



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

April 2014

Consumer Spotlight: Jesse Frisch

ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE??

Jesse Frisch certainly is! And on May 3, at the annual Breaking Down Barriers event hosted by Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW), professional wrestling fan and guest announcer Jesse will, once again, showcase his talents to other MCW fans and staff, consumers, family members, and caregivers from Murray Ridge Center.

A 1997 graduate of North Ridgeville High School, Jesse began attending the Murray Ridge Center Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center in 2007 through a reference from the Cleveland Sight Center for vocational assistance. Jesse immediately became involved

with our Community Employment Program where he secured a janitorial position. Jesse is legally blind, and although he ambulates through unfamiliar areas with a cane and also utilizes a specialized device called a "Pebble," which magnifies items, he found neither of these helpful when trying to complete certain job duties. Working with his job coach, Jesse was taught a "map out" technique which helped him "feel" the areas that needed to be cleaned. Later in his career, he was hired by Marshalls Department Store in Avon, and used this same technique to sort and fold clothes, a skill that impressed and inspired co-workers and his MRC job coach.

And although his work skills are exemplary, it's his interests outside of work that bring Jesse the most happiness.

Around the EOVC, Jesse is known as the resident philanthropist; over the past few years, Jesse has raised hundreds of dollars for the Make a Wish Foundation and the Lorain County Animal Protective League.

"My school was doing charity work after 9/11," Jesse



said. "I've liked doing charity work ever since."

Staff and consumers alike dig deep in their pockets when Jesse comes around, knowing that this young man's mission is to help brighten others' days.

But ask him his true passion, and Jesse will tell you it's professional wrestling, and he is proud of his ability to emcee such events as Breaking Down Barriers (for the third year in a row!) and other local wrestling events.

"In the 3 years that Mr. Frisch has done ring announcing at MCW's Breaking Down Barriers, he steps up his game each and

every year," said MCW's Mad Dog Manson (aka, Murray Ridge staff member Jim Nagy). "His professionalism even earned him a guest ring announcing job with another Professional Wrestling Organization. We here at MCW are very pleased to have Jesse as a part of our announce team for Breaking Down Barriers IV, and we hope to have him be a part of our organization for years to come. He is one of the best."

"Jesse is just a regular guy who likes to make a difference in peoples' lives," said MRC Vocational Placement Specialist Shawn Hatcher. "He loves to give his time and efforts to those in need."

And what a difference Jesse has made! This impressive young man continues to find new and different ways to take care of those around him, including his mother, whom he still lives with in North Ridgeville, and the many friends he's made throughout the community and Murray Ridge Center.

Best of luck to Jesse Frisch at Breaking Down Barriers IV on May 3! Come out and watch Jesse - and the MCW crew - and help support Murray Ridge Center!

April is Autism Awareness Month

Join Murray Ridge Center as we observe April as National Autism Awareness Month. According to the National Autism Society, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) affect 1 in every 88 births, and almost 1 in 70 boys. Autism affects individuals differently and to varying degrees, but the National Autism Society estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans are living with some effects of ASDs.

Autism is treatable, and early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes. Visit www.autism-society.org for more information or, to learn about programs and services offered by Murray Ridge School, contact Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, or Supervisors Joan Peterson or Lenora Oeftering at 329-3760.

Take time throughout the month of April to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorders!



MRC Wear Blue to Work Day a BIG Success!

On April 2, Murray Ridge Center staff wore blue to work/school in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

The day was coordinated by Autism Speaks, an organization which celebrates a campaign titled Light It Up Blue, along with the international autism community, in commemoration of the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day. Light It Up Blue is a unique global initiative that kicks-off Autism Awareness Month and helps raise awareness about autism. Thank you to all those who participated in this event!



Upper right:
Murray Ridge
Administration
Building staff:
John Syrowski,

Riaz Ahmad, Kevin Eye, Barb Dalton, Ruby Board, Andrea Elek, Ariana Flood, Sherry Hardin, Patty Peacock, Betty Spradling, Diane Smith, Michelle Trupo, Kris Long, Cathy Wolfe, Tom Forhan, Laura Gleason, Debi Streibel, and John Bonko. Right: OOV staff and adult participants combine blue clothes with blue lips! Pictured right (l-r): Juanita Young, Loretta Binder, Elena Reinhold, Mary Gressler, Darrylin Wargo, Carol Anderson, Tammy Heisler, Tammy Stanley, Mike Ward, Carol Cable, Tonya Guitar, John Hall. Upper left: Murray Ridge School students and staff (l-r): Charlene Yohn (personal aide), Noah Dove, CJ Ackley, Nathan Faber, Shelly Stipe (teacher aide), Tom Hardy, and Cameron Conn.



Mega Championship Wrestling Presents "Breaking Down Barriers 4!"

Mega Championship Wrestling, a local entertainment company, will be presenting an event called "Breaking Down Barriers 4."

As in the past, proceeds from this event will go to the Friends of Murray Ridge, a non-profit charitable organization which supports the mission, community education and informational outreach of the Murray Ridge Center.

Although wrestling may not be for everyone, many of our consumers enjoy watching WWE wrestling and would be interested in attending this event.



Date: Saturday, May 3rd, 2014
Time: Doors open at 6:00 pm
Showtime 6:30-8:30 pm
Where: Lorain County Community College, Ewing Field House
Cost: \$8/ticket in advance and \$10 at the door

T-Shirts will be available at the door for \$15.00 (2XX plus sizes will cost more). There will be a concession stand open for you to purchase snacks.

To purchase tickets in advance for \$8.00 each:

1. Fill in the section below and cut on the dotted line.
2. Return the completed form below with your money or check in an envelope addressed to one of the buildings below:

Darrylin Wargo at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 774-7400
Jessica Kolb at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 284-2720
Dianne Knoble at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 282-2131
Beverly Monteleone at the Administration Building	(440) 329-3734
Peggy Smith at Murray Ridge School	(440) 329-3760

3. If you are sending a check make it out to: Mega Championship Wrestling **OR** You can stop in at one of the sites listed to purchase tickets.

If you have any questions call the numbers above.

----- Breaking Down Barriers 4 Ticket Order Form:

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING TICKETS: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS (at \$8.00 each): _____

TOTAL AMOUNT MONEY/CHECK ENCLOSED: _____

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on March 28, 2014:

The March meeting was held at the new Mercy Health & Recreation Center on Hollstein Drive (behind the Toyota dealership) in Amherst. Lorain County Metro Parks Director, Jim Ziemiak, and Assistant Director, Jennifer Bracken, were introduced; they spoke about the ongoing collaboration between Murray Ridge Center and the Metro Parks, particularly in the design and development of the inclusive playground and sensory room at the Hollstein Drive site. Board Member Dan White announced that the Exceptional Service Board Award committee had selected a recipient for the award to be presented at the April meeting. Superintendent Fisher explained recent changes to the preschool funding formula, and presented anticipated (variable) revenues and expenditures of the Agency's preschool program for the 2013/2014 school year. The Board voted unanimously to retain the current rate structure for both school districts and parents of typically developing peers that place students in the Murray Ridge Preschool program for the 2014/2015 school year. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the second quarter of 2014. Superintendent Fisher updated the Board on a number of DD System developments at the local, state, and federal level.

A PRESCHOOL OPTION

The Murray Ridge Preschool Program offers students with a variety of developmental disabilities the advantages of in-room therapies, an array of state-of-the-art equipment, outstanding staff and an opportunity to learn alongside typically-developing peers.

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Door-to-door transportation services

Did You Know...

The Murray Ridge preschool serves children with a wide range of developmental disabilities, from those with mild delays to those profoundly impacted, and Murray Ridge is a recognized leader in its comprehensive approach to teaching children with autism. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school district. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School (see below).

For More Information Contact:

Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services
Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Oh 44035
440.329-3760
dswift@murrayridgecenter.org
www.murrayridgecenter.org



MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

MRC Staff Member Publishes Book on Lorain County Infirmary

Service and Support Administrator Jared Smith can check off 'published author' on his list of life goals!

Jared's book, "Just a Place to Stay out of the Rain: A History of the Lorain County Infirmary 1868-1967," was released by Book-Masters Publishing on March 26. This accomplishment, which has been four years in the making, combined two of Jared's passions: history and the city of Elyria.

Born and raised in Elyria, Jared worked in his family retail business for 26 years before coming to Murray Ridge Center, where he's been employed with the SSA Department for the past six years. Throughout his childhood, Jared had heard stories about the Lorain County Infirmary, but never understood the complexities of the building and its

grounds until he was approached by the Lorain County Historical Society to research the rumors and detail the facts in a book; the project was funded by and all proceeds from the book will benefit the Historical Society.

"It's a very sad story, but an interesting one!" Jared said. "When you have a facility that was in existence for almost 100 years...who lived there? Why? And what did they do with the dead?"

These are just a few of the many questions Jared set out to answer in his two-year research that - as the Historical Society was hoping - would finally tell the true story of the very secretive county home.

Jared began his quest with what was already known: when the Infirmary closed in 1967, residents that remained were transferred to The Pleasantview Sanatorium, which is now known as Golden Acres, a county-funded nursing home. Staff at Golden Acres were pleased to tell Jared that they had the original information about the Infirmary, dating back to the opening, in three leather-bound journals with the Infirmary's story - including the history of every resident. Armed with these documents, Jared gained access to the Lorain County records retention center where he found commissioners' records and

requisitions. This find paved the way for financial information, including what the commissioners allocated towards the Infirmary. Additionally, through his research, Jared discovered that the publically funded Lorain County Infirmary started out as a working farm for elderly poor; residents worked in the house or the fields to earn their keep. Over time, the building became a home for the poor and mentally ill, and was the place where people with developmental

disabilities were sent prior to the establishment of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

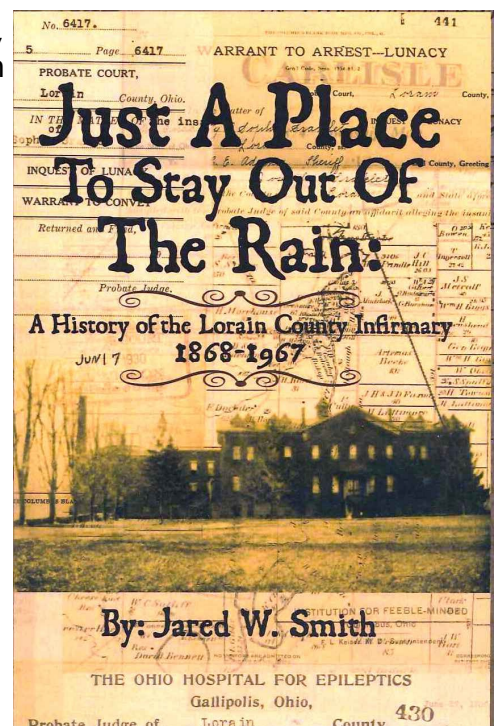
Today, the only part of the Infirmary that remains is the building directly across from the Juvenile Center on - you guessed it! - Infirmary Road in Elyria. And as for the question of what they did with the dead? Jared discovered that behind the

Health Department Building there is an unmarked graveyard with 72 plots and more than 236 burials.

To learn more and hear accounts from family members of long-gone Infirmary residents, pick up Jared's book by contacting the Lorain County Historical Society at (440) 322-3341.

And as for Jared, he has now been bitten by the writing bug, and has recently started researching a second book about the music and social dynamics of Lorain County youth from 1965-1980. We look forward to the release of his next publication!

"I think [this book] is a valuable resource in the sense that Jared has added history to a little known topic. In working with us, he was able to find photographs to work with the content of his book, which is a very interesting read." Eric Greenly, archivist at the Lorain County Historical Society



APRIL 10th FLYER!



ENJOY A MEAL WITH US AND WE'LL GIVE BACK.

RubyTuesday

COMMUNITY GiveBack PROGRAM

100% OF THE GIVEBACK AMOUNT IS DONATED DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION.

Ruby Tuesday is extremely proud to be part of your hometown and believes in giving back. As a fellow member of the community, we invite you to participate in...

Ruby Tuesday's Community GiveBack Program.

Grab your family and friends and join us at the 5274 ABBE RD NORTH location on the dates listed below. Please present this flyer to your server, and we will give back **20%** of your purchase to the organization.

HOW IT WORKS

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



To make a reservation, call us at 440-934-1200 or visit us online at rubytuesday.com

Organization's Name: FRIENDS OF MURRAY RIDGE INC

Event Name: MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL

Date(s) of Visit: 4/10/2014

RubyTuesday

For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu, visit rubytuesday.com

5274 ABBE RD NORTH, ELYRIA OH

MAY 3rd FLYER!

ENJOY A MEAL WITH US AND WE'LL GIVE BACK.

RubyTuesday

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HOW IT WORKS

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To make a reservation, call us at 440-934-1200 or visit us online at rubytuesday.com

Organization's Name: FRIENDS OF MURRAY RIDGE

Event Name: FRIENDS OF MURRAY RIDGE

Date(s) of Visit: 5/3/2014

RubyTuesday

For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu, visit rubytuesday.com

5274 ABBE RD NORTH, ELYRIA OH

Eat at RubyTuesday on April 10 and May 3!

Murray Ridge Center will once again be participating in an event sponsored by RubyTuesday restaurant in Elyria, 5274 Abbe Road, on April 10 (proceeds benefit Murray Ridge School Prom) and May 3 (proceeds benefit Friends of Murray Ridge).

The Ruby Tuesday GiveBack Program offers a charitable donation to local organizations that host a dining event. Their contribution is based on 20% of the net sales from guests that bring in a GiveBack flyer (above) when they dine for **either lunch or dinner** at the Elyria Ruby Tuesday on April 10 or May 3 (you do not need to participate on both dates for your purchase to qualify).


This is an incredible opportunity to raise money for the Murray Ridge School Prom and Friends of Murray Ridge!

The best way to ensure good participation is to **PROMOTE** this event!! Tell your friends and family, tell neighbors, post it on Facebook (share the link from our Murray Ridge Facebook page), and get the word out that Friends of Murray Ridge will be participating in the GiveBack events on April 10 and May 3!

REMEMBER: You MUST present the flyer (right) at the time of dining to ensure that your bill is added to our grand total. If you need additional flyers or have any questions, please contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734.



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16	17 	18 	19
20 	21	22	23	24	25 	26
Murray Ridge School Spring Break 4/21 - 4/25						
27	28	29	30 			

Activities & Events

- 4/11 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 4/17 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 4/18 - Program closing day for Good Friday**
- 4/21-4/25 - Murray Ridge Preschool and School Closed for Spring Break**
- 4/25 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd in Elyria
- 4/30 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 4/30 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria

Thank You to all our Murray Ridge Center Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is April 6-12, 2014. Throughout this week and throughout the entire year, Murray Ridge Center would like to recognize the individuals who give their time as volunteers at Murray Ridge School, in our Opportunity/Vocational Centers, throughout our Special Olympic sports, and in many other facets of the Agency. Murray Ridge Center extends its sincerest thanks to these community volunteers for making a considerable and lasting difference in the lives of the individuals we serve.

In addition to the many staff volunteers, thank you to the following community volunteers:

Cami Adams	Judy DeFrancesco	Stephanie Gordon	Alicia Lawrence	Isabel Rivera	Jim Uldrich
Tom Altman	Kelly Dillon	Scott Gottschling	Carol McCartney	Joan Roberts	Damita Vanche
Chuck Anthony	Paula Drummer-	Brenda Grimmett	Lois Mihalek	Tyler Robinson	Greg Vanche
Pete Barth	Nwankwo	Nadyne Hamner	James Miller	Stephen Ross	Jerry Vessalo
Terri Beckett	Sarah Elek	Pat Hamner	Alice Mooreland	Lori Schiffbauer	Heather Weed
Jim Berarducci	Paula Elek	Betty Hanson	Cathy Oblak	Vassie Scott	Dan White
Keith Boey	Dave Eliason	Lesley Hicks	Henry Patterson, Jr.	Charlie Sherry	Jaimie Whitehouse
Greg Butchko	Nick Fetzer	Michelle Hunt	Barb Payne	Terry (Pete) Shilling	Sherry Wilson
Beth Campbell	Gerry Findlan	Eric Johnson	Jeanie Petkovsek	Shawn Silvis	Don Winemiller
Nancy Captain	Ann Findlan	Sandi Johnson	Brenda Plata	Megan Smith	Marge Winemiller
Cheryl Chaney	Jeremy Foster	Wendy Johnson	Art Poling	Jane Spiegelberg	Tina Woskobunik
Rebecca Cornman	Robert Gadjos	Sheila Kellogg	Nancy Prokupek	Les Spike	Denis Wright
Megan Craig	Shannon Gaines	Rose Knoll	Debbie Radowenchuk	Jon Storr	
Matt Dailey	Beverly Gedid	James (Kurt) Koepf	Ron Rimbart	Sachiko Storr	

For more information on how you can volunteer with Murray Ridge Center, contact Jennifer Judkins at 440.329.3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

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



Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with DD. Some examples include summer camps and special interest classes. Many such offerings have an associated cost to the participant. Although we are not in a position to "vouch for" or promote such offerings, we recognize that these opportunities may be of interest to our consumers, their families and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning more about such consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

Exceptional Service Award

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 Jennifer Judkins, Public Relations/Volunteer Director. 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 at regular scheduled meetings, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.