

A Plan to AVERT Danger to Consumers

In the spring of 2000, **Peg Calvey**, a staff person at Genesis House, a shelter for women impacted by domestic violence, approached staff at Murray Ridge to seek advice on how to most effectively educate persons with developmental disabilities on personal safety. This initial discussion resulted in a ten-year collaboration that came to be known as the Abuse, Violence, Education and Recognition Training program (AVERT). This joint effort, which also involved input from the Lorain County Rape Crisis Center, was not only insightful but timely. According to a late 1990s study conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota, women with developmental disabilities are four-ten times more likely than other women to be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes. With perceived need for such training now clearly documented, the Murray Ridge team of **Jeff Camp**, **Terri Camp**, **Sue Craycraft** and **Ann Borne** began collaborating with Calvey, to design a curriculum for teaching personal safety to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Supported by a grant from the Nord Family Foundation, the team adapted a model devised by the University of Oregon and the "Being Safe" curriculum was developed. The nine week curriculum focuses on three key points: 1) teaching individuals about abuse and what is/is not safe behavior; 2) helping individuals to identify "safe people" that they may talk to about abuse; and 3) educating individuals about how and when to access help if needed. A pilot class was taught

in each of the three Murray Ridge Work/Activity Centers as well as to consumers receiving services through the Community Employment department.

By the end of the first year, 19 women had attended the class, and the AVERT team members had a better idea of what worked and what didn't. "For example," said Jeff Camp, "we found that homework assignments didn't work, but that visual materials did since many of the individuals in the class were unable to read. So, more graphics were incorporated into the

class materials, as well as a video demonstrating examples of abusive situations which was produced especially for the 'Being Safe' class."

The word got out about the program and by the end of the first year, the AVERT team

was given the "Best Practices" award by the Ohio Attorney General's Office during a statewide conference focusing on victim assistance. That same year, Calvey and Murray Ridge staff were invited to discuss the AVERT program at the National Organization on Victims Assistance (NOVA) 2001 annual conference in Canada. Then in 2002 the AVERT program was awarded the "Partnering for Justice" award from the Ohio Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and NOVA once again invited AVERT team members to present their program at the 2002 conference. "I was really nervous at the NOVA conference because I didn't have a lot of experience speaking publicly and there were more than 200 people attending! But it was great that so many people wanted to hear about the program," said Terri Camp.

While the program was initially developed specifically for women, the AVERT team decided that a men's curriculum should also be developed. In 2006, with a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County, the team adapted the women's curriculum to a men's class, which was implemented in 2007. While the topics are much the same, the graphics used differ so that the men can better relate to the situations that are discussed.

With funding from the Nord Family Foundation ending in 2007, the team applied for a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council in 2006 and was awarded a five-year continuing grant. With this grant, the team



AVERT Team member Tracey Casada discusses the Train the Trainer workshops.



Murray Ridge staff Terri Camp (back) and Jeff Camp discuss the inception of the "Being Safe" class.

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Kathy Bevaque



Murray Ridge Center Early Intervention (EI) Specialist Kathy Bevaque discusses the signs of developmental delays with local Guardians Ad Litem so that they may better advocate for the children they represent.

Murray Ridge Human Rights Committee Needs New Members

The Murray Ridge Center Human Rights Committee serves as a review committee to ensure that all human rights are respected and protected in the implementation of behavior support plans and interventions. The committee reviews behavior support plans to determine whether the individual's behavior is such that it requires a reexamination of rights or a discussion of the use of aversive interventions, and whether all potential rights restrictions in the plan are identified and addressed in the informed consent and other approval documents. The Committee also reviews whether sufficient safeguards and protections are built into the program to protect the person's rights and safety.

The Committee currently needs:

- One person with no direct involvement in the county board's program
- One parent of a minor or guardian of an individual eligible to receive services from a county board
- Qualified persons who have either experience or training in contemporary practices to support behaviors of individuals with developmental disabilities

The Committee generally meets the third Tuesday of each month at 11:15 AM at Elyria Work Activity Center. If you are interested in joining the Committee or would like more information, contact Jeff Neal, Director of Day Service and Support Administration, at 440-324-2366.

Honored by House of Representatives



Murray Ridge Raiders Team 1: (front row, left to right) Carl Jeans, Hector Lozano, Eric Johnson, Steve Cruz, Jeff Torres, Jon Torres and Raul Torres; (back row, left to right) Coach Bob Burkhardt, Mike Kovacic, Dameion Taylor, Albert Mays, Ryan Eliason, Charles Johnson, DJ Overall and Coach LeRoy Keen

Members of Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Team 1 were honored recently by the Ohio House of Representatives, 128th General Assembly through a Proclamation introduced by State Representative Matt Lundy. Lundy introduced the Proclamation in order to recognize the exceptional efforts of the team last year for winning the state championship in its division. Former Elyria Council member Kevin Brubaker announced the Proclamation and presented team members with individual copies on behalf of the Ohio House.

"The guys were honored and very excited," said Judy Hartung, Recreation Manager at Murray Ridge Center, "it's nice for them to have their hard work recognized in such an official way!"

Ladies Swim Team Wins 4x50 Relay at State Championships



Murray Ridge Ladies Swim Team members won first place in the 4x50 Relay at the Special Olympics Ohio State Swimming Championships. Pictured above, left to right: Sheri Reitenbach, Sarah Ward and Amy Trigilio.

AVERT...

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was able to begin a "Train the Trainer" series of workshops. These workshops provide training for other county boards of developmental disabilities, other providers, families and advocates on the issue of victimization against people with developmental disabilities, as well as instruction in the "Being Safe" curriculum.

The original AVERT team members, as well as Murray Ridge staffers Vicki Cooley, Elizabeth Hampton, Sue Kotris and Mary Van Alman, have educated 195 individuals with developmental disabilities through the "Being Safe" class, and have provided training to more than 400 Ohio professionals in the field of developmental disabilities and other professional areas through the Train the Trainer workshops. "We hope to reach larger and larger audiences through the 'Train the Trainer' workshops, so that, hopefully, more and more cases of abuse can be prevented or stopped," said Casada.

Indeed, a collaboration that began as a way to educate a few individuals with developmental disabilities about being safe has ultimately reached a much greater audience than was originally anticipated. While it is doubtful that this or any program will prevent all abuse from occurring, it certainly has increased the likelihood that more individuals throughout Ohio will stay safe. And that is certainly something to celebrate.



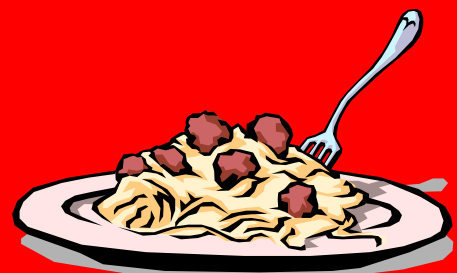
A Taste of Italy

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support, will be held this year on Saturday, March 20 from 3:00-6:30 p.m. at the AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake.

This Italian feast, which includes spaghetti with meatballs, fresh bread, salad, desserts and beverages, is being generously donated by the AmVets Post 55. Activities will include a Chinese auction and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$8 for persons 6 years of age and up, and free for kids 5 and under. Sponsorships are available. Call Andrea Elek for more information, 440-323-2741.

Buon Appetito!





Support the Raiders!

Come cheer for the Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Teams at the Murray Ridge School through the month of February!

Remaining home games this season are as follows:

- 2/8/10—Team 3 vs. Wayne, 6:00 p.m.
- 2/9/10—Lady Raiders vs. Medina, 5:00 p.m.
- 2/10/10—Team 2 vs. Lake, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/20/10—Team 1 vs. Stark, 11:00 a.m.

The Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament will be held February 26-28 at Lorain County Community College. Call Judy Hartung at 284-2720 for more information.

February is Black History Month!

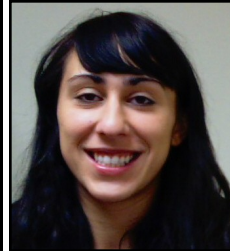
In 1976, Black History Month was established to expand the week-long celebration of African-American history that began in 1926. This is a time for all of us to recognize and honor the considerable contributions that African-Americans have made to our country and our culture.



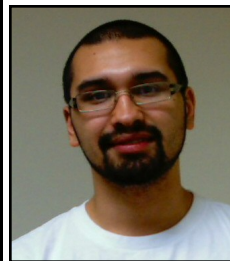
New Faces in Murray Ridge Places



Previously an intermittent employee, **Jessica Kywa** joins the Academy Court and Liberty Lane Homes as a part-time Group Home Aide. Jessica enjoys horse riding competitions and paintball.



Renee Smaldino joins the Liberty Lane Home as a part-time Group Home Aide. Renee enjoys philosophy, anthropology, beat-nick poetry and the Cleveland Cavs.



Michael Traster joins the Elyria Work/Activity Center as a Workshop Aide. Michael is studying Respiratory Therapy at Lorain County Community College, and lives in Amherst with his wife and son.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on January 29, 2010:

At the **Organizational Meeting** the Board re-elected Michelle L. Hunt, President, and elected Bob Gajdos, Secretary, and Kurt Koepf, Vice President. President Hunt then made all sub-committee appointments.

At the **Regular Meeting** Director of Educational Services, Dann Swift, updated the Board on the success of the school's Columbia satellite classroom and recommended continuing services in the coming year, with a cost adjustment for the 2010/2011 year. The Board unanimously approved the continuation of the satellite classroom and the cost adjustment. The Board also unanimously passed a resolution to continue to provide educational services to children ages 6 through 21 at Murray Ridge School. Dr. Fisher then updated the Board on the proposed Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) home to be constructed with State Capital Assistance funds, and informed the Board that the proposed project site was contingent upon the Lorain County Commissioners leasing public land to the non-profit housing board. In other business, the Assistant Director of Business reviewed the status of the recommendations made in 2009 by the agency Risk Assessment Committee, and identified areas to be addressed in 2010. Director of Business, John Bonko, updated the Board on 2009 expenditures, which had been adjusted from the November report to reflect the actual vs. anticipated figures. Finally, the Board unanimously approved a draft of the 2010 Annual Action Plan/Programs and Expenditures for public review, and gave a 30-day notice of a public forum on the document, which is scheduled for 12 p.m. on March 1 at the Administration building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria. The document will be available for inspection at all Work Activity Centers, Murray Ridge School, the Service and Support Administration Building, the Administration building and at each of the six residential facilities of the board.



February 2010

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						

Activities & Events

- 2/1—Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/11—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/12—Murray Ridge Support Group dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/15—**Agency Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day**
- 2/18—LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/25—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/26—LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/26-28—Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament at LCCC

NOTE: The Family Support Parent Group will NOT meet in February. The next meeting will be held Monday, March, 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria



Lunch Menus

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.75, Adults = \$2.80

February 8-12
March 1-5

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

February 15-19
March 8-12

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



February 1-5
February 22-26
March 15-19

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
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org

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If you have a news item that you would like to include in the Murray Ridge Courier, please email relevant photos, stories or event information to Racheal Seibert at rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org.

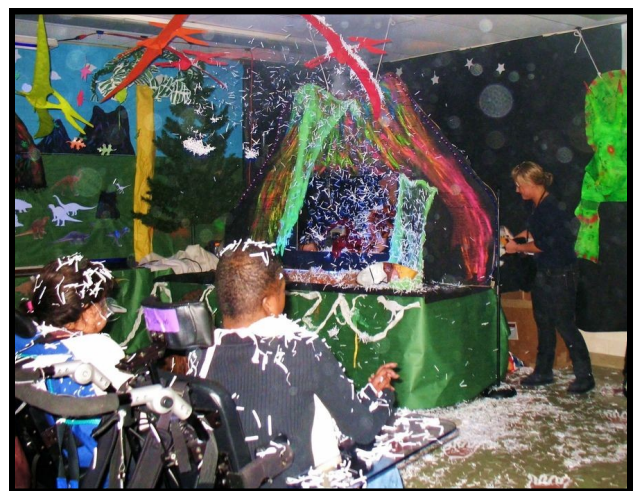
Submissions are due by the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



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 Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

The Art of Extinction



Murray Ridge School students in teacher Gary Hawke's class enjoy an educational play about dinosaurs, ecosystems and protecting the environment.