

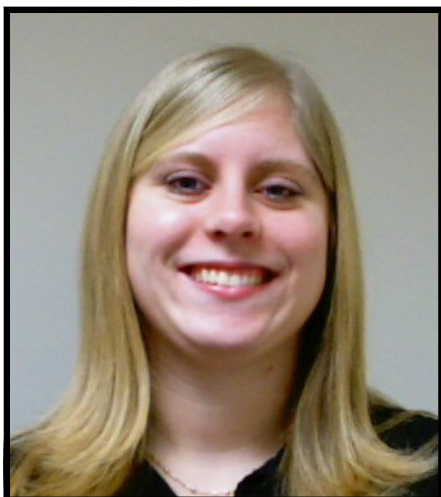
Local Resident Achieves Dream

In 2007, **Noelia Rodriguez** was living in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) in Akron, Ohio. However, as someone with close family ties, she wanted to move back to Lorain to be closer to her father and sisters. Referring to her father she states, "I missed my Poppy and I was sad a lot." When she was awarded a Martin Waiver in September of 2007, she expressed her dream of moving home to Lorain County to Service and Support Administrator (SSA) **Sarah Hicks**.

Through the use of state and federal funding available specifically to assist individuals with developmental disabilities living in nursing homes to achieve community living goals, Noelia was able to achieve her dream. The first step was the identification of housing that would meet Noelia's needs. Hicks assisted Noelia and her family through the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) application, intake and orientation processes so that Noelia could be included on the waiting list.

After a few months, Hick's diligence was successful and Noelia's dreams came true as the LMHA offered her an apartment in Lorain. After touring the apartment, Noelia and her family were happy with the space and signed a lease agreement. While she now had a home, Noelia was then faced with the very difficult process of choosing the appropriate residential provider to assist her with day-to-day living skills. Hicks guided Noelia through this process, supplying her and her family with information about various

providers, arranging interviews and answering their questions. Once Noelia chose her provider, Hicks wrote an Individual Service Plan (ISP) and, at the end of February, met with Noelia, her family and her new provider to review the ISP and to ensure that Noelia would have the services and supports that she would need. Then, on March 15, 2008, Noelia moved back to Lorain.



**Murray Ridge Service and Support Administrator
Sarah Hicks.**



Noelia Rodriguez smiles as she talks about life in her Lorain County home.

Now, more than a year later, Noelia's thriving in her new place of choice, and has engaged in more social activities and hobbies than ever before. When she isn't engaged in her day program, she is busy learning computer skills, assembling cookbooks with her favorite recipes and creating artistic collages. Her favorite collages are of animals, especially dogs. As she proudly holds up one of her creations, she points to a picture and smiles. "I love dogs. All dogs are beautiful," she says. She has also recently begun engaging in activities such as "game night" in her building. "I want to do some other activities, too," she says, then quickly adds "but not roller skating! I can't roller skate!" Then with a laugh she says that she also loves to sing and dance, adding that she watches both American Idol and Dancing With the Stars. "I'd love to be on that show," she says of Dancing With the Stars. While Hicks may not be able to help Noelia with that particular goal, she says "I am extremely happy to have been able to help her with her goal of moving back to Lorain."

2009 Special Olympics Summer Games

A much anticipated annual event for athletes and fans alike, the Special Olympics Summer Games provide a wonderful opportunity for athletes across Ohio to come together and test the athletic skills they've honed all year.

Although the Summer Games are, indeed, exciting for the athletes, they can also be the source of some anxiety, as well. Judy Hartung, Habilitation Manager for Recreation said, "fear of losing affects every team at every level. It goes right along with a desire to win. The soccer team was probably the most nervous. It is a decent team, and they were crossing their fingers for the gold, but some of the other teams were tough." However, despite the skill of the other teams, the Murray Ridge team pushed through their nervousness and went on to earn the bronze medal.

Nerves also did not get in the way of two up-and-coming track athletes, Ray Behner and Alicia Lawrence. Behner, who just started the habilitation program in April, was put in some of the highest brackets for the individual heats. In the 100-meter dash, he placed fourth, and finished in 13.6 seconds. As Hartung said, "He's probably the fourth fastest guy in the state [Special Olympics Program]!" Lawrence placed second in the 100-meter dash, and then earned the gold in the standing long jump. With such new talent, Hartung noted, "we are looking to get the two young track stars into the pentathlon in the upcoming year."

Another notable triumph was that of the mens' bocce teams, with all eight athletes earning gold medals in each of their



Athletes and coaches for the Murray Ridge Soccer Team smile after winning the bronze trophy.

categories. Hartung said, "they were all real contenders out there. Normally the teams will earn ribbons, rather than medals, but this year they were especially impressive!"

Overall, our Olympians earned 10 gold, eight silver and three bronze medals. Congratulations to all athletes, coaches and volunteers for their notable efforts and well-deserved wins!

EWAC Idol



Tom Stumpf croons to a swooning audience at the recent Elyria Work/Activity Center (EWAC) Idol Competition. Stumpf won the award for "Best Rock Singer."

Old Time Fun



Consumers and staff from the Lorain Work/Activity Center prepare to join the Amherst Old Time Jamboree Festival Parade.

Murray Ridge Welcomes New Board Member



Please join us as we welcome **Jane Spiegelberg, Ph.D.** to the Board of The Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. A board certified clinical psychologist, Dr. Spiegelberg comes to Murray Ridge Center with 30 years of experience in the practice and executive-level management of mental health services, including leadership of the Nord Center as Executive Director. She is a 2002 graduate of Leadership Lorain County and is currently a Community Trustee for the Nord Family Foundation. We are very pleased that Dr. Spiegelberg is giving part of her very busy life to serving the mission of Murray Ridge.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on July 31, 2009:

Superintendent Fisher gave an extensive presentation on the recently passed state budget and its impact on Murray Ridge. While details of Ohio's new biennium budget and its statewide impact are just now unfolding, Superintendent Fisher emphasized that the ODMRDD state subsidy to Murray Ridge Center for fiscal year (FY) 2010 is down nearly \$500,000 from what it was in FY 2008. Additionally, in FY 2010, the Agency's state allocation of Medicaid matching funds has been reduced by more than \$709,000. Although additional federal dollars will be received to offset this loss, Superintendent Fisher emphasized that the federal (stimulus) dollars will go away at the end of 2010. Unfortunately, this is roughly the time of the scheduled phase-out of the hold harmless for the loss of the revenue previously generated through the Tangible Personal Property tax (TPPT). Although a permanent partial fix to the TPPT matter had been included in the budget bill, the governor chose to veto this provision; the phase-out of the hold harmless for the loss of TPPT revenue will ultimately result in a loss of \$1,600,000 per year in funding to Murray Ridge Center. At this time, the outlook for relief from the impending loss of additional revenue is not good. Dr. Fisher noted that the Chair of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee described the current budget as "the worst in 80 years," and the Ranking Minority Member of that same committee stated that he believed the situation would only worsen over the next couple of years. In light of these and other challenging economic developments, Dr. Fisher congratulated the Board's direction to identify and initiate cost-saving efficiencies throughout the agency. Dr. Fisher reported that indeed, significant cost reductions had been identified and achieved since the Board's original discussion of the topic in August of 2008. In other business, the Board unanimously approved a revision to the agency's identification badge policy.

Music to Their Ears

Recently, consumers at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center (OWAC) had the pleasure of listening to chamber music during the work day as 14 gifted young musicians from the Oberlin College program Credo paid a visit.

Credo, a three-week summer program of intensive chamber music study for serious music students, brings together aspiring musicians from across the country not only to develop their gifts, but also to cultivate an attitude of giving back to others.

To the delight of all at OWAC, 14 of the 95 students in the program asked to "give back" by performing for Murray Ridge Center consumers, who may not otherwise have an opportunity to attend an orchestra performance.

String musicians ranging in age from 9-22 each brought their violas, violins and cellos and mesmerized their audience with pieces from such masters as Bach and Brahms. As the performances came to a close, these young musicians were met with claps and smiles. One impressed



Musicians from the Oberlin College program Credo perform before an attentive audience at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center.

audience member exclaimed "I wish I could play like that!" Our heartfelt thanks go to these gifted individuals for lifting our spirits, and inspiring us to find our own ways of "giving back."

2009-2010 Murray Ridge Calendars

Murray Ridge Preschool

2009








-  **August 28**—First Day for Murray Ridge School staff
-  **September 2**—Preschool Open House
-  **September 7**—Labor Day
-  **September 8**—First Day of Preschool Classes
-  **October 12**—Columbus Day
-  **October 30**—Agency Inservice
-  **November 10**—Parent/Teacher Conferences/Addendum Day
-  **November 11**—Veteran's Day
-  **November 26**—Thanksgiving
-  **November 27**—Day After Thanksgiving
-  **December 21**—Winter Break Begins
-  **December 25**—Christmas Day

2010

-  **January 1**—New Year's Day
-  **January 5**—Preschool Classes Resume
-  **January 18**—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
-  **February 15**—President's Day
-  **April 2**—Good Friday
-  **April 5**—Spring Break Begins
-  **April 13**—Preschool Classes Resume
-  **May 31**—Memorial Day
-  **June 10**—Last Day of Classes for Students
-  **June 11**—Records Day—Last Day for Staff

Murray Ridge School

2009

-  **August 28**—First Day for Murray Ridge School staff
-  **August 31**—First Day for Students
-  **September 7**—Labor Day
-  **September 10**—Murray Ridge School Open House
-  **October 12**—Columbus Day
-  **October 30**—Agency Inservice
-  **November 10**—Parent/Teacher Conferences/Addendum Day
-  **November 11**—Veteran's Day
-  **November 26**—Thanksgiving
-  **November 27**—Day After Thanksgiving
-  **December 21**—Winter Break Begins
-  **December 25**—Christmas Day

2010

-  **January 1**—New Year's Day
-  **January 4**—Classes Resume
-  **January 18**—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
-  **February 15**—President's Day
-  **April 2**—Good Friday
-  **April 5**—Spring Break Begins
-  **April 13**—Preschool Classes Resume
-  **May 31**—Memorial Day
-  **June 10**—Last Day of Classes for Students
-  **June 11**—Records Day—Last Day for Staff

Murray Ridge Adult Services, Residential and Early Intervention







2009

-  July 3—Independence Day
-  September 7—Labor Day
-  October 12—Columbus Day
-  October 30—Agency Inservice
-  November 11—Veteran's Day
-  November 26—Thanksgiving
-  November 27—Day After Thanksgiving
-  December 25—Christmas Day
-  December 28, 29, 30, 31—Program Closing Days

2010



-  January 1—New Year's Day
-  January 18—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
-  February 15—President's Day
-  April 2—Good Friday
-  May 31—Memorial Day

Calendar Key

-  Holiday
-  Classes Begin/End
-  School Closed/Program Closing Day
-  Parent/Teacher Conference/Addendum Day
-  Agency Inservice
-  Records Day



August 2009

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 30	24 31 	25	26	27 	28 	29

Activities & Events

- 8/5—Early Intervention Picnic, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 8/9—North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade
- 8/13—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 8/17—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road
- 8/24—8/30—Lorain County Fair, Building 19
- 8/27—LCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 8/27—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 8/28—First Day for Murray Ridge School Staff
- 8/31—First Day for Murray Ridge School Students (Preschool Begins September 8; Preschool Open House is September 2)**
- * NO LCBMRDD BOARD MEETING IN AUGUST. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 12:30 p.m. Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



Lunch Menus

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.75, Adults = \$2.70

August 3-7

August 24-28

September 14-18

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Ham & Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

August 10-14

August 31-September 4

September 21-25

Monday- Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

Tuesday- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Wednesday- Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie



August 17-21

September 7-11

September 28-October 2

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Tuesday- Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.loraincountymrdd.org

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Upcoming Class

Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Lorain County General Health District.

The free three-hour sessions are offered during the day on two consecutive Tuesdays in August, or on four consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning in October.

For more information call: 322-6367, 244-2209
or 236-8722.



Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with MR/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 Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

Play Ball!

Come cheer for the Murray Ridge Raiders softball teams as they bat, run and slide their way through a homerun season. Home games are played at Campana Park, 2840 Meister Road in Lorain. For more information, contact Judy Hartung at 284-2720.

Team 1:

- Tuesday, August 4 against Medina County, 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 5 against Geauga County, 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, August 19 against Stark County, 6:00 pm

Team 2:

- Tuesday, August 4 against Medina County, 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, August 11 against Stark County, 5:00 pm

