



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

August 2017

Murray Ridge Center Continues its Volunteer Work by Participating in State-Wide "Always There" Week of Service

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Murray Ridge Center, as county boards of developmental disabilities were created by the Ohio Legislature in 1967 with the passage of Senate Bill 169. To celebrate this milestone, Murray Ridge has been busy working on its 50 Acts of Giving Back, a 50-year anniversary initiative whereby, in 2017, members of the Murray Ridge family will 'give back' through at least fifty acts of helping to meet needs in Lorain County. This initiative will run until the end of 2017, and, within the first seven months, our Adult Program participants have already completed 137 Acts by 126 different individuals!

In addition to this exciting and successful project, Murray Ridge Center participated in the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities' (OACB's) "Always There" Week of Service. During this Week of Service, which took place July 17-21, Murray Ridge joined with other Ohio county boards in celebrating their shared heritage, accomplishments, and community support. The campaign was sponsored by the OACB, a nonprofit organization specializing in providing



Above: Alyssa DeAngelis, Jaclyn Guerrieri, and Danny White work the table at Mercy Hospital.

information, continuing education, and legislative support to all of Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities. For the 50 year anniversary of county boards of DD, OACB is spreading the message that county boards will be **"Always There"** for the people, families, and communities they serve.

Murray Ridge utilized the "Always There" Week of Service as an opportunity to complete even more "acts" of giving back throughout the community! Volunteers from our Opportunity and Vocational Centers located in Elyria, Lorain, and Oberlin were busy cleaning up walking trails, making and serving free lemonade at Music in the Park at Ely Square in Elyria, and hosting an art station at Mercy Hospital where volunteers made cards for patients and offered supplies for families to make cards for their loved ones. Other Murray Ridge volunteers cleaned items and stocked shelves at Habitat for Humanity Restore and Vermilion Evangelical and Reform Church's Kids Boutique.

Congratulations to all Murray Ridge Center consumers and staff who have made the 50 Acts of Giving Back initiative such a success, and to all those Murray Ridge program participants who volunteered during the "Always There" Week of Service!



Elena Reinhold volunteering at the FAPL.

*The Murray Ridge Support Group Invites You to Attend
Murray Ridge Center's
50th Anniversary Celebration
September 30, 2017 5:30 pm*



*50 years of providing lifelong services for
Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities*



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Saint Mary Parish Hall
320 Middle Ave, Elyria

~
\$8 per ticket includes dinner, drink, dessert, and dancing!
~

Tickets available at Murray Ridge
Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Murray Ridge School,
and the Murray Ridge Administration Building

~
Consumer artwork and crafts will be
on display and for sale!

~
Dressy casual attire

Murray Ridge School Offers 29th Year of Summer Camp

For 29 years, Murray Ridge School students have been invited to participate in the Murray Ridge Summer Camp, a three- to four-week long day camp where attendees had the opportunity to engage in many enjoyable activities and field trips, and to try their hands at a variety of crafts, recreational programs, and special classes. This year, 40 students had the opportunity to attend MRS Summer Camp.

This summer's weekly topics were movie-themed and included Sci-Fi, Action/Adventure, Mystery, and Fantasy. Staff created crafts, snacks, and other projects to engage the campers, providing a fun summer experience in a relaxed setting, and an opportunity for participants to stay connected to their peers and learn from the dedicated team of Murray Ridge School camp counselors.

Thank you to all who helped make the 2017 Murray Ridge Summer Camp a huge success!

Pictured, right, is camper Steven Fosdick with counselor Matt Rositano, playing a game of kickball!



Getting Ready to go Back to School!

The Back to School signs are starting to appear everywhere and Murray Ridge School has been busy preparing for the students' return for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year!

To make sure you and your child are ready to get the Murray Ridge School year off to a great start, please read the following information, which includes important dates and helpful reminders;

- The school-wide "Meet the Teacher/Open House" is scheduled for Monday, August 28 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
- First day of school is Tuesday, August 29
- Preschoolers start September 5

Parents should make sure that all school forms for their children have been filled out and submitted. If not, please mail them, or bring them to the school as soon as possible. Contact the school if you need to have a packet mailed to you.

We will be participating in the National Free/Reduced Lunch program. Free/Reduced Lunch applications

will go home the first week of school. However, you may purchase a lunch for your child before the application is processed. The cost for breakfast is \$1.41, and the cost for lunch is \$2.71

Parents can contact the bus company to find out bus routes and estimated times for pickup and drop-off. First Student: (440) 288-2222.

For any other information, please visit our website at www.murrayridgecenter.org or call the school office at (440) 329-3760.

I look forward to working with you and your child this school year!

Sincerely,

Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services
Services



MURRAY RIDGE PRESCHOOL

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. 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.

WE OFFER:

- *Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom*
- *An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment*
- *Full-time nurse on site*
- *Door-to-door transportation services*
- *A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards*
- *Dynamic, ODE-certified staff*
- *Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes*
- *Music classes*



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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August 2017



Activities & Events

- 8/2 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 8/13 - Participate in the North Ridgeville Corn Festival parade
- 8/16 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 8/21 - 8/27 - Lorain County Fair
- 8/28 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 8/28 - First day of school for staff
- 8/29 - First day of school for students

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
Lorain County Fair						
27	28 	29 	30	31		

It's August and that means it is time to take those last-minute vacations and to get your children ready for returning to school. Here are a few simple safety tips to help make back-to-school less stressful for everyone involved:

- Keep backpacks light for safety: It is easy to overload a backpack with books, lunches, supplies and so forth. Keep in mind that a backpack should not be heavier than 10-20% of a child's body weight.
- Supply sunscreen: Don't forget to send sunscreen to school so it can be applied for those outside activities while the weather is still nice. This is especially important if your child is sensitive to the standard sunscreen with PABA and needs a PABA-free product
- Make sure kids get rest: Kids will do better in school if they have plenty of rest. Now is the time to start back in with set bedtime habits to encourage adequate sleep and rest.

Eye On Health

Kevin Eye, Director of Nursing Services



- Communicate with the nursing staff: Keeping the school nurses aware of what is going on with a child will ensure continuity of care and will allow closer monitoring of health related conditions. Be sure to let the nurses know of any changes in medications, allergies and/or treatments; and to let the nurses know if there are any issues happening at home that may impact the health of the child or classmates (bed bugs, lice, fleas, flu and so forth). The nurses will work collaboratively with parents to get through almost any health related problem.

Have a happy and healthy school year!

Kevin Eye
Director of Nursing Services

Murray Ridge Center Representing at Lorain County Parades



Murray Ridge Center is once again participating in many parades throughout Lorain County this summer.

Please contact Jennifer Judkins, Community Education/Volunteer Director at 440-329-3734 if you are interested in joining us for a remaining event!

Sunday, August 13 @ 1:30

North Ridgeville Corn
Festival Parade

Sunday, September 24 @ 1:30

Vermilion Woolly Bear Parade

Above: Consumers John Armstrong, James Peters, Tracey Horn, Charles Johnson, Hector Lozano, Stephanie Stevens, and Murray Ridge staff member Rick Seagers get ready to march in the Sheffield Lake Community Days parade on July 13.

Murray Ridge Housing Corporation Sponsors a Night Out at the Lake Erie Crushers Game

On June 22, the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) sponsored an event for tenants of its homes at the Lake Erie Crushers game played at the Sprenger Stadium. 140 residents, staff members, and caregivers attended the game, where they ate, danced, and cheered on the Crushers towards its victory against the Washington Wild Things!

Tenants had an opportunity to be involved in the game, including one participant, Robert Kerpics, throwing out the first pitch (above)!



MRHC is a non-profit housing board, providing financing, acquisition, and management of housing in Lorain County for individuals with developmental disabilities since 1992. MRHC was initiated by the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, or Murray Ridge Center, as it is more commonly known. Since its inception, MRHC has been committed to the goal of ensuring the availability of community-based living arrangements for eligible Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities. Collectively, the homes owned by MRHC provide safe and affordable housing for more than 110 individuals with developmental disabilities. All 31 homes are located in traditional residential neighborhoods throughout Lorain County.

The event was sponsored by Ross Builders, Midwest Siding, Mr. & Mrs. Les Spike, Schlather Insurance, Reliable Lawn Care, Yuhasz Builders, AAA Appliance, Dick Esser Plumbing, Firelands Electric, John Rogers Construction, Sellers Concrete, and Stewart's TV and Appliance. Residents and staff from the homes received admission to the game, food, and a t-shirt!

Oberlin Opportunity/ Vocational Center Welcomes Credo from Oberlin College

For more than 10 years, Oberlin College has been sending students from the Credo Program to perform for the adult



program participants and staff at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC). The young musicians, ages 13-23, gave another wonderful musical performance on July 14 at the OOVC.

Credo is an intensive program of music study, service, and performance which brings students from around the world to the Oberlin Conservatory. Credo students hail from across the nation and several foreign lands, and cover a wide variety of social and faith backgrounds.

The OOVC is thrilled that Credo continues to reach out as part of their community service endeavors to bring classical music to the Agency. Thank you to all the Credo students who performed!

Elyria Opportunity/ Vocational Center Makes Large Donation to Friendship Animal Protective League

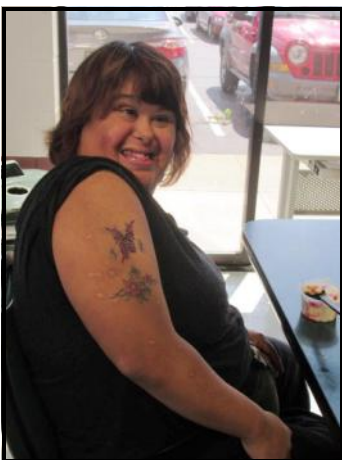
As part of the Agency-wide 50 Acts of Giving Back initiative, consumers and staff from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center collected food, blankets, towels, treats, and litter for the adoptable animals at the Friendship Animal Protective League (FAPL).



Penni Shuster, Adult Program Instructor at the EOVC, took Adult Program participants Terrance Meagher, Mark Axford, Richard Yager, and Andrew Donald to drop off the items on July 10. Thank you to all who donated to the FAPL!

Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center Holds Annual Summer Picnic

Lorain Opportunity Vocational Center consumers enjoyed their Annual Summer Picnic on July 14! Many fun activities were offered during the day, including BINGO (complete with prizes!), karaoke, and bowling. Lunch was provided by the Murray Ridge Production Center and consisted of pizza, chips, macaroni salad, pudding, ice cream, and drinks! A dance was held after lunch, with our very own DJ Jason



Keiser spinning the tunes! Individuals who didn't feel like dancing were treated to an in-house movie. Everyone had a great time and the weather was beautiful!

Left, Dominique Flores shows off a temporary tattoo! Right, Clayton Rhodehamel, Jim Ward, Betsy Schneider, and Leonard Wozniak enjoy some inside games.



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

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



School Wellness Policy Information

As part of the National School Lunch Program, Murray Ridge School has a Local School Wellness Policy. If you are interested in being involved with the development, implementation, periodic review, and/or updating of this policy, please contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational and Children's Services at 440-329-3760 or email him at dswift@murrayridgecenter.org

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, Community Education/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. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.