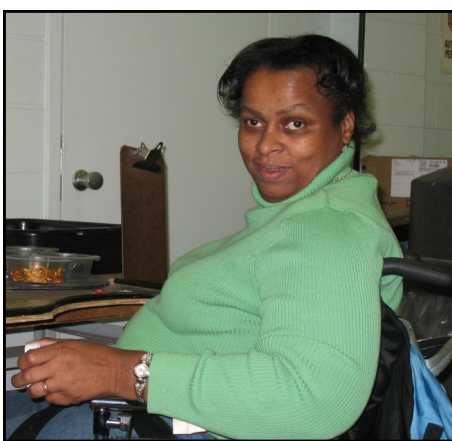


March is Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Share *Your* Awareness Everyday

Since 1979, agencies across the country have formally recognized the abilities of persons with Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) every March. Once again, Murray Ridge Center joins these agencies, and encourages *everyone* to learn more about developmental disabilities. If you are receiving this newsletter, then you are already familiar with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or the services provided by Murray Ridge Center. However, it is important to expand awareness of the potential of people with MR/DD and the value of services that support these individuals. That's why we're asking you to help us spread the word, to "share your awareness" with others in your workplace, your neighborhood, your place of worship and your schools. Things you can do: provide email addresses of those who might enjoy this newsletter to newsletter editor Racheal Seibert at rseibert@loraincountymrdd.org; download, print and distribute the MR/DD Awareness Month poster from the Murray Ridge Center website (www.loraincountymrdd.org/events/htm); become a Murray Ridge volunteer; write your legislators to provide your story and to encourage financial support of MR/DD programs. You can also show your support by visiting us at the Midway Mall on Thursday, March 12 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Welcome New Board Members!

Please join us as we warmly welcome the two newest additions to the Board of The Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Robert Rassie, a retired local dentist, comes to the Board with very personal experience with persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. His son receives vocational services from Murray Ridge Center. In addition, Dr. Rassie has been treating patients with developmental disabilities for many years.



Robert Rassie



Vassie Scott

Vassie Scott, a financial advisor, brings his financial expertise to the Board, as well as his experience as a Board member for Habitat for Humanity, and as a Guardian ad Litem for Voices for Children.

We are very pleased that these two individuals are giving a part of their lives to the mission of Murray Ridge Center.

Knights in Shining Armor

On behalf of the individuals we serve, we would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to the Knights of Columbus, Council 11464 for its very generous donation of \$1,252.16 to the Friends of Murray Ridge. These funds will be used for the benefit of Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities.

If you or your organization would like to contribute to Friends of Murray Ridge, contact Jeff Miller at 284-2720.



If you would like to receive The Murray Ridge Courier via email, contact Racheal Seibert at (440) 329-3734 or email her at rseibert@loraincountymrdd.org.

Food and Conversation

Eighteen months ago, Murray Ridge School teacher **Nick Kish** and his class of young entrepreneurs embarked on a fundraising mission to buy much-needed communication devices for students at the School. After negotiating a discount from a local, socially-conscious Marco's Pizza, Kish's class sold slices of pizza at a modest profit to Murray Ridge staff. At \$1.50 per slice, these delicious lunches were still a bargain, and Kish's class was able to raise \$800 toward the cost of a communication device for student Jimmy Woods.



With help from Speech Therapist Kathy Beatty, Jimmy Woods uses his new communication device for the School's morning announcements.

Speech Therapist **Kathy Beatty** then approached Dan Lipka from Tobii ATI, an assistive technology company, to purchase a new device. To Beatty's surprise and delight, Lipka generously offered a demo unit at half the cost (\$400)! Kish's class now has half of the money needed to purchase a second device.

Thanks to the inventiveness and philanthropic spirit of Kish, his class, Marco's Pizza and Tobii ATI, Jimmy is quickly mastering a new era of communication in his life.

Hoop Hoop Hooray!

Come cheer for the Murray Ridge Raiders basketball teams as they compete in the 14th Annual Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament at Oberlin College March 6-8th. The event will be held in the Philips Physical Education Center.

The Raider's game times are as follows:

Team 1 (Division 1):

- Saturday, March 7 at 12:45 p.m.
- If they win, they will play again on Sunday, March 8 at 1:15 p.m.

Team 2 (Division IV):

- Friday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m.
- If they win, they will play again on Saturday, March 7 at 1:15 p.m.
- If they win that game, they will play a final game on Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Lady Raiders (Division 1 Female):

- Saturday, March 7 at 9:45 a.m.
- If they win, they will play again on Sunday, March 8 at 11:00 a.m.

For more information or for Murray Ridge game status, contact Judy Hartung at 396-5345.



R.I.C.H.E.S. Committee Announced

Established in 2000, the purpose of the R.I.C.H.E.S. Program is to encourage staff to suggest ideas for the workplace that enhance Murray Ridge Center's ongoing efforts to provide excellent programs in a cost-effective manner.

With the additional goal of maintaining positive staff morale, ideas are shared and evaluated in a peer-to-peer manner, and staff are recognized and rewarded for their inventiveness.

The 2009 R.I.C.H.E.S. Committee has been established:

- Stephanie Bondra (Early Intervention)
- Tracey Casada (Coordinator)
- Trina Hutlock (LWAC)
- Mary Lakner (EWAC)
- Lisa Lee (OWAC)
- Emily Ramos (SSA)
- Mandy Vernon (CE)
- Sue Ward (Supervisor)

If you have ideas or questions, please contact Tracey Casada or your departmental representative.

For the Birds



In the dead of winter, it can be difficult for our feathered friends to find food. To remedy this, one animal-loving teacher at the Murray Ridge School had an idea. As the students in her class were studying wild birds, teacher Kim Dennis encouraged students *throughout* the school to participate in a bird feeder project. To help make this project possible, she decided to approach a couple of local businesses for donations of materials. Coming to the rescue were Einstein Brothers Bagels and Wild Birds Unlimited. Einstein Brothers' donation of 13 dozen bagels, coupled with Wild Birds' gift of 10 pounds of birdseed, equipped the students with the materials they needed for the feeders.

With the exception of the treats that have already been eaten, the bird feeders may be seen hanging in the trees around the School.

Murray Ridge School student Taysha Schultz prepares a culinary delight for our feathered friends.



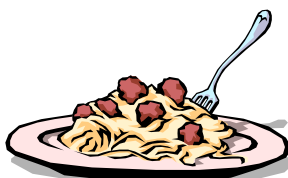
A Taste of Italy

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support, will be held this year on Saturday, March 14 from 3:00-6:30 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. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$8 for persons 6 years of age and up, and free for kids 5 and under.

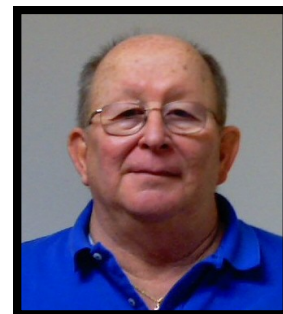
Buon Appetito!



New Faces in Murray Ridge Places



Lois Arbogast joins the South Professor Home as a Group Home Aide.



Thomas Bookmyer joins the Lorain Work Activity Center in Custodial Service.



Melissa Frobatta joins the Lorain Work Activity Center as a Nurse 1.



Mary Gyeszat joins the Meister Home as a Group Home Aide.



Kara Parschauer joins the Murray Ridge School as a Teacher Aide.



Miranda Jones joins the Academy Court Home as a Group Home Aide/Housekeeper.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on February 27, 2009:

President Hunt requested a resolution by the Board members to accept the agency's 2009 Program And Expenditure Plan, barring any substantive changes as a result of the public hearing. The resolution passed unanimously. Superintendent Fisher updated the Board on state funding and the impact of the Stimulus Plan recently approved by Congress. While underlining the fact that some details are as yet not clear, Dr. Fisher noted that Ohio could anticipate an 8.5% increase to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which is the federal share of Medicaid covered services. For Murray Ridge, this could lead to an infusion of some \$1,411,000 per year (retroactive to 2008) through 2010. It is anticipated that this increase will be offset in part by further reductions in state funding. Dr. Fisher cautioned also, that this anticipated FMAP increase is not permanent and will expire at the same time that the hold harmless period for the loss of the Tangible Personal Property Tax (TPP) will start to be phased out. The hold harmless on the TPP elimination accounts for approximately \$1.6M/year in Murray Ridge Center funding. State funding for tax equity and the non-federal share for services associated with the Martin lawsuit are expected to be sustained in the next state biennium budget.



March 2009

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				

Activities & Events

- 3/2—Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 3/12—MRDD Awareness Month booth at Midway Mall in Elyria, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- 3/12—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 3/13—Murray Ridge Support Group dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria
- 3/14—Murray Ridge Support Group Spaghetti Dinner, AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road, Sheffield Lake, 3:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
- 3/16—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road
- 3/19—LCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Elyria Work Activity Center
- 3/26—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 3/27—LCBMRDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



Lunch Menus

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.65, Adults = \$2.70

March 9-13
March 30-April 3

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped 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

March 16-20
April 6-10

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



March 2-6
March 23-27
April 13-17

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 Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.loraincountymrdd.org

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Return Service Requested

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@loraincountymrdd.org.

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



Upcoming Workshops, Classes and Conferences

- *Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*, Lorain County General Health District. The free three-hour sessions are offered for four consecutive Tuesdays beginning March 24, 2009. Class times are 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. For more information call: 322-6367, 244-2209 or 236-8722.
- *Calming in an Emergency*, sponsored by the Lorain County Labor Agency's Community Awareness Network (C.A.N.) workshop lunch series. The free two-hour session will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at the Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria. For more information call Jim Ward at 282-7401.



Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with MR/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.