



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

May 2014

Consumer Spotlight: Michael Elliott

Michael Elliott was 27 years old before he discovered that he had an incredible talent.

After receiving a book about famous artist Leonardo da Vinci from his grandmother, Michael realized that, if he studied the image closely enough, he was able to recreate da Vinci's drawings in exquisite detail.

12 years later, Michael is churning out drawing after drawing - some still from da Vinci's collection - and displaying these amazing pieces throughout Murray Ridge Center and in different venues throughout Lorain County.

Michael is fairly new to Murray Ridge; he moved to North Ridgeville from Florida last April to live with his Aunt Pat and cousin Peggy following an illness that left his grandmother unable to care for him.

"I worked at Disney as a food and beverage worker at the Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater at Hollywood Studios," Michael said, of his time living in Florida. "I liked my job there. I liked talking to the people who were visiting the park."

Although sad to leave Florida, Michael was excited about starting a new life in Ohio. Once settled in with his family, Michael began attending the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center at the end of May 2013.

At the EOVC, Michael is busy most days doing piecework for local companies. When not working, staff and other adult program participants know they can find him pouring over books, looking for his next inspiration.

"I see something and I want to make it more beautiful than the original," Michael said. "My gift to others is to let them view my paintings...they



Michael smiles as he works on his latest piece at the EOVC.

make people happy."

His current piece is a recreation of flowers that he found in an art book. But, his next idea will be a real showstopper; Michael is going to recreate the famous Last Supper painting, a late 15th-century mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci.

Staff throughout Murray Ridge Center have been impressed with Michael's amazing talents, and his artwork can be seen in each of the three OVCs in Elyria, Oberlin, and Lorain.

And, as for Michael's adjustment to Ohio and MRC, he feels right at home.

"I've been happy since starting at Murray Ridge Center," he said. "It's the best place in the entire country."

Turn to page 2 to see some of Michael's amazing artwork.



Above left, Michael's rendition of an untitled self-portrait by Leonardo da Vinci. Above right, another famous painting by da Vinci; the original in the corner, with Michael's larger rendition.

Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

On April 17, the Lorain County Board of DD honored Tracey Carroll, Administrative Secretary at the Murray Ridge Center Administration Building, with the Exceptional Service Award for the first quarter of 2014.

Tracey was nominated by adult program participant Charles Johnson, Jr. In his nomination letter, Charles stated, "Tracey is very special. She cares about people and her job. She always lets me know when she's picking us up and taking us to parades so that we can be free and have a wonderful time. She cares a lot about people. I can depend on her to be there, every time she says she will do something."

In her 27 years at MRC, Tracey has exhibited efforts that reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed not only to the well being of people with developmental disabilities, but also to the success of many projects and on-going operations.

Thank you Tracey, for your exceptional service! And congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.



Tracey Carroll poses with nominator Charles Johnson, Jr.

Strides for



Struggles

5k Walk/Run

to benefit children and adults
with developmental disabilities

August 16, 2014

11:00am - 2:00pm

Day's Dam Metro Park

E. 31st & E. River Rd. Lorain, OH 44055

\$20 per runner/walker

(includes t-shirt)

All proceeds to benefit the



visit www.stridesforstruggles.com email stridesforstruggles@yahoo.com call (440)670-2003

Registration Form

Make checks payable to:

Strides for Struggles, 2427 East 31st St. Lorain, OH 44055

Name _____ Female _____ Male _____ Age _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

T-Shirt Size - S M L XL XXL

WAIVER: In consideration of your accepting this entry, I, the below signed, intending to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, my executors and administrators, waive and release and any all rights and claims for damages I may have against the race, and sponsors and their representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest that I will participate in this event as a footrace, that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for the completion of this event. Furthermore, I hereby grant full permission to use my name and likeness, as well as any photographs and any record of this event in which I may appear for any legitimate purpose, including advertising and promotion.

Signature _____ Date _____

(Parent's signature required if participant is under 18)

A PRESCHOOL OPTION

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.

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- 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



- 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. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School (see below).

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



MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME



May 2014

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

- 5/1 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 5/3 - Breaking Down Barriers IV at LCCC, 6:00 p.m.
- 5/9 - Murray Ridge School Senior Prom; 6:30—9:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/21 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 5/23 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 5/26 - **Agency Closed in Observance of Memorial Day**
- 5/29 - Murray Ridge School Commencement Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.
- 5/30 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

2014-2015 Agency Calendars

The 2013-2014 agency calendars are now available at www.murrayridgecenter.org under Agency Calendar. Visit the website to see the schedules of our programs for the coming year!

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on April 24, 2014:

Tracey Carroll was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for her work at parades throughout the summer months and her above and beyond commitment to the mission of Murray Ridge Center and those we serve. A Housing Board update was provided by Director of SSA Jeff Neal; the group held a provider luncheon on 4/24, and a baseball outing for residents has been scheduled for 7/27. Jeff Neal also presented and the Board approved a *Supported Living Program* policy. Superintendent Fisher and Director of Vocational Services Jeff Miller provided an Employment First update. In other news, the 2014-2015 Agency calendars were discussed and approved. The Murray Ridge Support Group will hold its next dance on 5/23.

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



Inclusive Playground FREE Admission!

Visit the Lorain County Metro Parks Inclusive Playground! Free at this time, the unique playground incorporates water play (shut down for season), structured play, and natural play environments. People of all ages and abilities will be able to use the area and enjoy the play features. Stop in and visit today!

47160 Hollstein Drive,
Amherst, Ohio
(440) 984-3470



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, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.