacks on countless occasions.

Phil currently works for Cuyahoga Vending, where he created yet another group employment site for Murray Ridge program participants who, for the past fifteen years, have cleaned the Northwest Vending offices. Additionally, Cuyahoga Vending has directly hired several people with developmental disabilities. Between group and individual employment, Cuyahoga Vending has created vocational opportunities for 28 Murray Ridge program participants. What an incredible impact this has had on those we serve!

SSA HOLDS TECH FAIR

On October 13th, the SSA Department hosted a Technology Fair to showcase assistive and remote technology options that are available for individuals with developmental disabilities. Eleven vendors provided information

about their products, and attendees were given the opportunity to test out both low and high-tech devices in order to learn how technology can help a person to live a more independent life.



Erin Meyer and Megan Pintner at the SSA Tech Fair



The SSA Department would like to thank Valley of the Eagles for allowing it to host this event at the venue. Also, a special thank you to all the vendors who participated:

- SafeinHome
- Total Homecare Solutions
- Ohio At Home
- AngelSense - Protecting Children
- Lorain Public Library System
- The Arc of Ohio
- Project Lifesaver Lorain County
- Rest Assured
- Magnifiers More
- Dose Health
- OCALI

NORTH POINTE BALLET VISITS

On Thursday, November 10th, members of Berea's **North Pointe Ballet** visited Murray Ridge School to perform for our students. In addition to the performance, the dance company is currently rehearsing with some of our students, who will join them onstage for a special sensory-friendly performance of "The Nutcracker" on December 3rd at 2pm at the Lorain Palace Theatre. Tickets can be purchased online here:

<https://northpointeballet.org/nutcracker/>

Murray Ridge School students watching members of the North Pointe Ballet performing "The Nutcracker". Check out our Facebook page for some video of the performance!



Weather-Related Announcements Reminder

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website (fox8.com), and on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, as it has in the past.

There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:

- Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers
- Murray Ridge School

For the past several years, Fox 8 has displayed information on the status of our Adult Activities Centers as described below:

- On fox8.com, the information will be under the 'Daycare' tab in the School Closings section.
- On Channel 8, information about the status of our Adult Activities Centers will scroll from left to right beneath the School Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen under 'Daycare.' These listings are in alphabetical order by county; however, no county names will be listed due to the limitations of Fox 8's computer systems. Therefore, if you choose to use the TV to determine the status of the Adult Centers, you must continue to monitor that 'Daycare' listing until it has run a complete cycle.

NOTE: You can also sign up with Fox 8 to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click on 'Closing Text Alerts' in the School Closings section of the Fox 8 website.

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School." Conversely, adult consumers who attend our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and their parents/caregivers should disregard the "Murray Ridge School" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers."

If "Open - No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers," parents/caregivers are welcome to transport adult consumers to their day service sites. Regular programming will be provided. Consumers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to transport individuals to Murray Ridge Center will be based on the ability of our buses to travel safely on city and county roads. Regardless of whether or not transportation is available through Murray Ridge Center, if our Opportunity/Vocational Centers are open, but there is an individual concern about the weather, adult consumers should feel free to stay home. Likewise, parents/caregivers of Murray Ridge School students who have individual concerns regarding the weather should feel free to keep their children at home, even if school is in session.

Please be aware that transportation to enclave sites is generally available even if transportation to the Opportunity/Vocational Centers is cancelled. Murray Ridge Center does not broadcast the status of enclave transportation on the television or radio. Consumers should assume that enclave transportation will be available unless they receive a phone call from a member of our Supported Employment Department.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222.

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



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 a full-time Maintenance Technician. 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 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

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: Mayor Frank Whitfield visiting the Brew It Smooth Cafe! Pictured (Left to right) with Speech Therapist Jen Hakko, Taylor Blascak, Jenny Sislowski, Stacie Starr, Kristin Dickerhoff, Chris Fowler, Ja'Quan Warren, Nicholas Green, Jayden Nagy, Personal Aide Amy Marerro, Cameron Conn, Personal Aide Stephanie King, Alexis Throckmorton, Aneesa Shakur, and Personal Aide Kathy Nolan

Contact Us

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