

A Message From The Superintendent



As we begin a new year, we enthusiastically embrace an ambitious plan for fulfilling the mission of Murray Ridge Center. January 01, 2011 marked the beginning of a new five-year strategic plan. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Board mem-

bers and staff, who worked tirelessly to collect and evaluate stakeholder feedback, identify and consider programmatic strengths and needs, forecast and review resource considerations, and establish a thoughtful and informed course for the future.

Our 2011 – 2015 strategic plan establishes a roadmap for reconciling stakeholder interests with the impending decline in key funding sources during this timeframe. The strategic planning process commenced with a review of the substantial progress made in the interest of financial sustainability during the past two and one half years. Early and dedicated efforts to reduce operating costs and capture revenue yielded impressive results, which will contribute significantly to our ability to address needs in the years ahead. Nonetheless, it is important to recognize that, of the more than \$3,000,000.00 in annual revenue loss that the Agency will experience (based upon those reductions that have already been announced), less than 28% of these reductions have been phased in to date. Additionally, given the projected State Budget deficit, the prospect of additional revenue reductions is of significant concern.

Maximization of consumer satisfaction, within budgetary constraints, will be a priority. The introduction

of new, life enhancing activities for more than 600 adults with developmental disabilities who attend our Work/Activity Centers will be a focus, and will be accomplished with available resources by tapping the ideas and creativity of our staff, consumers, and consumer representatives. Additionally, we will work diligently to preserve (for more than 265 Adult consumers) and expand community employment opportunities, while addressing challenges related to transportation. Although reduction of waiting lists for residential placement will be infeasible in the coming year due to budgetary concerns, we will sustain and expand support to assist and empower family caregivers. Likewise, through our Early Intervention Program, we will continue to work collaboratively with the families of infants and toddlers with (or at risk of) developmental delays, and we will continue to dedicate ourselves to excellence in the operation of Murray Ridge School.

I cannot express enough gratitude to our community for its continuing support of Murray Ridge Center, our exceptionally caring and talented staff for its dedication to doing more with less, and the family members, providers, and local partners that have collaborated with us to meet needs and maximize outcomes for Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities. Likewise, I am continuously inspired by the children and adults served by Murray Ridge Center; by their countless accomplishments, their admirable attitudes, and their positive participation within our community. It will be a pleasure to work with all of you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Amber Fisher

Superintendent

Congratulations, Murray Ridge Swimmers!

The Murray Ridge Swim Team brought home the gold medal after competing in the 39th annual Ohio Special Olympics State Aquatic Meet on December 18 and 19 at The Ohio State University. The team brought home seven gold medals, four silver medals and six bronze medals.



Congratulations to the following swimmers for a successful season: Doreen Alaksa, Stephanie Budweg, Ryan Eliason, Joann Gall, Marko Govich, Martha Lombeida, Ken Martin, Jennifer Moccabee, Kim Naldolski, Lori Norton, Kevin Plata, Amy Trigilio and Mike Urban.

Pictured above: **Stephanie Budweg and Amy Trigilio**

Support the Raiders!

Come cheer for the Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Teams at the Murray Ridge School as they compete in another exciting season!



Home games this season are as follows:

- 1/5/11—Team 3 vs. Grinders 2, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/6/11—Team 2 vs. Huron, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/8/11—Team 2 vs. Geauga, 10:30 a.m.
- 1/8/11—Team 3 vs. Geauga, 11:30 a.m.
- 1/8/11—Lady Raiders vs. Stark, 1:00 p.m.
- 1/12/11—Team 1 vs. Summit 1, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/13/11—Team 2 vs. Summit 2, 6:30 p.m.
- 1/15/11—Team 1 vs. Stark 1, 11:00 a.m.
- 1/20/11—Lady Raiders vs. Geauga, 5:30 p.m.
- 1/27/11—Lady Raiders vs. Sandusky, 5:00 p.m.
- 1/27/11—Team 3 vs. Sandusky, 6:15 p.m.
- 1/29/11—Team 1 vs. Cuyahoga Rockets, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/9/11—Lady Raiders vs. Summit, 6:00 p.m.
- 2/10/11—Team 2 vs. Medina 1, 5:00 p.m.
- 2/10/11—Team 3 vs. Medina 2, 6:15 p.m.
- 2/15/11—Lady Raiders vs. Medina, 5:30 p.m.

'Tis Better to Give



Philanthropic consumers and staff at the Elyria Work/Activity Center collected donations of such necessities as shaving cream, toothpaste and deodorant for veterans at a local VA hospital. Pictured above, left to right: **Ro-chelle Allison, Judith Tesar, Rose Buery (back), Jerome Tatum and Jacob Danchuk.**

A Visit From Ol' Saint Nick!



Murray Ridge School student **Obed Robledo**, right, enjoys sharing his Christmas list with Santa during a recent visit.

A PRESCHOOL OPTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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.

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Door-to-door transportation services

Did You Know...

The Murray Ridge preschool serves children with a wide range of developmental disabilities, from those with mild delays to those profoundly impacted, and Murray Ridge is a recognized leader in its comprehensive approach to teaching children with autism. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school district.

For More Information Contact:

Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services
Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Oh 44035
440.329-3760
dswift@murrayridgecenter.org
www.murrayridgecenter.org





January 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2	3 	4	5 	6 	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 	14 	15
16	17 	18	19	20 	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27 	28 	29

Activities & Events

- 1/3—Murray Ridge School classes resume;
Preschool classes resume on 1/4/11
- 1/5—Family Support Parent Committee
meeting , 6:00 p.m., Administration
Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/6—Murray Ridge Support Group meeting,
4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Cen-
ter, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/13—Early Intervention Playgroup,
5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge
School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in
Elyria
- 1/14—Murray Ridge Support Group Dance,
7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School,
9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 1/17—Agency Closed in Observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- 1/20—LCBDD Finance Committee meeting ,
12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.,
1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/27—Early Intervention Playgroup,
5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge
School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in
Elyria
- 1/28—LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Admini-
stration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road
in Elyria

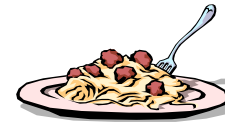
BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on December, 17 2010:

Jeff Miller, Director of Vocational Services and Transportation presented the 2011 operating agreement between the agency and Murray Ridge Production Center, Inc. The Board approved the agreement unanimously. Al Sprague, Director of Residential Service and Support Administration, informed the Board that the expenditures for the Family Support program for 2010 were within budget. He then recommended to the Board a new formula for determining Family Support Parent Committee expenditure authorizations. The Board unanimously approved the first quarter Family Support allocation for 2011. Mr. Sprague also reported that the Funding Caps for Supported Living appear to be appropriate and that adjustments would be unnecessary. The Board unanimously approved maintaining current Funding Caps. In other business, the Board unanimously approved a five-year sublease for an emergency housing site at a cost of \$300 per month subject to approval by the Lorain County Commissioners. Following this, Superintendent Fisher thanked the Board members for their efforts on the new LCBDD Five-Year Strategic Plan. This plan, which sets a course for the agency from 2011-2015, was unanimously approved by the Board.



2011 Lunch Menu



For the convenience of Murray Ridge consumers and their families, we are posting the lunch menu for the 2011 year in its entirety in this issue of The Murray Ridge Courier. **Please maintain this copy for your records and refer to it in the coming months, as monthly newsletters are not disseminated before the first of each month.** The menu will also be available on our website in the January 2011 edition of the monthly newsletter. If you have questions or need a replacement copy, please contact Racheal Seibert at 329-3734 at any time during the year.

Please note that the cost of adult lunches will be \$2.90 as of January 1, 2011. The cost of student lunches will still be \$2.80.

—	—	January 3-7
January 10-14	January 17-21	January 24-28
January 31-February 4	February 7-11	February 14-18
February 21-25	February 28-March 4	March 7-11
March 14-18	March 21-25	March 28-April 1
April 4-8	April 11-15	April 18-22
April 25-29	May 2-6	May 9-13
May 16-20	May 23-27	May 30-June 3
June 6-10	June 13-17	June 20-24
June 27-July 1	July 4-8	July 11-15
July 18-22	July 25-29	August 1-5
August 8-12	August 15-19	August 22-26
August 29-September 2	September 5-9	September 12-16
September 19-23	September 26-30	October 3-7
October 10-14	October 17-21	October 24-28
October 31-November 4	November 7-11	November 14-18
November 21-25	November 28-December 2	December 5-9
December 12-16	December 19-23	December 26-30
January 2-6, 2012	January 9-13, 2012	

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Turkey or Bologna with 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

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

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.

Taste of Italy

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group, will be held this year on **Saturday, March 12 from 3:00-6:00 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 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.

Buon Appetito!

