

Two New Homes to Serve Lorain County Citizens With MRDD

Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) recently purchased two three-bedroom homes on Root Road in Lorain. With the addition of these two purchases, MRHC now owns 22 homes in Lorain County. Seventy-five percent of the cost of these two homes will be covered by capital housing grants provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD). The other 25 percent of the cost will be covered by MRHC. MRHC then acts as a property manager, renting the homes to groups of three-to-four individuals with developmental disabilities, and caring for major maintenance needed at the homes.

The purchase of a home goes hand in hand with the availability of MRDD Individual Options (IO) Waivers, which are Medicaid waivers utilized to provide staffing for the individuals who live in the homes. Says Al Sprague, Director of Residential Service and Support Administration, "without this critical support many of the 80 or so individuals who currently reside in housing board settings would be unable to live out in the community." Typically before a home is purchased, individuals are identified who either already have an IO Waiver and need more intensive services or are next on the waiting list to receive new waivers. They are asked where they would like to live and an attempt is made to find a house in the location of their choice. The group of individuals who plan to live in the home, often with the help of guardians and family members, then have the opportunity to review and interview representatives from agencies certified by the ODMRDD as I.O. waiver providers. Once the individuals have selected the provider of their choice, the provider hires the staff needed to provide the services outlined in the individuals' Individual Service Plans (ISPs).

MRHC's two new energy-efficient homes, built about eight years ago, have nearly identical floor plans that include a central living area composed of kitchen, dining area and living room flanked by two bedroom areas, each with a full bath. Each home also has a garage and a well-defined back yard area.

"Two individuals are already living in the first of the homes recently purchased on Root Rd. A third person will move in at a future date. After some redecorating has been completed in the second home individuals will be moving into that home as well," said Sprague.

A non-profit Housing Board, MRHC was established in January 1992 for the purpose of providing financing, acquisition and management of housing dedicated to individuals with developmental disabilities. MRHC was initiated by Murray Ridge Center, which accessed capital assistance funds from ODMRDD. Since its inception 16 years ago, MRHC has been committed to the goal of ensuring the availability of community-based living arrangements for eligible Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities.

Collectively, the homes owned by MRHC provide safe and affordable housing for individuals with disabilities. All 22 homes are located in traditional residential neighborhoods throughout Lorain County.



Nearly New Home

The first of two new homes on Root Road purchased by the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation for eligible individuals with developmental disabilities.

Memorial Day

Before you barbeque or find some other way to celebrate with your family and friends this May 26th, you may be interested to know a little more about the history of this very important holiday. Officially proclaimed in May of 1868, Decoration Day (as it was originally called) was a day set aside to remember those soldiers who died in the Civil War. During the first celebration, then-General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which approximately 5,000 participants decorated the graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers. In more recent years, the purpose of the day has been expanded to include Americans who died fighting in *any* war. We at Murray Ridge Center ask you to join us as we honor the brave men and women who have given their lives to help people. We wish you a safe and peaceful Memorial Day.

New Position Assumed



Greg Dwyer was recently promoted to the position of Workshop Specialist 2 for the Elyria Work Activity Center.

Lorain County Board of MRDD Receives Four-Year Accreditation

The Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, also known as Murray Ridge Center, has once again been accredited by the State of Ohio for the quality services and supports it provides to people with disabilities. This accreditation is for a period of four years, the highest level of accreditation that can be achieved for programmatic compliance.

A team of surveyors from the Department of MR/DD reviewed all areas of county board operations including personnel administration, services and support and the general efficiency and effectiveness of the county board. The results of this comprehensive review found that the Lorain County Board of MR/DD achieved compliance with a wide range of applicable standards and regulations and subsequently obtained accreditation for four years. Said Amber Fisher, superintendent of Murray Ridge Center, "we are very proud of this accomplishment. It is a reflection of the efforts and the commitment of our tremendous staff."

The state's accreditation review process is detailed and rigorous and takes nearly six months to complete. Agencies are awarded accreditation for periods of one-to-four years.

Family Fun Fair is Fun, Indeed!



Pictured above: Murray Ridge consumers Sarah Ward and Matt Anthony enjoy food and games at the Seventh Annual Family Fun Fair & Safety Fest.

The 2008 Family Fun Fair & Safety Fest was held at the Murray Ridge School on Saturday, April 12. The Fair included safety vehicles from around Lorain County, a live broadcast from WDLW 1380 AM, face painting and much more. A good time was, indeed, had by all who attended. If you missed this year's event, keep your eyes and ears open next spring for the Eighth Annual Fun Fair!

Pictured right: Caroline Raines, one of the cake-baking contest winners, proudly displays her delicious, prize-winning cake.



Honoring Our Volunteers



Pictured above: Superintendent Amber Fisher (right) presents the Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Lou Gramer (center), parent member of the Family Support Parent Committee. Also pictured is Diane Smith (left), Family Support Coordinator.

On April 30, Murray Ridge Center held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception at the Elyria Work Activity Center. More than 200 community members and staff volunteered their services to the agency in 2007.

This year, the Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award went to the Family Support Parent Committee, a group of individuals entrusted by our board to allocate limited resources to families in need. This group is distinguished not only by its on-going commitment to a critically important function, but also by the willingness of its members to take on a most difficult responsibility.

Fourteen years ago, a group of concerned family members was formed to make decisions about the use of state and local funds to support Lorain County families in caring for an adult or child with mental retardation in the family home. At that time, the members of this group developed from its inception the system for operating the

Murray Ridge Family Support Program. Since 1994, the group has met each month to review applications for funding for critically important supports such as respite care, adaptive equipment, and supplies that a family member needs due to his or her developmental disability. This group, charged with the allocation of scarce resources, has executed its charge with compassion, sophistication, fairness, and a deeply felt sensitivity to the challenges faced by family caregivers.

The job of the Family Support Parent Committee has expanded over the years, with participation in their program growing three fold from its inception, yet they have embraced every change with graciousness and determination. Many of today's members have been here from inception. Sincere thanks to the following members of the Family Support Parent Committee: Damita Vanche, President, Greg Vanche, Mary Lou Gramer, Brenda Grimmet, Joan Roberts and Sherry Wilson.

During her lifetime, Marilyn Hupfer participated tirelessly on the Family Support Parent Committee. It is very fitting, therefore, that the group was recognized in her honor. Marilyn would indeed be very proud of the ongoing dedication and commitment of today's Family Support Parent Committee members.

If you would like to know more about the Family Support Parent Committee, or if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Diane Smith, Family Support Coordinator, at (440) 329-3734.

We would also like to extend sincere thanks to *all* of our volunteers for the countless hours they've donated to help serve the mission of Murray Ridge Center. Thank you for helping us to *help people!*

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Calling all volunteers! As you gear up for all of those picnics and barbecues this summer, you may be interested in having a little fun while at the same time helping to educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. There are several community events this year throughout Lorain County and Murray Ridge needs volunteers to help staff booths and participate in parades. If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at any of the following events, please contact the Community Education & Volunteer Manager at (440) 329-3734.

- Lorain International Festival Parade—Sunday, June 29
- Sheffield/Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade—Thursday, July 10
- Amherst Old Time Jamboree Festival Parade—Sunday, July 13
- North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade—Sunday, August 10
- Lorain County Fair Booth—August 18-24
- Lorain County Community College Family Fest Booth—Saturday, September 8
- Woolly Bear Festival Parade—Sunday, October 5





May 2008

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Murray Ridge Center

5/9—LCBMRDD Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 12:30 p.m.

5/13—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., SSA Building, 9740 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

5/16—Senior Prom, Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 6:30 p.m., Free Admission

5/22—Early Intervention Play-group, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

5/26—Agency Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

5/30—Murray Ridge School Transition Ceremony, Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 11:00 a.m.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on April 11:



Superintendent Fisher presented an overview of the room and board agreement between the agency and the Cuyahoga Board of MR/DD, which replaces the previous contract for waiver administration. Due to new standardized rates for providers of residential services, which were implemented in March 2008, the LCBMRDD was able to discontinue the previous waiver administration contract and enter into a new room and board agreement with the CCBMRDD, resulting in a cost savings. In other business, the Board unanimously approved the 2008 Educational Service Center contract.

Summer Camp

Murray Ridge Center's five week long summer camp, open to Murray Ridge School students, will be held June 10 through July 10. Registration forms will be sent home with students in May. For more information, contact Theresa Roszman at (440) 329-3760.



You Make Me Feel Like Dancing!



Murray Ridge School will be holding the Senior Prom on Friday, May 16 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria. The evening's festivities will include dinner and dancing. Admission to Prom is free. Those interested in attending should notify their classroom teachers as soon as possible.

MRSRG Spaghetti Dinner a Delicious Success



Dinner is Served!

Pictured above: More than 250 diners enjoy Italian cuisine at the annual MRSRG Spaghetti

On Saturday, April 26, people from all over Lorain County came to the Murray Ridge School for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSRG). More than 250 people attended this delicious event, which has been held each year for more than 20 years. All money raised goes back into the MRSRG, which sponsors dances throughout the year, hosts the annual Transitions Ceremony Luncheon for graduating Murray Ridge School students, and provides funds for various Murray Ridge Center events such as Santa's Shop, Prom and Bring A Child To Work Day.

If you were unable to join us for dinner, but would still like to support the MRSRG, contact Andrea Elek at (440) 323-2741 or George Gedid at (440) 282-2131.



A Taste of Italy

Pictured above: Lorain County Board of MRDD Vice President Jim Uldrich, prepares his famous sauce for the annual MRSRG Spaghetti Dinner.

The "Incidental" Column

This month I want to highlight the importance of the MUI category, **Failure To Report**.



John Syrowski

The general definition of Failure to Report is: *Any person considered a required reporter having reason to believe that a person with MR-*

DD has suffered or faces a substantial risk of suffering any wound, injury, disability or condition of such nature as to reasonably indicate abuse (including misappropriation) or neglect of that person, shall immediately report such information to a law enforcement agency, a county board, or to the Ohio Department of MRDD.

Abuse

Verbal- Purposely using words to threaten, coerce, intimidate, harass or humiliate an individual.

Physical- The use of physical force that can reasonably be expected to result in physical harm or serious physical harm.

Sexual- Unlawful sexual conduct or contact

Neglect - When there is a duty to do so, failing to provide an individual with any treatment, care, goods, or services that are necessary to maintain the health and safety of the individual.

Misappropriation - Depriving, defrauding or otherwise obtaining the real or personal property of an MRDD individual by illegal or fraudulent means.

Those mandated reporters listed in the Ohio Revised Code section 5123.61 to whom a finding of Failure to Report may pertain are: Any superintendent, board member, or employee of a county board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities; an administrator, board member, or employee of a residential facility, an administrator, board member, or employee of any other public or private provider of services to a person with mental retardation or a developmental disability, or any MRDD employee.

If you fall into any of the above categories, you have a legal obligation to report any suspected abuse (including misappropriation) or neglect of a consumer. If you fail to report, there may be legal consequences. The failure to report is a 4th degree misdemeanor, unless the abuse or neglect not reported is a felony, then the charge would be a 2nd degree misdemeanor.

So, as you can see it is important for all of the mandated reporters listed above to report any incident of abuse, neglect or misappropriation. This is not only because it is the best thing for the consumer, but also because it is the law.

Incidentally,
John

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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Lunch Menus for Murray Ridge Center

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

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May 12—16
June 2—6
June 23—27

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

April 28—May 2
May 19—23
June 9—13
June 30—July 4

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

May 5—9
May 26—30
June 16—20
July 7—11

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