

His Generosity Grows Daily

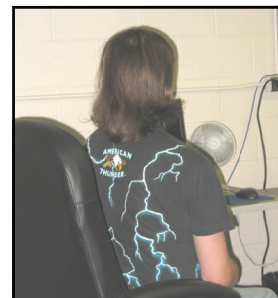
Not long ago **Tom Scislowski** was doing what many of us do on a rainy weekend afternoon; sitting at home and switching channels between sporting events, reruns, and whatever.

When Scislowski stopped channel surfing, he landed on a story about local students who, like some National Football League players, were donating their long locks to help children suffering from cancer in the Cleveland area. The story went on to say that, each year, thousands of children and adults find that surviving cancer also means living with the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy. In addition to symptoms like nausea, which comes and goes, patients are impacted by the aftereffects of treatment interventions, namely, a complete loss of hair that takes months to reverse.

That one newscast, that Scislowski just happened upon, was all it took for this Murray Ridge Enclave (MRE) employee to make a big commitment. "I decided to grow my hair and give it to people with cancer right then. I used to have long hair. I'm going to grow it until it's long enough to help someone like that," said Scislowski.

This isn't the first time the Lorain native has shown how much he cares for those less fortunate. After Hurricane Katrina decimated the homes and lives of so many, Tom Scislowski responded with a \$500 donation to the American Red Cross.

Asked what motivates him to be so helpful and generous to people he will probably never meet, he pauses for a moment, leans back in his chair, and with a twinkle in his eye says, "I just love to help people. That's it. That's all."

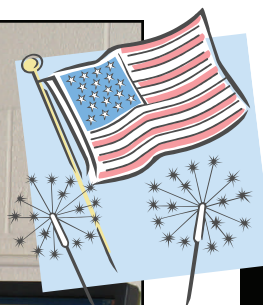


According to *Wigs For Kids*, a local non-profit organization dedicated to helping youthful cancer or burn survivors, it takes 12 to 25 ponytails to create one wig. Children utilizing that organization's help must come from families that cannot otherwise pay for the replacement hair system.

Scislowski's openness and easy smile endear him to staff and fellow employees alike. Now in his third year at MRE, he stays busy at his job scanning and indexing documents for a variety of outfits that contract for such services.

In his spare time he enjoys web-surfing with his laptop, and he's hoping to once again participate in sports. Two years ago he won two gold medals in Bocce competition.

If Tom's generosity has you wondering about how you too can help children suffering from cancer, and the effects of cancer treatment, call Wigs For Kids, at 440.333-4433.



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If you wish to receive future newsletters by e-mail, please call the Community Education /Volunteer Manger at 329-3734.

Staffer In Transition Shares With Students In Transition

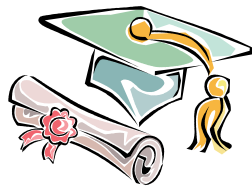
The more than 250 individuals who gathered at Murray Ridge School to honor **Joshua Conner** and **Katie Thorne** at the 2007 Transition Ceremony were encouraged by the words of the keynote speaker **Pauline Sherry**.

Sherry, a teacher, behavior support specialist, and parent of children with developmental disabilities is retiring after more than 20 years of service in the field.

As Conner and Thorne transfer to the nearby Elyria Adult Work/Activity Center to explore new opportunities, Sherry plans on enjoying retirement, but not too far away, as she hopes to do some substitute teaching and volunteering "right at the Ridge" whenever possible.



Pauline Sherry



In her address to the assembly, Sherry shared examples from her two-decades of experience and highlighted the inspiration of previous alums that who went on to be productive members of the local workforce.

With the ink not yet dried on her formal retirement papers, Sherry reminded the honorees "Today is just the beginning of a whole new life, only the start of an adventure for Katie and Josh. There's no telling how far they will go."

Considering her plans to continue to focus on the Murray Ridge motto of "helping others" even in retirement, there's no telling how far Pauline Sherry will go either.



July 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Agency Closed	5	6	
8 	9	10	11	12 	13	14
15 	16	17 	18	19 	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30	31				

Community Events

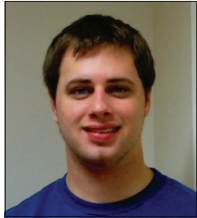
7/3 - Fireworks, Cascade Park, Elyria 10 pm
 7/4 - Wellington's 4th of July Celebration, 11:30am - evening. Parade, food, games and activities for all ages!
 7/5, 12, 19, 26 - Summer Concert Series at Ely Park, 11:30 am
 7/13, 14, 15 - Old Time Jamboree, Downtown Amherst
 7/13, 14, 15 - Port Fest, Lorain

Murray Ridge Center Events

- 7/4- All Agency Facilities Closed - Independence Day
- 7/10- Family Support Parent Committee Meeting, Administration Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 7/12- Early Intervention Evening Playgroup, MRS, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 7/17- LCBMR/DD Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd., Elyria, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/19- Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, Lorain Work/Activity Center, 4360 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, 4:15 p.m.
- 7/20- MRSRG Dance, Murray Ridge School, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 7/20- Oberlin Workshop, Summer Picnic, 5-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 7/26- Early Intervention Evening Playgroup, MRS, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m.

New Faces in Murray Ridge Places

Please welcome the newest members of the Lorain County Board of MR/DD family. We wish you the best as you begin your career with our organization!



Thomas Blevins, Jr.

Thomas Blevins was recently hired as a workshop aide at the Elyria Workshop. He has been working here already as a sub. He graduated from Elyria High and attended Lifecare training academy. He has two brothers and two sisters. He loves playing football and watching all sports.



Gloria Socha

Gloria Socha has been hired as a permanent-sub group home aide at the South Professor Group Home. She graduated from Avon High. Gloria has been a legal secretary for 27 years, and was most recently an Administrative Assistant before coming to the Ridge. She and her husband Dave have two sons, David and Michael. Gloria enjoys sewing, painting, reading, and animals.



Crystal White

Crystal White has been hired as a permanent-sub group home aide at the East Ninth Group Home. She attended Max Hayes Technical High, and trained further to become a S.T.N.A. Crystal brings varied experience with her as she has worked with patients with HIV, Alzheimer's, and in hospice care. She really likes doing laundry, difficult puzzles, and learning new things.

Board Room Briefing



At the June 19 meeting of the Lorain County Board of MR/DD:

Board President Dan White and Superintendent Fisher reported that they attended the Ohio Assoc. of County Boards of MR/DD Delegate Assembly, May 22 in Columbus. Dr. Fisher stated that a proposed Vision Statement for the organization was formally passed. The vision emphasizes the organization's focus on people with developmental disabilities.

Al Sprague, Director of Residential Service and Support Administration, presented an overview and update of the Family Support Services finances, noting that projections were all well within budget. The Board unanimously approved authorization by the Parent Family Support Committee of up to \$149,557 for the program's third quarter.

Dr. Fisher informed the Board that an Accreditation Review by the Ohio Department of MR/DD was recently concluded. She thanked the staff for their diligence and efforts in the recent and on-going preparation for the review. The final results of the survey and length of the renewed certification (in terms of years) will not be known until July. Dr. Fisher remarked that she saw the organizational self-examination associated with the accreditation process as a great opportunity to explore proactive improvement. The Board was also notified that the Fall 2007 Conference of the Ohio Assoc. of County Boards of MR/DD is scheduled to be held Wednesday, December 5 through Friday, December 7 in Columbus.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

Rafting/Team Building

July 20-22, 2007

Open to all MRDD employees and their families. Staff will receive 6 in-service hours.

Cost: \$130/person; includes 2 nights camping, rafting, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Call for space availability.

For more information contact, **Shawn Hatcher**, 440.371-0269.

The Disordered Brain -Understanding MR/DD, A Cognitive Perspective

August 2 and 3, 2007 8:30am - 4:00pm
Franklin County Board of MR/DD

14 total ODRMDD Certification credits
12 total Continuing Education Credits

Cost—\$115 each day, registered by 7/20

\$135 each day after 7/20/07

For registration and more information contact 330.723-8838 or 4aid@dementia-help.com.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

- Be sun smart and remember to limit sun exposure, wear protective clothing, and use sunscreen with a SPF of at least 15. To treat a sunburn apply a cool compress, such as a frozen food bag.
- To keep bees away, wear light-colored clothing, avoid perfumes and keep drinks and food covered. Treat a bee sting by scraping the stinger away with a credit card, and then wash the area with soap and water. Pulling the stinger or using tweezers may push more venom into the skin. For any bug bite or sting, ice or a cold compress can alleviate pain.
- Leave fireworks to the professionals. Enjoy your city's firework show with family and friends for a festive and safe event.

Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation &
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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

Visit our Web site
www.loraincountymrdd.org

Upcoming Summer Events
Would you like to help represent Murray Ridge Center
in an upcoming summer event?
Please contact the
Community Education/Volunteer Manager at 440.329-3734.
Together we can help spread the word

Lunch Menus for Murray Ridge Center

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.45, Adults = \$2.50

Week of July 2- 6 and July 23 - 27

Monday- Ham, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/ Herbs, Applesauce

Tuesday- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pine-apple, 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

Week of July 9 - 13 and July 30 - August 3

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pine-apple, 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, Jelly, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Week of July 16 - 20 and August 6 - 10

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

Tuesday- Ham & 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