



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

January 2017

## A Message From The Superintendent



Superintendent Amber Fisher

I want to wish all individuals served, friends, families, Murray Ridge staff, providers and other community partners a happy new year!

2017 marks the fiftieth year since the establishment of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Looking back on our rich

history, it is astonishing to recognize how much has been accomplished, how many have benefited from the programs and services offered, and the great progress that has been made. More important than the numbers and initiatives, however, are the stories about the people who have lived, learned, and worked with us; about relationships and affirmation that resulted from the coming together of people served by and otherwise affiliated with Murray Ridge Center; and about the struggles and triumphs that have occurred as together we have overcome obstacles and celebrated success.

### **The year ahead will, indeed, be one of honoring our past as we prepare for our future.**

In 2017, all departments of the Agency will be challenged to increase direct involvement of those we serve within the community that has supported them so generously for a half century. We will seek new ways to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to use and share with Lorain County residents and businesses the gifts and skills that have been fostered within the walls of our school and adult centers. We will strive to support individuals served to play valued roles and interact meaningfully both within and outside of our facilities.

Our Supported Employment Department will build

upon the notable success that it has had with assisting individuals to obtain community employment and job opportunities with local businesses. We are particularly appreciative that in 2016 local businesses hired 28 additional adult program participants. In 2017, we will continue to cultivate our relationships with local employers, implement suggestions of our Community Employment Advisory Committee, and execute a plan for expanding community-based, integrated employment opportunities.

Our Adult Program staff, in collaboration with our Supported Employment staff, will continue to expand opportunities for community-based volunteering, like the on-going involvement of our consumers at the local Animal Protective League as a result of an arrangement made in 2016, and the work that was done by program participants last year with Habitat for Humanity. At our Opportunity and Vocational Centers, interested individuals will meet to discuss and plan to do community service; and all will be invited to help with our **"Fifty Acts of Giving Back"** project, a 50-year anniversary initiative whereby, in 2017, members of the Murray Ridge family will 'give back' through (at least) fifty acts of helping to meet needs in Lorain County.

Our Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department will strive for continuous improvement of the processes used to help eligible individuals identify and work towards the life goals and service outcomes that they would like to achieve, expand experiences that will help them establish employment goals, and have opportunities to develop meaningful friendships with more people. SSA will also recruit and assist providers to support individuals with all types of abilities and disabilities to have rewarding relationships and experiences within the community.

Murray Ridge School staff will continue to focus on teaching life skills, while creatively expanding curriculum related to community access. A

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"MicroSociety" program will be implemented, and older students will again have a variety of opportunities for work experiences with local businesses. Our Early Intervention team will continue to focus on fostering development of infants and toddlers within their natural environments, in order to set them up for lifetimes of fulfillment and productivity.

While it is not possible to identify, in a brief message, all that will be done at Murray Ridge Center in the year ahead to both celebrate and innovate our programs and services, I wish to return to the notion that the most noteworthy accomplishments are reflected in the individual stories of people served.

**As our agency embarks on its 50th year, I invite you to help us tell our story by sharing your reflections and most meaningful experiences at Murray Ridge; if any of you wish to help in this way, please contact our Public Relations and Volunteer Director, Jennifer Judkins.**

With many thanks and warm wishes for an exciting year ahead,

*Amber Fisher*  
Superintendent

## Elyria Fire Department Makes Warm Donation

Firefighters from the Elyria Fire Department dropped off Winter coats for 35 students at Murray Ridge School on December 8 as part of Operation Warm, a mission to provide brand new winter coats for children!

Pictured (far right) in their new coats are students Steven Fosdick and Deja Sherman. And pictured left, top and bottom, the Elyria firefighters show their large donation.



**firefighters**

**OPERATION** | more  
**warm** | than  
a coat







# Murray Ridge School Prom

## **fundraiser**

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**  
**from 1:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**(during the Cavs/Thunder game)**  
**at Ziggy's Pub & Restaurant**  
**193 Park Avenue, Amherst**



**Tickets are \$25 each and include:**  
**All you can eat pizza, wings**  
**& all you can drink draft beer**  
**and fountain drinks**

**Many chances to win:**

**50/50 Raffle**

★ **Square-board for the game** ★

**Gift Basket Raffles**

**Door Prizes**



## 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, 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

## The Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center is a **MAGICAL** Place!

Adult program participants and staff were delighted when Magician Jim Sinkelmeir visited the LOVC in December. Pictured are his very excited helpers Larry Diaz, Jasmine Zan, Sarina Fries, and Mason Klusek!



# THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



*The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!*

## **Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:**

- \* Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- \* Conduct fundraisers
- \* Address special financial needs of consumers
- \* Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

# M R S G

*For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquín Page at 440.453.2576.*



# Holiday Happenings at Murray Ridge!



Happy Holidays from Murray Ridge Center! Top left, the Murray Ridge Choraleers prepare for one of their many holiday performances throughout Lorain County. Right, adult program participant Jessie Frisch (with Human Resource Secretary Debby Wright) made his annual rounds at Murray Ridge Center buildings collecting donations for Make-a-Wish!



Middle left, Jerry York, Transportation Coordinator PT, showed off his holiday best. Below, middle, Murray Ridge School staff show off their ugly sweaters!

Left, Murray Ridge School student Matthew Mowcomber gets a special visit from Santa. Bottom left, Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center attendees Kenny



Williams and Dominique Flores do some holiday shopping at the Santa Shoppe. And below, the Service and Support Administration Department shows off its beautifully decorated lobby!



We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and relaxing winter break! We look forward to the great things Murray Ridge Center attendees and staff will accomplish in 2017!

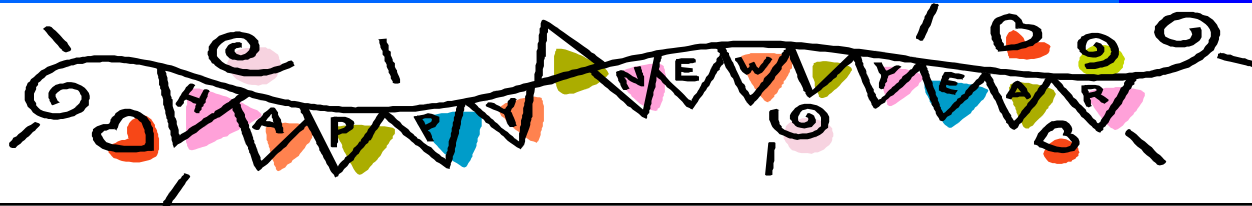


# January 2017

## Activities & Events

- 1/2 - **Agency closed for winter holiday**
- 1/3 - **Murray Ridge School resumes classes**
- 1/11 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m., EOVC, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/16 - **Agency closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday**
- 1/18 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/18 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/30 - LCBDD Organizational Meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/30 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council begins immediately following the Organizational Meeting

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				



### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on December 22, 2016:**

Sherry Lacko, Murray Ridge Service & Support Administrator/Behavior Analyst, presented to the Board about Project Lifesaver, a system that uses wristband transmitter technology to locate certain individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities if they become lost; Sherry serves as Murray Ridge Center's representative on a committee that identifies individuals who may be candidates for this program. Board member Dan White shared that a staff member has been selected for next quarter's Exceptional Service Board Award; this award will be presented at an upcoming staff meeting. Attendees shared some updates from the recent conference of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB). Superintendent Fisher shared that the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will be visiting all day programs to assess compliance with the expectations/requirement of the federal Medicaid agency (CMS) related to community integration; the target is for all such reviews to be completed by July of 2018. The Board unanimously approved an annual agreement with the Murray Ridge Production Center. Heather Gurchik, Director of Service and Support Administration, who prepared a Director's Report for the December Board meeting was thanked for her leadership and her department's hard work during a year of many changes and challenges. Board members Vassie Scott and Keith Boey were congratulated on their respective appointments to serve another term on the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 146  
Elyria, OH 44035

## Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org) to see  
our open positions!



## 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. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).

