

DEC 2022

Acts of Giving Back

Doreen Alaksa from OOVOC volunteering at Oberlin Community Cares Food Pantry

In 2017, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Murray Ridge Center by creating a program called **"50 Acts of Giving Back"**, an initiative through which members of the Murray Ridge family would "give back" to their community through at least fifty acts of helping to meet needs in Lorain County.

This initiative was a way for program participants to engage in valued and valuable activity in the community, and to thank the community for its ongoing support of the lifelong services received by thousands of Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities.

In 2017, Murray Ridge program participants far surpassed the initial goal of 50 by completing an astounding 214 Acts of Giving Back! Needless to say, the "50 Acts of Giving Back" program was an overwhelming success.

Because of this success, program participants and staff decided to continue with the program and simply renamed it "Acts of Giving Back".

In the years since, Murray Ridge has partnered with many different organizations in Lorain County, helping those we serve give back in a wide variety of ways.

For example, we've volunteered at a local organization called Good Knights, which builds and delivers beds and bedding to children in need throughout the county. There, our program participants have packaged hardware, sanded boards, assembled beds, and helped clean the woodshop.

Additionally, EOVC attendees volunteer every year at the Elyria Public Library's annual book sale, packaging the sold books and helping take them to the buyers' cars.

These are just two examples of organizations we've partnered with over the years, and you can see even more examples on our Facebook page.

Here's to many more years of Giving Back!



Matthew Schoerverth, participant at EOVC volunteering at the FAPL

Friendship APL

Since 2017, Service Club has had a partnership with Friendship Animal Protective League, a non-profit humane society in Elyria, Ohio. Every week, our Service Club program participants visit FAPL to help with the upkeep of the facilities, as well as socialize with the animals.



Chelsie Jenkins, John Armstrong, and Mark Wright at Graces Kitchen.

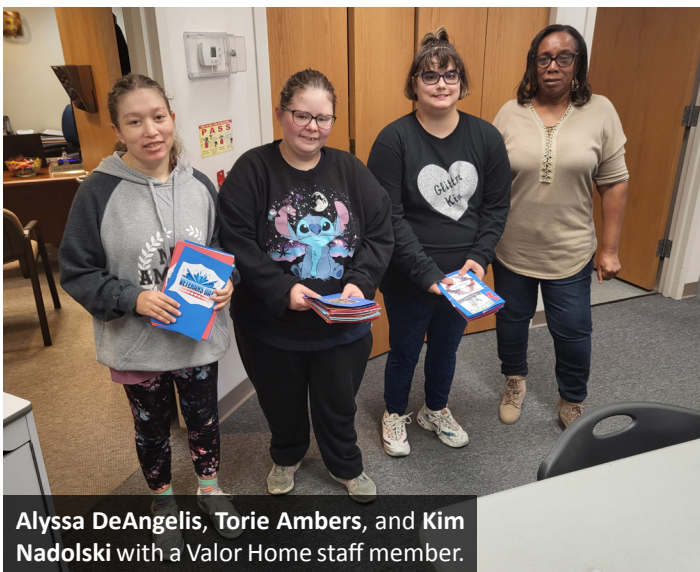
Food Donations

Through Acts of Giving Back, Murray Ridge's adult program participants have been part of food drives and donation efforts across the county. Some of the organizations we've volunteered with include Oberlin Community Cares Services, Grace's Kitchen, Christ Lutheran Food Pantry, and many more!

SERVICE CLUB VOLUNTEERING!

What Is Service Club?

Service Club is a way for adult program participants at each of our Opportunity/Vocational Centers (OVCs) to give back to our Lorain County community. Each month, Service Club participants meet to collectively decide what their next volunteer project will be. Since January of 2017, they've worked together on fundraising endeavors, food drives, clothing donations, and much more. The Service Club is coordinated by Jeff Camp, Jill Camp, Gregg Heiden, and John Syrowski, but the decisions and efforts are driven by each OVC's adult program participants.



Alyssa DeAngelis, Torie Ambers, and Kim Nadolski with a Valor Home staff member.

EOVC's "Socktober" Donation

During the month of October, the EOVC Service Club held a "Socktober" drive to benefit the Community West Foundation. Almost 500 pairs of socks were donated by participants and staff!



Mark Lacko, Kacey Meredith, Good Neighbor Thrift Shop volunteer (Tom), and Tim Young with EOVC's "Socktober" donation



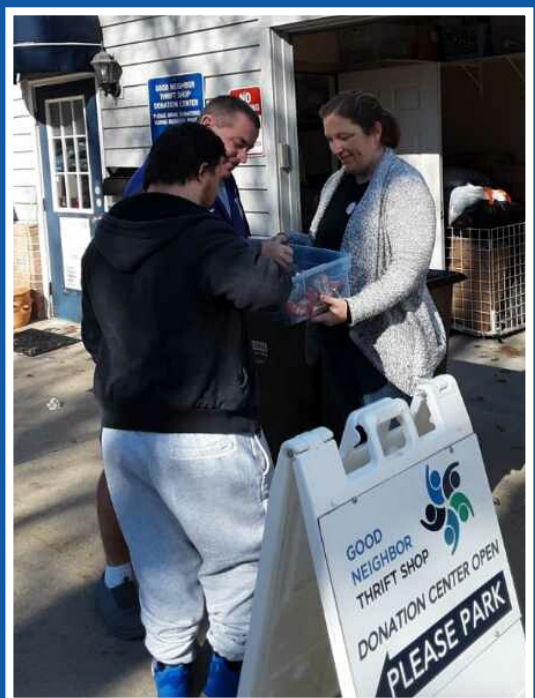
John Bennington with a Valor Home resident

Valor Home Food Drive

Back in April, John Bennington, a program participant at the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center (EOVC), organized a food drive for the Lorain County Valor Home, which provides transitional housing for homeless male veterans in Lorain County.

Veterans Day Cards

Participants at EOVC made Veteran's Day cards last week as a service club activity! Members of the service club personally delivered the cards to the Valor Home in Lorain.



LCBDD Board Member Ryan Egberston: A Profile of Persistence



LCBDD Board Member Ryan Egbertson posing with his custom built pickup truck

While **Ryan Egbertson** might be accustomed to being told “no,” he has never accepted it as an answer. His persistence has already taken him far in his 27 years, and we’re proud to have him as a member of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

“I always wanted to work, even when I was

young,” recalls Ryan, who loves working outdoors and in physically demanding jobs.

After high school, Ryan was certified as a commercial plumber. However, he was repeatedly told that he would have to work in an office setting because of his disability. Instead of accepting that answer and compromising his goals, Ryan worked diligently to find a way around these barriers.

After some searching, he was able to work with an organization called AgrAbility, which helped him acquire customized equipment that allowed him to work in the kinds of jobs he wanted.

After a few years of operating this custom equipment, Ryan became determined to be able to drive a vehicle again. After several companies told him they couldn’t help him, he started working with Columbus Mobility, a company that customizes vehicles. “While my truck was being built, they were working on a motorcycle for a guy who

doesn’t have arms,” Ryan recalls. Columbus Mobility set Ryan up with a Chevrolet Silverado that had a joystick, and the truck was further customized by engineers in Switzerland and Israel.

Today, Ryan works for a local tree service company as an operations manager. He’s also a certified ADA inspector who sits on three different boards in Ohio, and Ryan takes great care and effort to ensure buildings are accessible for individuals with disabilities.

“The ADA has been around for 30 years and we’re still having these problems,” Ryan explains. “I should be able to go out to dinner with my girlfriend without having problems.”

Ryan’s unique experience and impressive energy make him an invaluable member of our board. “There’s no such thing as a normal life,” Ryan says. “Ensuring that we can all do what we want to do is my main purpose with this work.”



Ryan Egbertson with LCBDD Board President Bev Gedid

EMPOWERING THROUGH SPORTS



Murray Ridge Special Olympics athletes with the Open Door Varsity Boys players

On November 10th, seventeen of our Special Olympics athletes visited Open Door Christian Academy for an inclusive basketball clinic with members of its varsity team. Facilitated by an organization called **Empower Sports**, the clinic had neurotypical athletes and athletes with developmental disabilities practicing basketball drills and participating in skills competitions together. Part of Empower Sports' values statement reads, "Sports can foster greater empathy between people of diverse abilities and backgrounds." A special thank you goes out to ODCA Head Coach Alan Januzzi, Empower Sports Executive Director Tom Heines, and Murray Ridge Center's Special Olympics Coordinator Shawn Hatcher for organizing this wonderfully inclusive event.

A CHANCE To Dance!

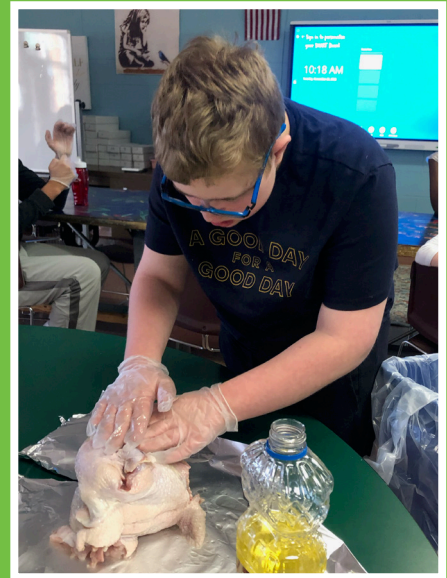
On Saturday, December 3rd, Evan Clarke, Paulina Lilly, Evey Rodgers, Darnell Rivera, and Aryia Keeton performed with North Pointe Ballet at The Lorain Palace Theatre as part of its "A Chance to Dance" program. Visit the Murray Ridge School Facebook page to see a video of the performance!



Happy Thanksgiving From Murray Ridge School!



Students and staff at Murray Ridge School celebrated thanksgiving with all the traditional fixings! Staff and students worked together to prepare the delicious food.



Pictured, left: Personal Aide **Stephanie King**, **Cameron Conn**, and Personal Aide **Amy Marrero**.

Above: **Jonas Bennett**



Pictured above: **Aiden Harper** (left), **Brady Johnson** (middle), and **Will Norris** (right)



Below, left (clockwise from left): **Marra Board**, **Manny Campos**, **Reece McDaniel**, Personal Attendant **Anthony Lawrence III**, Classroom Aide **Shelly Stipe**, **Evan Clarke**, **Brady Johnson**, **Will Norris**, Floating Aide **Adam Harness**, and **Marvelous Seymore**. Seated in the center are (left to right) **Aiden Harper** and **Owen Richardson**.

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.

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on November 28, 2022

The Board passed a resolution authorizing for public release a draft of its 2023 Strategic Plan, and gave notice of a public forum on this report to be held on December 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board's Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd., Elyria, Ohio; a copy of the Draft 2023 Strategic Plan can be accessed at www.murrayridgecenter.org or by calling (440)329-3734. The Board voted unanimously to revise its policy on Family Support Services; the impact of the revision will be to reduce the co-pays of families of eligible individuals who are not enrolled on Medicaid waivers. Superintendent Fisher presented an Expenditures Comparison of 2021 and 2022, and a Budget Comparison of 2022 and 2023; the Board approved its 2023 Budget. The Board approved resolutions to request that the County Auditor certify the availability of funds needed to pay the nonfederal share of Medicaid services in 2023, and to request that the County Commissioners request that the County Auditor certify the total current tax valuation and revenue that would be generated by a 1.6875 mills renewal levy. Director of Service & Support Administration Heather Gurchik explained changes to the rule that addresses behavior support for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the Board approved changes to its policy on Behavior Support. The Board reviewed resolutions to be considered at the 2022 assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards, including a resolution that county boards work diligently with their appointing authorities to ensure that at least one person with developmental disabilities is appointed as a board member of each county board of developmental disabilities by 2027, or as quickly as is readily achievable.

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

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Photo of the Month: Happy Thanksgiving from Murray Ridge School! Pictured, clockwise from left: Classroom Aide **Alex Verdova**, **Linsey McCraw**, **Brady Bella**, Personal Aide **Emily Lippincott**, **Jonas Bennett**, **Jayden Nagy**, Personal Aide **Stephanie King**, **Cameron Conn**, Personal Aide **Amy Marrero**, Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff**, **Nick Green**, **Ja'Quan Warren**, Teacher **Taylor Blascak**, **Chris Fowler**, **Alexis Throckmorton**, and **Aneesa Shakur**.

Contact Us

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