

The Murray Ridge Courier

March 2008

March is National Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Since 1979, agencies across the country have recognized the abilities of persons with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) each March. Once again, Murray Ridge Center joins these organizations to support Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This month celebrates the important contributions made by indi-

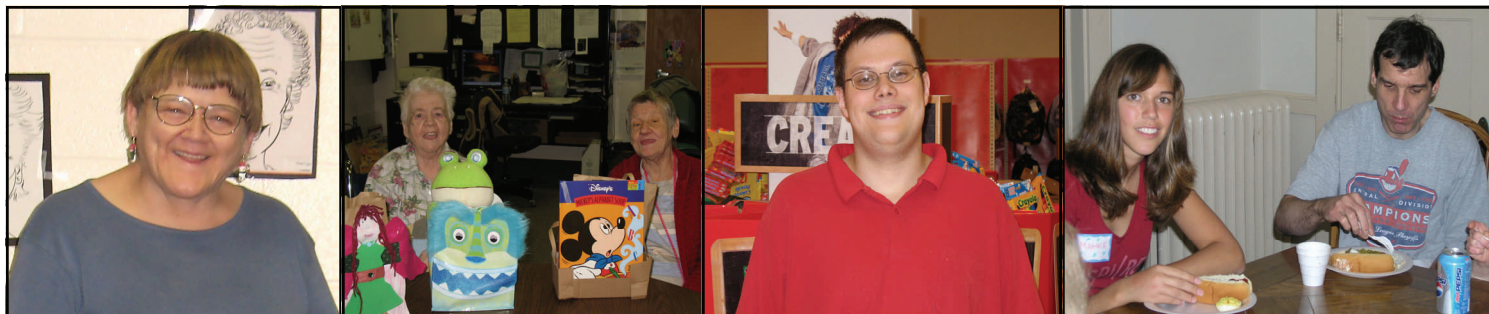
viduals with developmental disabilities in communities across the nation and here in Lorain County.

Throughout the month, advocates, educators, service providers, and government agencies make an extra effort to educate the public about developmental disabilities, to reduce any negative perceptions associated with them, and to promote the use of services and support resources for individuals with MRDD and their families.

The theme this year is "Success—when doors open we succeed." And opening the doors to success has been a goal of Murray Ridge Center for 40 years. Last year, Murray Ridge helped more than 2,000 people to be successful through educational, vocational, residential, recreational and family support services.

Murray ridge encourages everyone to learn more about mental retardation and developmental disabilities this month. Look for our posters in your local libraries, hospitals, colleges and administration buildings. If you would like to tour one of our facilities, please call (440) 329-3734.

"I may have a developmental disability, but..."



I can vote,

I can volunteer,

I can work,

And I can be a friend."

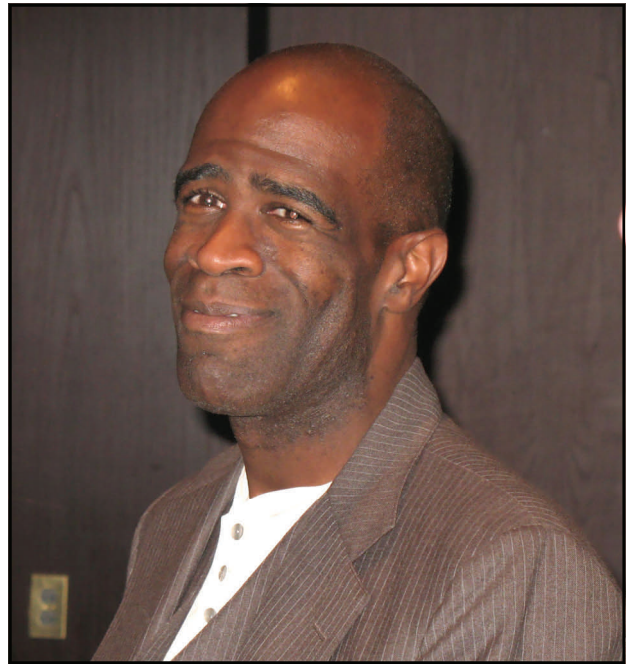
Helping Others to be Happy

If you're lucky, you encounter a handful of people in your life whose greeting, alone, can make your day better. Many throughout Murray Ridge Center have had better days because of the warm smile and heartfelt "hello" of **Charles Johnson, Jr.** Johnson, a Murray Ridge consumer for nearly 25 years, does his best every day to make people happy.

When he isn't working with his enclave at CDI, he serves as a coach's helper for Special Olympics softball and basketball. In this role, Johnson has high standards and expects his fellow teammates to always do their best and to play as a team. As practices become long and competition in games intensifies, sometimes fellow athletes aren't sure they want to continue to play. Johnson is quick to encourage teammates and to remind them that playing for a team is an important commitment. "Don't sign up and say you're going to play and then quit, because you'll let the whole team down."

But, while Johnson demands the best of his colleagues, he also provides sincere friendship and support. After a recent defeat, a fellow teammate was very upset. Johnson comforted his friend by letting him know that he wasn't alone and that the team was there to support one another for better or for worse. Says Johnson, "I told him 'you win as a team and you lose as a team.'"

When asked where he gets such a positive attitude, he says that he likes people and learns a lot from his church.



Johnson also likes to keep himself busy so that he doesn't get bored. Whether it's helping his neighbor, singing in the church choir or going to movies, he prefers to have something to do, rather than sit in front of the television. "Staying busy keeps me happy." And, speaking of happy, we at Murray Ridge Center would like to wish a very "happy birthday" this March to a man who strives every day to give so much joy to others.

The Shortest Path to the Heart...



Pictured above: School Supervisor **Joan Peterson** and student **Elisabeth Kantz** enjoy an Italian feast.

As the smell of garlic and oregano filled the halls of the Murray Ridge School, pasta lovers throughout Murray Ridge gathered to sample fine Italian cuisine at the annual Valentine's Day Luncheon on February 14. The lunchroom was packed as happy diners listened to piano music played by Teacher **Nevan Eilbeck**.

Pictured left: Serving as sous chef and host, student **Paul Schoger** ensures that a wonderful time is had by all.



New Faces in Murray Ridge Places

Welcome, new members of the Murray Ridge Center team!



Mary Ash joins Murray Ridge Center as a Group Home Aide. She received her Associates degree in Human Services and plans to finish her Bachelor's degree at Baldwin Wallace College.



Tracey Halstead has been hired as a Service and Support Administrator. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Baldwin Wallace College. She enjoys spending time with her three-year-old daughter, Audrey.



Sheila Harness joins Murray Ridge Center as Group Home Aide/Housekeeper at Meister Home.



Brenda Kincaid has been hired as a Group Home Aide



Liane Kirsh joins Murray Ridge School as an Early Intervention Specialist. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Cleveland State University. She enjoys reading, volleyball and watching the Cleveland Indians.

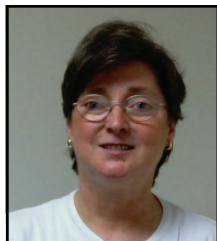


Previously the Sr. Manager of Community Relations for the Buffalo Bills, **Christopher Lewis** joins Murray Ridge Center as Marketing Job Placement Specialist.

New Positions Assumed



Ben Moore has been promoted to the position of Lead Maintenance Technician.









Caroline Raines has been promoted to the position of Stores Clerk at the Oberlin Work Activity Center.

How You Can Support MR/DD Awareness Month

- **Tell Others**
 - Spread the word to friends, family and neighbors about how individuals with disabilities have countless abilities
- **Get Involved in the Cause Year-round**
 - Advocacy takes place throughout the year. Join the Murray Ridge Support Group or Family Support Parent Group to become active in the MR/DD community in our County
 - Become a volunteer at Murray Ridge Center
- **Celebrate Diversity**
 - Everyone is different, but our differences make life more interesting. Take time to reflect on how your talents, skills, hobbies and heritage make you special
- **Learn More**
 - Get to know more about disabilities and what issues affect your community and state
 - Visit, www.loraincountymrdd.org, or www.odmrdd.ohio.gov to become better educated about MR/DD
- **Attend the Family Fun Fair & Safety at Murray Ridge School on April 12, 2008**
 - Invite your family and friends for a day of fun



March 2008

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 Program Closing for Good Friday	22
23 	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30	31	Spring Break for Murray Ridge School				

Murray Ridge Center

3/3—Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Rd., 4:15 p.m.

3/13—Early Intervention Play-group, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School

3/14—LCBMR/DD Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 12:30 p.m.

3/14—Murray Ridge Support Group St. Paddy's Dance, Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 7:00 p.m.

3/21—Agency Closed in Observance of Good Friday

3/24—Spring Break for Murray Ridge School

3/27—Early Intervention Play-group, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School

Upcoming Workshops, Classes and Conferences

- *Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*, Lorain County General Health District. The three-hour sessions are offered for four consecutive Tuesdays beginning April 1, 2008. Class times are 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. or 4:45 p.m.—7:45 p.m. For more information call: (440) 322-6367 or 236-8722.
- *EDT 399/599—Elements of Applied Behavior Analysis in Educational Settings*, 1 Credit, Cleveland State University. This class is held June 11, 12 and 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Lenora Oefering, Murray Ridge School, (440) 329-3760.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on February 8:

Board President Michelle Hunt appointed new Board Member Kurt Koepf to the Family Support Committee, replacing Bob Gajdos who will remain on the Finance Committee and continue to serve as liaison to the MRPC Board. Health consultant Glenn Szana presented the Board with a case study on the benefits of proactive wellness strategies at a similarly sized organization. Superintendent Fisher reviewed developments at the State level including the likelihood of reduced spending and the imminent downsizing of developmental centers.

Dr. Fisher also informed the Board that the Murray Ridge Levy Committee was taking all reasonable measures to effectively address various voting audiences prior to the March 4 election. Director of Operations Bill Flecher updated the Board on the final aspects of construction of the SSA building and assured everyone that it would be fully operational and ready for business by March 1.

Bust A Move



Cindy McGough and **Matt Anthony** danced the night away during the Valentine Dance at the Murray Ridge School. The event, sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group, was enjoyed by all who attended.

Those unable to attend will have another opportunity to kick up their heels at the St. Patty's Day dance on Friday March 14 at the Murray Ridge School, 9750 South Murray Ridge Road in Elyria. The dance will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Did You Know?

Before you eat corned beef and pinch others for not wearing green this March 17, here are a few facts from History.com that you may like to ponder:

- There are **34.7 million U.S. residents** who claim Irish ancestry. This number is nearly nine times the population of Ireland.
- As a whole, the U.S. claims 12% of residents as having Irish ancestry. In Massachusetts this number doubles to **24 percent!**
- There are four places in the United States named **Shamrock**, which is the floral emblem of Ireland.
- About **41.6 billion pounds of U.S. beef and 2.4 billion pounds of U.S. cabbage**, were sold in 2005. Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish.

For more fun facts, visit <http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksdays/>

The "Incidental" Column

As you may recall, last month I emphasized the importance of reporting the basic information—who, what, when, and where—when submitting an incident report. While this information is necessary to begin an investigation, it is not enough to base a final decision on. I will detail some of the additional steps that an



John Syrowski

Investigative Agent (I.A.) must take to come to a final determination.

An I.A. conducts two types of investigations: *Protocol* and *Non-Protocol*. The category of the MUI will dictate which investigation process is followed. The MUI's that fall into the category of Protocol investigations are: Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Verbal Abuse, Suspicious or Accidental Death, Exploitation, Failure to Report, Neglect, Peer to Peer Acts, Prohibited Sexual Relations and Rights Code Violation.

When conducting a Protocol investigation, the I.A. will take an initial Incident Report and, within 24 hours, commence an investigation. There are several steps to a Protocol investigation, including:

- Interview the victim no later than three working days following notification of an MUI
- Visit the scene of the incident
- Follow up with the law enforcement, gather a police report
- Secure physical evidence, take photographs of injuries and sketch/photograph the scene
- Note environmental factors that may have caused or contributed to an injury
- Review all relevant documents relating to the primary person involved as well as pertinent information about the alleged victim
- Interview and gather written statements from witnesses
- As applicable, interview medical professionals as to the possible cause/age of any injuries
- Interview others who may have relevant information
- Evaluate the relative credibility of all witnesses
- Determine if witness statements are logical, internally consistent, and consistent with other credible statements and known facts.
- Provide a succinct and well reasoned analysis of the evidence

At the conclusion of an investigation, the I.A. must make a final determination. In a Protocol Investigation there are three possible findings. Next month I will discuss these findings and the criteria that is required to meet each of them. I will also review the MUI categories that require a Non-Protocol investigation.

Incidentally,
John

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

Lunch Menus for Murray Ridge Center

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.55, Adults = \$2.55

March 10-14
March 31-April 4
April 21—25

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 17-21
April 7-11
April 28—May 2

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/Lowfat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

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

March 3-7
March 24-28
April 14-18
May 5—9

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