



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

December 2015

Employment First Top Priority at Murray Ridge Center

"Meaningful work has significant benefits for all working age adults, including people with developmental disabilities. People with developmental disabilities have the right to make informed decisions about where they work, and to have opportunities to obtain community jobs that result in greater earnings, better benefits, improved health and enhanced quality of life. In addition, meaningful employment offers individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to bolster self-esteem, expand their network of natural supports, make friends, and demonstrate their professional abilities in a public setting. These benefits all contribute to the diversity of our workforce and enrichment of our community."
-Employment First Taskforce Common Principles

At Murray Ridge Center, we are working hard to achieve goals set by Governor John Kasich when he signed the Employment First Executive Order in March 2012. Last spring, the Lorain County Board of DD ranked #7 (out of 88 counties) for the percentage of people with developmental disabilities who were employed in the community. As of November, our Supported Employment Department had facilitated 36 new community job placements in 2015.

As part of October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Carol Wallace, Murray Ridge Center's Marketing/Job Placement Specialist, contacted a number of local employers, including the city of Lorain and the Lorain County Joint Vocational School (JVS), about hosting our program participants for job shadow experiences. Those contacted were very receptive to the idea, and preparations to send individuals out into the community for shadowing began.

Through arrangements made with William Elliott, JVS Career Services Coordinator, four consumers in our Supported Employment Program had the opportunity to participate in job shadowing at the Joint Vocational School. On October 15th, Amber Tomsco worked in Career Services assisting on making binders for an event; Larry Fife worked with the warehouse staff unloading deliveries; and Melissa Figula worked in



James Peters tests the city of Lorain's fire hoses with Fire Department Chief Tom Brown.

Kitchen Services making pizzas. On October 29th, Terri Beckett headed to JVS and worked in Career Services folding programs for an Advisory Committee meeting.

On October 20th, four adults headed to Lorain to shadow various city departments. Kasia Broz worked with Lorain City Hall Human Resources Director Edward Zaborniak, assisting his secretary with filing and general office work. James Peters shadowed Lorain Fire Department Chief Tom Brown; James went to several fire houses, met the firemen, wore the uniform, and helped test fire hoses. Tyler Novosielski worked with Dale Vandersommen, the city's engineer. Dale took Tyler to the properties along the lake that the city is tearing down for surveying. Marcus Palazzola travelled to Lorain City Hall, where Derek Feuerstein, Chief of Staff, had

Marcus assist with duties throughout the building.

Carol Wallace is now working with other Lorain County businesses to schedule additional shadowing sessions for interested consumers, particularly in March for National Developmental Disability Awareness Month. Some potential sites she will be approaching include the City of Elyria, Lorain County Community College, Oberlin College, UH/EMH Regional Healthcare Center, Elyria or Lorain High School, Mercy Hospital (Lorain or Oberlin), and Allen Art Museum.

We look forward to all the new and exciting opportunities for our consumers in 2016!



(Left): Kasia Broz with Lorain City Hall HR Director Edward Zaborniak.
(Below): Larry Fife worked with the warehouse staff unloading deliveries.



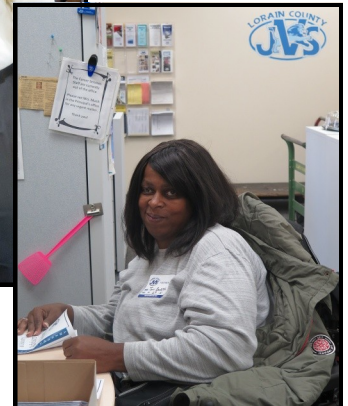
(Left): Tyler Novosielski with City of Lorain Engineer Dale Vandersommen.



(Left): Melissa Figula worked in Kitchen Services making pizzas.

(Middle): Marcus Palazzola with Lorain City Hall Chief of Staff Derek Feuerstein.

(Below): Amber Tomsco at JVS.



(Right) Terri Beckett at JVS.



THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!

Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:

- * Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- * Conduct fundraisers
- * Address special financial needs of consumers
- * Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

M R S G

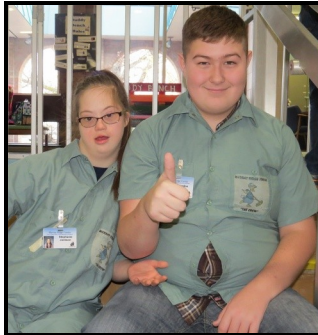
For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquín Page at 440.453.2576.

Welcome to "The Crew"

On November 17, the CREW at Murray Ridge School held its annual induction ceremony for 65 MRS students.

The CREW is a pre-vocational work program for soon-to-be transitioning students at Murray Ridge School. It was developed by teacher Nick Kish as a way to simulate real world work experience, and takes students through each phase of the process: completing an application, preparing for an official interview, receiving and accepting a job offer, job training, performing the job, and being responsible in order to maintain good work status. Teachers and staff are

very involved in helping to train the students to do their jobs, and assist them to be successful in any way needed. Congratulations to the new CREW team, and best of luck with your new jobs this year!



Above: Stephanie Jackson and Brandon Rivera happy to be in their new CREW shirts. Above, right: Emily Gessner receives her CREW shirt from Julie Kraker at the induction ceremony.

Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge

Sonia Colvin (right, pictured with Board member Dan White), group home aide at the Meister Road group home, was presented with the Exceptional Service Award at a meeting on November 18th. Sonia, who has been with the Agency for more than 10 years, was surprised and touched by the award. Her nominator, Carol Grey, mother of resident Ann Wester, said in the nomination letter, "Sonia has taken care of my daughter Ann Wester for many years and I am impressed by Sonia's attention to detail when she dresses Ann for community outings. Sonia color coordinates Ann's clothing, socks, pants tops and ensures that Ann is ready on time, and looks lovely for whatever event she is attending. Sonia definitely deserves the accolades for her exceptional service at Meister Group Home."

Congratulations, Sonia, on receiving this award! Murray Ridge Center thanks you for your exceptional service and dedication to those we serve!



Murray Ridge Center's Inland Trail Marathon



On Sunday, November 3, Murray Ridge Center held its 8th annual Inland Trail Marathon | Half Marathon | 5K in Elyria. Thank you to all the runners and volunteers who came out to support this event!

RESULTS:

Marathon Men: Joe Francescangeli, 1:28:39.0 (picture left)

Marathon Women: Nancy Citriglia, 3:17:42.4

Half-Marathon Men: Martin Russ, 1:20:23.4

Half-Marathon Women: Jennifer Haynes, 1:33:07.7

5K Men: James Meholic, 20:18.7

5K Women: Alexa Sharp, 21:23.8



MURRAY RIDGE CENTER

CHORALEERS

Book Your Performance!

The Choraleers are prepped and ready to perform!

The Murray Ridge Choraleers have become a popular performing group for concerts, civic clubs, and special events throughout the county. Through singing and entertaining, the Choraleers provide insight into Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities and the programs available at Murray Ridge.

For more than 40 years, the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, more commonly known as Murray Ridge Center, has been providing lifelong services for Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities. Our broad range of services and supports assist more than 2,000 individuals and their families annually.

If you are interested in booking a Choraleers performance, please contact Amber Fitzgerald at the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center at [440.284.2720](tel:440.284.2720) or by email at afitzgerald@murrayridgecenter.org.



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Murray Ridge Center takes on Project STIR

The Murray Ridge Adult Services Program will be promoting the development of self-advocacy skills by our program participants through the curriculum of Project STIR.

STIR, which stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility, is a training program for self advocates designed to provide individuals with the tools to advocate for themselves, mobilize others in advocacy, and gain leadership experience.

In November, adult program participants Chelsie Jenkins, Saundra Kilgore, Diana Clement, and Mark Wright along with 'allies' (and Murray Ridge Management Team members) Terri Camp, Gregg Heiden, and Judy Hartung, attended a four day STIR training at Maumee Bay in Toledo. The program participants that have gone through the training will teach interested individuals about the program, and how they can become self-advocates.



Front row, left to right: Saundra Kilgore, Diane Clements.
Back row, left to right: Judy Hartung, Chelsie Jenkins, Terri Camp, Mark Wright, and Gregg Heiden.

Important Weather-Related Announcements

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**

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 child 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

December 2015

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
27	28 	29 	30 	31 		

Activities & Events

- 12/8 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m., EOVC, 1095 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 4:15 p.m.
- 12/10 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 12/18 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 12/18 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 12/21 - 1/3/15 - **Murray Ridge School closed for winter break**
- 12/24, 28, 29, 30, 31 - **Agency closed for winter holiday**



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on November 20, 2015:

Updates were provided on the Murray Ridge Special Olympics Program and the Community Education and Supported Employment Marketing campaigns. Administrators shared a financial forecast with the Board, and the 2016 budget was approved, as submitted. In other news, Heather Gurchik discussed waiver match requirements for 2016, and the Board approved a Medicaid Match Resolution for consideration by the County Auditor. Additionally, the Board approved for public review the current draft of the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan; the Board will hold a Public Forum to gather public comment on the proposed 2016-2018 Strategic Plan on December 9, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria. The Board approved a master contract with the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation. The Murray Ridge Support Group announced a donation of 40 \$100 gift certificates that will be handed out to families in need this holiday season. The Inland Trail Marathon was a great success; many thanks to all who volunteered!

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Return Service Requested



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.

Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website
www.murrayridgecenter.org to see
our open positions!

**Murray Ridge Center
wishes all Lorain
County
residents a
safe and
joyous
holiday
season,
and best
wishes for a wonderful
new year!**



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the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.