



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

February 2014

New Spin on Artwork at Murray Ridge School

New and exciting artwork has been popping up at Murray Ridge School thanks to a very special substitute teacher!

Glenn Mittler is a retired art teacher of 35 years from Elyria Public Schools who decided to spend his retirement working as a substitute at Murray Ridge School. But what makes Glenn's subbing story remarkable is what he's done with his time at MRS.

This fall, some Murray Ridge School students with Down's syndrome made an appearance in the book "Not Even The Sky Is The Limit!" The book is the result of Avon Lake resident and 19 Action News reporter Denise Zarrella's own journey to find out what life with her daughter, Gianna, would be like. Gianna has Down syndrome and was previously in the Early Intervention Program at Murray Ridge Center.

After reading the book, Glenn conceived a project that would not only engage and sharpen the skills of those working on the art, but would also celebrate the accomplishments of those students shown in the pages of Zarrella's book.



Glenn Mittler works with Logan Terrill to identify where and how the scraps of paper should be arranged.

"I thought about Murray Ridge School's Mission Statement, namely: '...foster self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.'" Mittler said. "What fun it is to see what, at first, seems like a profusion of color, begin to take form as a recognizable image. Upon standing at a modest distance from the mural, the image seemingly comes to life. The usage of various nuances of color from small pieces of magazine pages blend into the desired effect."

The pieces are made up of small scraps of like-colored or like-patterned paper and combined to create an image. Glenn had students first go through donated magazines looking for certain color and pattern scraps. He then had students separate those scraps into labeled bags, and then the contents of those bags were glued on large sketches of the original photographs.

While taught in a fun way, this art project has also taught Murray Ridge School students some very important skills. Students involved in the



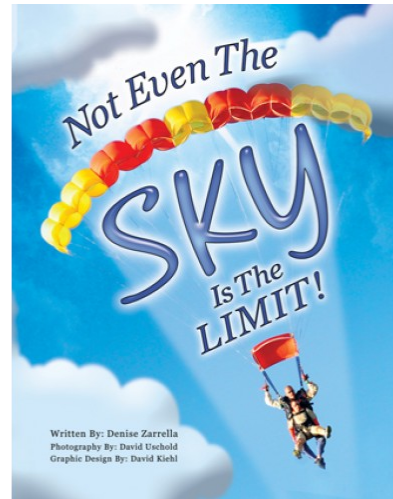
Jamin Ross, Obed Robledo, and Logan Terrill work on one of three pictures created in Mittler's class.

project have gained a better understanding of basic art principles through color identification and sorting and comparing and contrasting shades of color.

"The students enjoy it, and the (MRS) staff continues to inspire us with positive comments!" Glenn said.

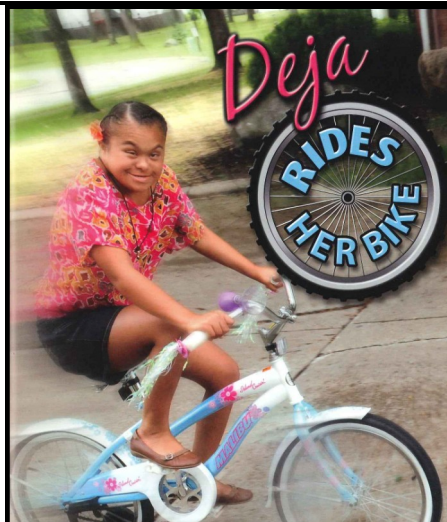
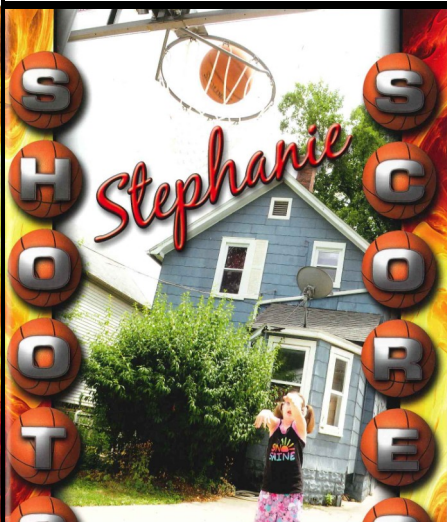
And, given the opportunity, Glenn would like to continue helping, whether through substitute teaching at the school, or simply volunteering his time to the students. He's currently working with teacher Gary Hawke to finalize details of a spring program about dinosaurs; Mittler is hoping to help out with scenery and decorations. And, he's hoping to take some time to work with teachers

to incorporate their daily lessons into relevant and fun projects for the MRS students.



Denise Zarrella's book, *Not Even The Sky Is The Limit!* was the inspiration for Mittler's art project.

Below: The original pictures from *Not Even The Sky Is The Limit!* and the corresponding artwork from Glenn Mittler's classes. Left, Stephanie Jackson (left), Deja Sherman (middle), and Stephen Fosdick (right).



Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

2014 Spring Course Series

Evening Sessions:

April 1, 2014: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

April 3, 2014: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

April 8, 2014: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

April 10, 2014: Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

Location:

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035

*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA lot. Please enter in back door.

Register

www.loraincountyhealth.com/fasdcourse

Contact: Natalie Karn, R.N., M.S.N.

440.284.3272, nkarn@loraincountyhealth.com

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

Facilitators:

Natalie Karn R.N., M.S.N.

Lorain County General Health District Public Health Nurse

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed.

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Sponsor:



@LorainCoHealth

Lorain County General Health District

Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD; Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD; Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

Contact Hours Available

- Nurses; provided by Lorain County Community College Department of Allied Health and Nursing
- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH; provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours given.



Murray Ridge Center Sponsors TrueNorth Cultural Arts' Presentation *Of Mice and Men*

TrueNorth Cultural Arts in partnership with Lorain County Metro Parks is proud to present an educational programming series sponsored by Murray Ridge Center surrounding its upcoming main stage production, *Of Mice & Men*. In addition to providing a gallery exhibition featuring art created by students from Murray Ridge School and adults who attend its Adult Day Program, Murray Ridge Center will be offering free lectures before the final two Friday performances of *Of Mice & Men*. The staff of Murray Ridge are excited to share information about the many ways that the Agency supports people with special needs, and helps them to be understood and make valuable societal contributions.

The gallery exhibition will be showcased in French Creek Nature & Arts Center's Pijor Hall from February 7th to 23rd, and is free and open to the public 7-days a week, 10am-4:30pm; the exhibition can also be viewed immediately prior to all performances of *Of Mice & Men*.

The pre-show lectures will be presented by Murray Ridge Center's Public Relations/Volunteer Director Jennifer Judkins and Director of Vocational Services Jeff Miller. The 30-minute lectures begin at 6:45pm on Friday, February 14th & 21st in French Creek Nature & Arts Center's Pijor Hall, and are free and open to the public.

Based on John Steinbeck's 1937 novel, *Of Mice & Men* is a tragic story of friendship, compassion and despair. Two migrant laborers - George and Lennie - move from town to town seeking ranch work during the Great Depression. George takes care of the child-like Lennie as the two pursue their dream of owning a place of their own, but Lennie's handicap creates problems, and soon George must make a choice that will change both their lives forever. Recipient of the 1938 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play."

Please join Murray Ridge Center and TrueNorth Cultural Arts for this unique opportunity to learn more about individuals with developmental disabilities.

Consumer Spotlight: Tony Harris, Jr.



Tony poses against a wall showcasing his many art pieces at the LOVC.

Tony Harris is an artist and an athlete.

A 2010 graduate from Admiral King High School where his favorite classes were (you guessed it!): art and gym. Fast forward more than three years and Tony is still doing what he loves the most; creating artwork for

the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) and playing basketball for Murray Ridge Center's Raiders Basketball Team 3.

Tony started at the LOVC right out of high school. At the LOVC, he works on production, doing stapling, DEI metal ties, and packaging jobs. When not hard at work, Tony is involved in many classes at the LOVC, including art, computer, fitness, and money skills classes. He also takes part in community integration activities and evening recreation outings. New to the Raiders this year, Tony has taken an active role on the team,

enjoying the sportsmanship that comes from playing in Special Olympics.

Tony is also very active at home; he lives with his mother and stepfather in Lorain and spends most of his free time working on his art and being with his family - including two older sisters in Columbus and Cincinnati and his father in Cleveland.

But Tony has made quite a name for himself at the LOVC where his passion for art shows in the many pieces he has on display; he also has pieces throughout the community, including at the Murray Ridge Administration Building, the travelling art show through the Lorain County library system, and the newest art exhibit at the Mercy Health Recreation Center.

"I like drawing because I'm an artist," Tony said. "People ask me to draw pictures for them; I mostly draw people - like the staff and my friends at the LOVC."

We look forward to seeing many more exciting art pieces from Tony in the future!

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS, TRUENORTH CULTURAL ARTS, WOBL 1320 AM, KOOL KAT
OLDIES 1380 AM, THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE MORNING JOURNAL PRESENT:

Of Mice And Men



Book by John Steinbeck
Directed by Michael Dempsey

February 7 - 23

Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30pm and Sunday Matinees at 3pm
School Matinees also available on Fridays at 10am

TICKETS

Center Section - \$18
Side Section - \$16
Student/Youth - \$10

To Order Call 440-949-5200 ext. 221
or visit www.TNCarts.org

TrueNorth at French Creek

4530 Colorado Ave. (Rt. 611)
Sheffield Village, OH 44054



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Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge School

On January 31, the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities honored John Gede with the Exceptional Service Award for the fourth quarter of 2013.

John, who is the maintenance person at Murray Ridge School, was nominated by the MRS staff. Historically, honorees have been nominated by community members; consumers; or a parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant. But because of his position within the Agency, those mentioned above would not know the great lengths John goes to every day to assist those we serve.

John's service to the students at Murray Ridge School goes above and beyond his normal duties. Since beginning his maintenance position almost three years ago, John has built props and decorations for the Murray Ridge School Prom; built a birdhouse for the preschool; donated plants and greenery to decorate the school; and provided decorations for the annual

transition ceremony for MRS seniors.

In his nomination letter, MRS school secretary Lilly Tapia said "He is on board every time we have an idea for a special event for the students. He is always willing to help with fixing, setting up, and even building items for various school projects. We think he should be recognized for his generosity and kindness."

Thank you, John, for your dedication to the students at Murray Ridge School, and for your willingness to help staff create and execute an exceptional learning environment!



Honoree John Gede with MRS staff member Beth Fetzer.

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.

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 Community Employment program. First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222.

February 2014

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

- 2/6 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 2/14 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, Murray Ridge School, 7-9 pm
- 2/17 - **Agency closed for President's Day holiday**
- 2/20 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/28 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

Inclusive Playground FREE Admission!

Visit the Lorain County Metro Parks Inclusive Playground! Free at this time, the unique playground incorporates water play (shut down for season), structured play, and natural play environments. People of all ages and abilities will be able to use the area and enjoy the play features. Stop in and visit today!



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on January 31:

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

At the **Regular Meeting**, John Gede was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for his work as the maintenance person at Murray Ridge School. President Michelle Hunt provided a report on the newly-formed Adult Facility/Structural Enhancement Committee. In other business, the Board approved the annual resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6 through 21 at Murray Ridge School. Dann Swift, Director of Education, updated the Board on options for the Murray Ridge School summer camp 2014; formal requests for funds will be submitted to the Board in March. The Board unanimously approved a draft of the 2014 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 3 at the Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria. The document will be available for inspection at all Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Murray Ridge School, the Service and Support Administration Building, the Administration Building, and at each of the six residential facilities of the Board. Superintendent Fisher then requested approval for revisions to two Management and Confidential staff policies, *Calamity Days* and *Sick Days*; the Board unanimously approved both policies. The Murray Ridge Support Group announced that it would be donating an 8' bench to Murray Ridge School in honor of its two founding members; they also reported that the MRSG Spaghetti Dinner would be on March 1, and that any and all volunteers are welcome, and needed.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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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.



Annual Spaghetti Dinner

- Saturday, March 1 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake
- Sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group

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 gift basket 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.

