

Consumer Spotlight: Jennifer Jones Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center

"Murray Ridge Center has helped me become a more independent, kindhearted, and caring person who is more confident in herself."

These words were spoken by Jennifer Jones, a 25 year old woman who attends Murray Ridge Center's Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC). Her touching words highlight the crucial role played by Murray Ridge Center's adult day programs in ensuring that adults with developmental disabilities have ongoing opportunities for engaging activities, skills development, socialization, and participation in the work force.

The OVCs, which are located in Lorain, Elyria, and Oberlin, are places where adults with developmental disabilities, like Jennifer, can interact with others, work and receive a paycheck, and pursue their goals and interests in a safe and friendly environment. While some individuals come to Murray Ridge's Adult Programs from Murray Ridge School, still more come to Murray Ridge from their neighborhood schools.





Jennifer poses with her Level 1 Waiver provider Tina Tucker.

High school was academically challenging for Jennifer, and she often had feelings of isolation due to her disability.

But happily, she graduated from Wellington High School in 1997, which she describes as the proudest thing she's ever done. "I walked across the stage and knew I could do anything," she said with a smile.

However, starting at the Murray Ridge OOVC changed Jennifer's life in ways she could never have imagined. When she first started at Murray Ridge, Jennifer was scared to make friends and experience life. Through the love and support of consumers and staff, she was able to overcome her anxiety. Although she's experienced much heartbreak, including the loss of a family member and the recent deaths of her therapy dogs, Jennifer was able to lean on Murray Ridge and find the support she needed. She transitioned from a young woman with little self-confidence and very few friends to an adult who has become an independent, confident, and caring friend to countless peers and co -workers at the OOVC.

Her many job responsibilities, including seal and graphics work, and working in the OVC kitchen, have allowed her to develop skills she never knew she had.

Jennifer with her new therapy dog, Sadie.

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And, as a Level 1 Waiver recipient, Jennifer has the ability to get out after hours, and participate actively in her community.

"If I didn't have Murray Ridge, I'd probably be sitting at home doing absolutely nothing," she said. "Murray Ridge Center has made me more confident in myself. They made me care. I really appreciate everything they have done for me. The Murray Ridge staff has supported me through everything, ups and downs, and they treat me like family."

That is how many of the individuals who participate in Murray Ridge Center's many services see it – as a family, with compassion and care the core focus of the community. Where the motto, Helping People... For a Lifetime, is truly just that; a lifetime of help for those who need it the most, and support for their families and caregivers.

From Jennifer Jones' perspective, this is the essential value Murray Ridge Center brings to the community, the developmentally disabled population, and to those who have nowhere else to turn. "I am very blessed to have Murray Ridge's support, because there are a lot of people out there who need it...even more than I do."



Jennifer smiles with friend and co-worker Brittany Tidd at the OOVC.

First Student has Moved!

First Student now has a new address. Effective June 25th, the bus garage will now be located at:

1800 Colorado Avenue Lorain, OH 44052 440-288-2222



Annual Torch Run for Special Olympics



Police officers from all over Lorain County prepare to run their annual Torch Run to benefit the Special Olympics!

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 25, 2012:

Mega Championship Wrestling presented Friends of Murray Ridge with \$1347.00; proceeds from Breaking Down Barriers II. The Staff Recognition Award Committee announced they had decided on a 2nd Quarter recipient for the Exceptional Service Award. The annual renewal of the Integrated Service Partnership (ISP) Agreement was approved; the parties and provisions remain the same as in the past. The Board passed a motion to pay for an educational software program called Vizzle during the 2013/2014 school year (at an approximate cost of \$8,990); this commitment was a contingency for the award to Murray Ridge School by the Stocker Foundation of a free site license for Vizzle for the 2012/2013 school year. Superintendent Amber Fisher reported on several HCBS Waiver updates. In other news, Superintendent Fisher reported that, based upon trends witnessed during the past month, the LCBDD should expect an increase in our waiver match liability. A third quarter allocation for the Family Support Parent Committee in the amount of \$134,211.15 was unanimously approved. The Murray Ridge Support Group will not meet again until August 2nd; September 21st will be the next dance.

The Royal Treatment

For the fourth consecutive year, contestants with the Lorain International Association Princess Pageant reigned over the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity/ Vocational Center. And, for the first time this year, the princesses also visited the Lorain Opportunity/ Vocational Center! The princesses donned their countries' traditional gowns to visit with Murray Ridge consumers.

This year, the princesses were treated to a tour of both facilities, a meet and greet with Murray Ridge consumers, and impromptu dance and photo sessions. In anticipation of the princesses' visit, Murray Ridge Center consumers decorated the Opportunity/Vocational Centers with maps, flags, and other cultural items representing various countries around the world. EOVC, right, (l-r): Lori Rhodehamel, Puerto Rican Princess Tylir Davis, Ashley Lange, Mexican Princess Breonna Stanley, Alicia Lawrence (front), Mike Ivie, Jessica Jones, Slovak Princess Anna Kraftik, and Michael Kovacic.





Front row (L-R): Justine Torres, Lizbet Negron, Amanda Spreng, Margaret Puza, and Judy Wood. Second row (L-R): Lucy Rivera, Andy Rivera, Harvey Graham, Lillian Bennett, Rosa Ortiz, and Becky Wilson. Back: Lorain International Princesses.

Mega Championship Wrestling Gives Back

After giving consumers, staff, caregivers, family, and friends a nail-biting performance at their Breaking Down Barriers II event held in April, Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW) continued giving by presenting the Friends of Murray Ridge, a nonprofit group that supports Murray Ridge Center's mission, a check for \$1,347.00. Money raised from this event will help assist Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities. Thank you, MCW!

Jim Nagy, wrestler with MCW and staff member at Murray Ridge Center, presented the check at the June Board Meeting.





Celebrating the Flag at EOVC

EOVC consumers and staff celebrated Flag Day on June 14 by wearing red, white, and blue!(left back row) Ron Deering, Juanita Williams, Kiki Watchorn (staff), Patrick Curry, Tim Ivey, and Carolyn Edwards.

Seated: Dennis Johnson, Janice Nicola, Karen Bridge, Sitting on the curb: Sandra Tite, Alicia Lawrence, Ashley Lange, Joe Belotti, and Jessica Jones.



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.

2012 Summer Course Series

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

Evening Sessions:

July 30:Section 1, 6-9 p.m.Aug 6:Section 2, 6-9 p.m.Aug 13:Section 3, 6-9 p.m.Aug 27:Section 4, 6-9 p.m.*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA lot.Please enter in back door.

Morning Sessions:

 July 31:
 Section 1, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

 Aug 7:
 Section 2, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

 Aug 14:
 Section 3, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

 Aug 28:
 Section 4, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

 *Parking at Murray Ridge SCHOOL lot. Please do not park around SSA building

Register

440.322.6367, Judy Petricevic, RN, BSN, jpetricevic@loraincountyhealth.com

No fee to attend. Space is limited. Bring your own

personal refreshments and food.

Presenters:



Judy Petricevic RN, BSN Lorain County General Health District Public Health Nurse

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Natalie Karn R.N, M.S.N. Lorain County General Heath District Public Health Nurse



Leaven 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!

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.



@LorainCoHealth Lorain County General Health District

Everyone Loves a Parade!

Warm weather brings summer festivals, and this year Murray Ridge is proud to be participating in five events throughout Lorain County. Already this summer, adults from our three Opportunity and Vocational Centers, or OVCs, along with Murray Ridge School students who created many of the decorations that were displayed on our accompanying van, marched in the Avon Duck Tape Parade. Lorain Recreation participants, including staff from our Lorain OVC, marched with us at the Lorain International Parade. Parades are a great way to show your community spirit, so put on your sunscreen, grab a chair, and cheer on participants as they spread the word about Murray Ridge. To further support our efforts, sign up today to volunteer at one of the remaining summer events! Call Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 to learn more.



Congratulations Young Scholars! Murray Ridge School Celebrates its Preschool Graduates

Murray Ridge Preschool celebrated its graduation on June 6 in an outdoor ceremony featuring singing, dancing, and cupcakes! Teacher Maria Michelmann presented the graduates with diplomas after giving an impassioned speech on the amazing strides these young students made throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing many faces returning to Murray Ridge School this fall, and wish all our graduates best of luck in the future!





Aneesa Shakur proudly displays her diploma to her mom, Sarah Kitchin (left).

Gabriel Hearn and Owen Richardson show off their graduation caps before the ceremony (right).



Murray Ridge Center Attends Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games



Athletes and staff prepare for the trip to Columbus.

Murray Ridge Center participated in the 2012 Special Olympics 43rd Annual Ohio State Summer Games in Columbus. 46 Murray Ridge athletes competed in a variety of sporting events, including bocce, volleyball, tennis, track, and soccer.

The Ohio State Summer Games is a year-round training and competition program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The Games, held June 22-24 at The Ohio State University in Columbus, featured more than 2,700 competitors in eleven sports, and also included movies, recreational clinics, and the colorful Opening Ceremonies which took place in the famous Ohio Stadium.

Murray Ridge athletes showed impressive performances, taking home many medals and placing first, second, and third in most events! And, for the second year in a row, our undefeated 5-to-a-side Soccer team brought home the gold medal!

Special Olympics Ohio serves more than 17,000 citizens with developmental disabilities. The 2012 event calendar includes seven state-level championships, of which the Ohio State Summer Games is the largest. In addition, there are more than 125 regional events in 23 Special Olympics sports.

Murray Ridge proudly supports the Special Olympics throughout the year. Congratulations to the Murray Ridge athletes representing Lorain County this year at Ohio State Summer Games.



Athletes march in the Opening Ceremonies.



Special Olympics Track Team! Row 1: Alicia Lawrence, April Pizzoferrato, Leif Hammonds, Jenna Jones, row 2: Sally Gordon, Ashley Spradling, Adrian Fortune, Coach Moye, Coach Chutes, row 3: Coach Kantosky, Coordinator Burkhardt, Jacob Danchuk, Mike Kovacic, Jesse Owens (statue), Kim Nadolski, Marko Govich, Coach Cechura.



Special Olympics Bocce Team! Front row (L-R): Cindy McGough, Phillip Sumutku, Donna Wolfe. 2nd row: Sherri Kuhn. 3rd row (L-R): Jason Rulong, Tracy Horn, D'Ronda Fleming.

State Summer Games Results

Soccer Team repeated as State Champions. In the semi-finals the Raiders defeated Mongomery County Special Olympics 4-2. Then in the finals the Raiders defeated Medina County DD Thunder, 9-0. The Raiders finished their season undefeated (12-0). Team members were: Ryan Eliason, Jeremy Foster, Eric Johnson, DJ Overall, Carl Jeans, Angel Rivera, Kris Sommer. Coaches were: BJ Winkelman and Michelle Miller.

Traditional Volleyball Team finished 2nd in the Corona Del Mar Division. In their semi-final match they defeated the Franklin County DD Flyers in a very close set, 2 games to 1. In the finals they lost to Lucas County DD, 2-0. The Raiders team finished their season 1 and 5. Team members included: Ryan Busher, Kurt Caris, Leroy Davis, Terry Jones, Steve Locurto, Zuleyka Perez, Chris Shannon, and Sandra Tite. Coaches were: Leroy Keen and Mary Lucente.

Modified Volleyball Team finished 2nd in the Belmont Shore Division. In their semi-final match they defeated the Seneca County Arrows, 2-0. In the finals they lost to Mahoning County DD, 2-0. They finished their season 4 and 2. Teams members were: Ron Deering, Stephen Ginley, Krystle Keener, Sandy Keener, Chad Kothe, James Peters, Shari Reitenbach and Richard Urban. Coaches were: Stacy Rosecrans and Mary Lucente.

Tennis singles: Sarah Ward took 2nd and Joann Gall

took 3rd in the Green Division. In the Red Division, Andrew Prihoda took 2nd. In the White Division, David Zsigray took 3rd.

Tennis doubles: The team of Joann Gall and Andrew Prihoda took 3rd in Division 3; the team of Sarah Ward and David Zsigray took 2nd in Division 4. Our tennis coach was Starr Price.

Bocce Team earned 1 First, 1 Second, and 2 Thirds. In doubles: Milano Division first place winners were Jason Rulong and Phillip Sumutku; Monte Carlo Division 2nd place finishers were D'Ronda Fleming and Tracy Horn; Messina Division 3rd place finishers were Sherri Kuhn and Donna Wolfe, finishing in 4th was Cindy McGough. **Bocce 4 person competition**: Team B (Phillip Sumutku, Tracy Horn, Jason Rulong, and Donna Wolfe) earned 3rd place. Team A (Cindy McGough, Sherri Kuhn, and D'Ronda Fleming) finished 4th. Bocce coaches were: Noreen Romano and Jim Ward.

Athletes competing for Murray Ridge's **Track Team** brought home 8 Gold, 4 Silver, and 7 Bronze in individual events:

Standing Long Jump: Ashley Spradling – 4th; Kim Nadolski – Silver; Jenna Jone – Gold; Adrian Fortune – 4th; Leif Hammonds – Gold; Jacob Danchuk – Bronze; Marko Govich – Silver.

Mini-Javelin: Mike Kovacic – Bronze; April Pizzoferrato – Bronze.

50 Meter Dash: Jennifer Storr – Silver **100 Meter Dash**: Ashley Spradling – Gold; Sally Gordon – 4th; Alicia Lawrence – Gold; Kim Nadolski – Bronze; April Pizzoferrato – Bronze; Jenna Jones – Gold; Marko Govich – Bronze; Adrian Fortune – Gold. **200 Meter Dash**: Mike Kovacic – Gold; Jacob Danchuk – Gold; Leif Hammonds – 4th. **Softball Throw**: Sally Gordon – Silver; Alicia Lawrence – Bronze; Jennifer Storr – 4th.

4x100 meter relay: Ashley Spradling, Jenna Jones, Kim Nadolski, Alicia Lawrence – Bronze; Adrian Fortune, Jacob Danchuk, Marko Govich, Leif Hammonds – 5th.



5-To-A-Side Soccer Championship Team! Front row (L-R): Kris Sommer, Eric Johnson, Carl Jeans, and Angel Rivera. Back row (L-R): Jeremy Foster, Ryan Eliason, Coach Winkelman, DJ Overall, and Coach Miller.

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.

- 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

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:







- 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



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2012-2013 Murray Ridge Center Calendars

Adult Services Early Intervention Residential

2012

July 4 – Independence Day*

September 3 – Labor Day*

October 8 – Columbus Day*

October 26 – Agency Inservice*

November 12 - Veterans Day*

November 22 – Thanksgiving Day*

November 23 – Day after Thanksgiving*

December 25 – Christmas Day*

December 26, 27, 28, and 31 – Program Closing Days

2013

January 1 – New Year's Day*

January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday*

February 18 – Presidents Day*

March 29 – Good Friday*

May 27 – Memorial Day*



* Agency closed.

School Preschool

2012

August 27 – First Day for Murray Ridge School Staff August 28 – First Day for Students (school-age) September 3 – Labor Day* September 4 – First Day of Preschool Classes September 5 – Open House October 8 – Columbus Day* October 26 – Agency Inservice* November 12 – Veterans Day* November 13 – Parent/Teacher Conferences/ Addendum Day November 22 – Thanksgiving Day* November 23 – Day after Thanksgiving* December 21 – Winter Break Begins December 25 – Christmas Day December 26, 27, 28, and 31 – Program Closing Days 2013 January 1 – New Year's Day* January 2 – Classes Resume January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday* February 18 – Presidents Day* March 29 – Good Friday* April 1 – Spring Break Begins April 8 – Classes Resume May 27 – Memorial Day* June 6 – Last Day of Classes for Students June 7 – Records Day – Last Day for Staff (June 10-14 – Make-up Days, if needed)

Murray Ridge School Finishes Another Successful Summer Camp!

Summer camps offer students a place to learn and play, and parents the opportunity to keep their kids active in both body and mind, after the school year has ended.

For the 24th year in a row, Murray Ridge School students were invited to participate in the Murray Ridge Day Camp. This year's four-week long adventure allowed campers the opportunity to engage in many enjoyable activities, including swimming and field trips, and to try their hands at a variety of crafts.

This summer's weekly themes were the four seasons, and activities that focused on spring, summer, fall, and winter were planned. Campers were able to learn and have fun in a relaxed setting, staying connected to peers and learning from the dedicated staff of Murray Ridge School, who worked as camp counselors.

"Working summer camp enables the school staff to interact with the students in a purely fun and enriching fashion," said teacher and camp counselor Julie Maurer. "The school staff can just enjoy interacting and working with the student in a non academic way."

Director of Education, Dann Swift, shares Julie's outlook on camp versus school. "Camp is all about fun. It's about planning fun activities, not lessons."

And fun was had by all! Thank you to the teachers and staff of Murray Ridge School who worked hard to ensure that each student was a safe, comfortable, and happy camper!



Murray Ridge Center July 2012

July 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 🏈	5	6	7
School Day Camp - No Camp Wed.						
8	9	10	11	12 🔀	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 🐋	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Activities & Events

6/12 - 7/6 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp (NO CAMP on July 4)

- 7/4 Independence Day, Agency closed
- 7/10 Murray Ridge Housing Corporation Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 7/12 Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 7/12 Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade, 7:00 p.m.
- 7/25 Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 7/26 Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria



July 9-13 July 30-August 3

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped 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

Lunch Menu

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.05, Adults = \$3.25

July 16-20

August 6 - August 11

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



July 2-6 July 23-27

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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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 Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324 -2366.

throughout Lorain County this summer. If you are

interested in representing Murray Ridge at an event, please contact Jennifer Judkins or Tracey Carroll at 329-3734.



If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.

Volunteer This Summer Have fun and educate the community about Murray

Ridge Center. We need volunteers to help us staff

booths and participate in parades at several events

—The Editor