



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

January 2013

A Message From The Superintendent



As we embark upon what will be a very important year, I wish to thank all of those who have supported and will continue to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center. It takes many individuals working together and, in fact, the entire community to provide the supports, opportunities and environments

necessary to enable people with developmental disabilities to live, work and play within their communities. In turn, people with developmental disabilities have so much to teach and to give back as they enjoy and contribute to community life.

First and foremost, I would like to express gratitude to those who it is our mission to serve: Lorain County children and adults with developmental disabilities and the families of these individuals. It is an incredible pleasure to work with and learn from you, and you are why our staff – many of whom have dedicated decades of service to Murray Ridge – remains so energized and committed. A majority of our adult program participants reside with family caregivers and, whether or not they care for a loved one with a developmental disability at home, family members are so important in the lives of Murray Ridge program participants. Thank you for all that you do; your partnership is very much needed and appreciated, and your support is critical to our success.

Many sustained and new successes were achieved at Murray Ridge in 2012. Our team of experts in the Early Intervention Department continued to use the latest methods to support and stimulate the development of infants and toddlers with (or at risk for) delays, while responding to unprecedented growth in the number of children referred for services. Murray Ridge School continued to operate with a steady enrollment of students from throughout Lorain County, and a staff with seemingly limitless energy, creativity and commitment to optimizing the student experience. Murray Ridge Adult Services continued to serve nearly 1,000 individuals within its three Opportunity/

Vocational Centers and Supported Employment programs; within the Adult Program, 2012 brought such achievements as expanded opportunities for community employment and volunteer work, new venues for showcasing and celebrating consumer art work, and advancement of the MOVE Program – a system designed to help people with mobility limitations to stand, sit and walk while participating in activities of daily living. Last year, within its six group homes, Murray Ridge maintained its record of outstanding State surveys and, more importantly, its outstanding service to residents. Additionally, through our Family Support Program and Service & Support Administration Department, Murray Ridge coordinated and provided funding for residential services and in-home family supports for more than 1,000 individuals. The accomplishments of Murray Ridge are a direct result of the collective contributions of an incredibly dedicated, talented and enthusiastic staff.

As for sustained success, **the single most important challenge for 2013 is the passage of an issue that will appear on the May 07, 2013 ballot, a 1.6875 mils levy to replace the existing 1.6875 mils levy that will expire after December 31, 2013.** This levy currently accounts for approximately one fourth of the agency's revenue. The importance of its success is made even more critical because we have recently lost and will soon lose a great deal of additional State revenue; for example, due to cuts that began in 2011 to State funding associated with the personal property tax, by 2014 Murray Ridge Center will have lost about \$1.2 million per year from the phase out of this funding stream alone. The need to use revenues from the levy to pull down federal funding (for example, by paying the non-federal share for Medicaid waiver services) also increases the importance of its passage.

I am confident that, with energetic and continued team work by those committed to the mission of Murray Ridge Center, we will have another successful year. I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2013!

Amber Fisher
Superintendent

EI Wins Best Tasting Drink at Annual Zero Proof Mix-Off

Congratulations to the Early Intervention team of (l-r) Stephanie Bondra, Jennifer Doseck, and Heather Knoble (Kim Ohi not pictured) who won Best Tasting Drink at the 11th annual Zero Proof Mix-Off at the Lorain County Community College on December 6. The event welcomes teams from all over the county to create a non-alcoholic beverage and reminds us that there are delicious alternatives for drivers, those who may be pregnant, and others who should avoid alcohol consumption.

EI's drink, called the Hawaiian Delight, was one of twenty beverages submitted by organizations throughout Lorain County. The public was asked to vote for winners, as well as enjoy refreshments and enter to win various door prizes.

Congratulations to the Early Intervention Department!



Murray Ridge School Celebrates the Holidays

In December, Murray Ridge School got into the holiday spirit with many activities for believers of all ages! With a visit from Santa Claus, the annual Santa's Secret Shop, and the performances of *It's Winter Charlie Brown* and *The Twelve Days of Winter* by the school's Intermediate Classes, students and staff left for winter break ready to tackle the holiday rush. Thank you to all who helped make these events festive and merry for our students!



Brynn Hutchinson (left) visits with Santa Claus during his annual visit to Murray Ridge School on December 12. Sandy Lisso waits for her turn to speak as Aide Miguel (below) holds the microphone for Nelson Fontanez during the school play. Fhelisha Santiago (right) peruses the many gifts at the Santa's Secret Shop where family members from donated goods.



State Champion Five-a-Side Soccer Team Honored at Commissioners' Meeting



The two-time state champion Five-a-Side Soccer Team was honored on December 12 at the monthly Lorain County Commissioners' meeting in Elyria.

Each team member was acknowledged for his position and city of residence. Commissioner Kokoski then read a congratulatory note and presented the team with Certificates of Achievement.

Congratulations, team!

Back row (l-r): Eric Bryner, Vic Elder, Ryan Elison, DJ Overall, BJ Winkelman (coach), Jeremy Foster. Front row (l-r): Michele Miller (coach), Kris Somers, Angel Rivera, Carl Jeans, and Eric Johnson.

The Murray Ridge Choraleers Spread Holiday Cheer!

The Murray Ridge Choraleers spread holiday cheer this December by performing at various community organizations throughout Lorain County, including the Elyria Senior Men's Fellowship, the First United Methodist Church of Elyria, Murray Ridge School, and the Lorain Senior Center.



Left to right Back Row (Jim Ward, John Hanshumaker, Shasta Knarr, Carol Anderson, Shari Reitenbach, Caitlyn Keil) Left to right front row (Tom Altman, Jared McIntosh, Lynn West, Kista Atkins, Tracie Weaver). Not Pictured (Genevieve Graovac, Chad Kothe, Michele Lott, Tim Quisenberry).

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on December 10, 2012:

It was reported that the Board Award Committee has an Exceptional Service Award winner who will be honored at the next Board meeting. The Board unanimously approved a resolution to request the county commissioners to direct the Lorain County Board of elections to place a five year 1.6875 mils replacement levy on the May 7, 2013 ballot. The Board established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the first quarter of 2013. Also reviewed and approved were the Individual Cost Ceilings for Supported Living, and an agreement with Murray Ridge Production Center. The 2013 Board calendar was discussed; no meeting will be held in July and October, and meetings will continue to be held on Fridays (usually the last Friday of each month) at 12:30 p.m. The Murray Ridge Support Group reported that it has donated \$75 Giant Eagle gift cards to 28 needy families at Murray Ridge. The group has also seen record-breaking t-shirt orders for the holiday season.

A PRESCHOOL OPTION

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. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School (see below).

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



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Murray Ridge Opportunity/Vocational Centers

Happy Holidays from the Ridge

ELYRIA

The consumers and staff of the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center hosted a holiday event on December 6th to ring in the holiday season with the MRC Bell Choir, a beautiful display of holiday card artwork, and, of course, a visit by Santa!

The holiday card contest winners were: 1st Place-Tiffany Roode, 2nd Place-Janet Kleve, 3rd Place-Kista Atkins. Thank you to all who attended this event!

First place winner Tiffany Roode poses with her winning card.



LORAIN

On December 6, two reindeer from Sells Farms in Wakeman visited the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center. Consumers were delighted to feed the reindeer apple slices and have the opportunity to interact with them through the cage. Also visiting was Santa Claus who stopped by to take pictures with LOVC consumers and staff! Thank you to Alan Sell from Sells Farm and to our wonderful Santa Claus who made the day very special for all who attended!

From the left: Jeanie Hollar, Gary Fisher, Diane Markwood, Sarah Reynolds, Steven Holley, Donna Wolfe, Ron Dobrinski, Mary Lynn Woodyard, Darryl Jackson, and Cathy Duncan.



OBERLIN

Oberlin OVC had fun celebrating the holidays with musical performances, outings to view holiday decorations, and its annual Christmas party. At the holiday party held on Friday, December 14th, consumers and staff played trivia, bingo, and corn hole, and heard a private concert by Kenny Clark!

Tonya Cechura and consumer Falguniben Patel (left) got into the holiday spirit while decorating the OOVOC - and each other! - for Christmas!



Support the Teams!

MURRAY RIDGE RAIDERS HOME GAMES
9750 Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria

Date:	Time:	Team:
1/7	6:30 PM	Men's Team 1 vs. Stark Red
1/8	6 PM	Men's Team 2 vs. Elyria Vipers
1/9	6 PM	Men's Team 2 vs. Portage Thunder
	7:30 PM	Men's Team 1 vs. Portage Flashes
1/16	6 PM	Men's Team 3 vs. Erie Bucks Red
	7:30 PM	Men's Team 1 vs. Erie Bucks Gray
1/17	6:30 PM	Lady's vs. Stark DD Lady's
1/22	6 PM	Men's Team 3 vs. Elyria Vipers
1/23	6 PM	Men's Team 3 vs. MBB Grinders
1/26	10 AM	Men's Team 1 vs. Cuyahoga Rockets



Team 1: L-R front: Raul Torres, Jonathan Torres, Carl Jeans, Ray Behner, Michael Cooper, Jeffrey Torres. L-R Back: Asst. Coach Orlando Jones, Charles Johnson Jr., Terry Jones, DJ Overall, Ryan Eliason, Head Coach Leroy Keen.



Team 3: Coach Jim Ward & Sean Morris. Ron Deering, Isaiah Wicks, Matt Anthony, James Peters, Ryan Busher, Eric Bryner, Bill Lacko, Victor Elder, David Zsigray, Chad Kothe, Benji Lewis, Marko Govich, Angel Rivera. Not Pictured: Allean Frederick.



Lady Raiders: L-R front: Sarah Ward, Jennifer Hunsucker, Stephanie Budweg, Megan Craig, Diana Clement, Maria Poling. L-R Back: Head Coach Lisa Hardway, Jennifer Jones, Alicia Lawrence, Shari Reitenbach, JoAnn Gall, Brittany Botson, Asst. Coach Mary Lucente. Absent: Britiny Bennett



Team 2: kneeling, Kris Sommer. L-R: Head Coach Russ Moye, volunteer Debra Radowenchuk, Jason St. Marie, Andrew Donald, Ryan Brown, Jeremy Foster, Kurt Caris, Daniel Montgomery, Mike Kovacic, Douglas McCartney, Stephen Locurto, Tony Daniels, Leif Hammonds, Steven Crites, Asst. Coach Rick Rovere.









LUNCH MENUS FOR 2013

Lunch menus for Murray Ridge Center will no longer be printed in the Murray Ridge Courier. **Adults attending the Opportunity/Vocational Centers** will receive monthly calendars indicating the menu for that month.

Murray Ridge School students will receive monthly lunch selections in the MRS Tribune that is sent home at the beginning of each month. Please call Jennifer Judkins at 329-3734 with any questions regarding menus.

January 2013

Activities and Events

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		

- 1/1 - **Agency closed for winter holiday**
- 1/2 - **Murray Ridge School and Adult OVCs resume**
- 1/3 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 1/10 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 1/17 - LCBDD Finance Committee Meeting, 12:00, Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/21 - **Agency closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday**
- 1/24 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 1/25 - Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/30 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

Swimmers Compete in Special Olympics Ohio State Aquatics Championship

14 athletes from Murray Ridge Center competed in the 41st Annual Ohio Special Olympics State Aquatics Meet on December 15-16, 2012, at the Ohio State University McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion. Results:



Pictured (l-r): front: Sarah Ward, Stephanie Budweg, Kevin Plata, Marko Govich. 2nd row: Katie Kellogg, Joann Gall, Jennifer Moccabee, Kenny Martin. 3rd row: Shari Reitenbach, Mike Urban, Lutz Fazekas, Eric Trigalet.

50 Meter Freestyle: Gold: Sarah Ward, Kenny Martin, Silver: Marko Govich, Eric Trigalet, Bronze: Stephanie Budweg, Kevin Plata, Mike Urban, Sixth: Ryan Eliason.

25 Meter Freestyle: Gold: James Peters, Silver: Joann Gall, Jennifer Moccabee, Bronze: Sarah Ward, Marko Govich, Fourth: Eric Trigalet, Lutz Fazekas.

50 Meter Backstroke: Bronze: Stephanie Budweg.

4 x 50 Meter Freestyle Relay: Silver: Mike Urban, Ryan Eliason, Kenny Martin, Kevin Plata.

100 Meter Freestyle: Fourth: Ryan Eliason, Fifth: Kevin Plata.

25 Meter Backstroke: Gold: Katie Kellogg, Kenny Martin, Silver: Joann Gall, Jennifer Moccabee, Mike Urban, Bronze: Lutz Fazekas.

4 x 25 Meter Freestyle Relay

Fourth: James Peters, Jennifer Moccabee, Lutz Fazekas, Marko Govich

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort
U.S. Postage
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Elyria, OH 44035

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.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

- Saturday, March 2 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.