

Honoring People Who Help People

Murray Ridge Center recently honored seventy-one employees for their many years of service to the organization. Murray Ridge is proud of the commitment shown by every member of the more than 500 person staff, all of whom have chosen to dedicate their lives to serving the interests of our consumers.

Among those recognized at the annual In-service was **David Babcock** for devoting thirty-five years to the organization. Also recognized were **Carolyn Bouillon** and **Barbara Jones**-two people who, for thirty years, have given their time and care to serve the interests of our consumers and their families. The earnest dedication of these employees to serving the mission of Murray Ridge Center is commendable.



*Pictured above: **Gary Lyons**, **David Babcock**, recipient of the 35-Year award, and **Amber Fisher**.*

Carolyn Bouillon began her career in 1977 with Murray Ridge Center as a live-in supervisor at Ohio House, which is now South Professor. Since then she has fully embraced our mission in her roles as Program Manager, Case Manager and Service and Support Administrator. In August 2004, Carolyn returned to direct care at the Lorain Work Activity Center as a Workshop Specialist, where she continues to work today. A strong consumer and family advocate, Carolyn exemplifies the Murray Ridge motto of *helping people*.



*Pictured above: **Richard Haase**, 30-Year Award recipient **Carolyn Bouillon**, **Al Sprague**, 30-Year Award recipient **Barbara Jones**, and **Amber Fisher**.*

Barbara Jones began her career with Murray Ridge as a social worker and liaison with Murray Ridge School in 1977. From the beginning, Barbara was always sincere and thorough in communicating with students, parents and other staff. Throughout the last 30 years, Barbara's emphasis has been on support systems-the importance of which comes across in all of her work. Her intelligence, wisdom and willingness to help whenever, and however, needed enriches the lives of all fortunate enough to know her.

Continued on page 2...

Inside this Issue:

Sherwin-Williams	2
Employee News	3
Board Room Briefing	3
Giving	5
Animals	5
Incidental Column	5
Menus	6

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please contact Racheal Seibert at 440-329-3734 or rseibert@loraincountymrdd.org.

Dave Babcock was hired in 1972 as a classroom teacher by the first Murray Ridge Center Superintendent, Lee Ignant, after graduating from Bowling Green State University. In 1975, after receiving his Masters degree from Cleveland State University, he became the first Habilitation Specialist in the Adult Services program. In this role, he drew upon his strong teaching skills as he taught a variety of functional and interpersonal relations classes for Murray Ridge consumers.

In 1978 Dave became a Work Evaluator doing vocational evaluations for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services program. After several years as an evaluator he returned to the workshop and eventually moved to LWAC. He became the first Behavior Support Specialist for the agency in 2003.

Described by others as "an all around nice guy," Dave has indeed inspired many in his 35 years with Murray Ridge Center.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the exceptional staff of Murray Ridge Center for devoting your lives to *helping people* every day.



*Pictured above: **Anastasia Agee** and **Danielle Burgess**, recipient of a Five-Years-of-Service Award.*

A Company that C. A. R. E. S.



*Pictured above: **Lee Diamond**, Cleveland Metro District Manager for The Sherwin-Williams Company, accepting the C. A. R. E. S. Award on behalf of the company.*

Each year, Murray Ridge Center recognizes an individual or organization that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping those who help the developmentally disabled. This year we recognize The Sherwin-Williams Company with

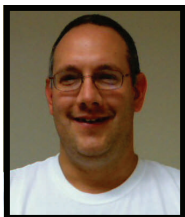
the 2007 C. A. R. E. S. Award. This award, which stands for Community Awareness, Recognition, Education and Service, is given to Sherwin-Williams for its outstanding support of Murray Ridge Center.

In 2007, Sherwin-Williams established the Friends of Murray Ridge account as part of its national "Neighbor to Neighbor" charitable donation program; under this plan, a portion of purchases at any of the nearly 4,000 Sherwin-Williams stores in the United States is donated to the Friends of Murray Ridge non-profit support group if the buyer shows their Friends of Murray Ridge Card or requests that the store recognize the account. This innovative plan provides buyers with 20% discounts on store items, and ongoing financial support of the Murray Ridge mission of helping people.

Also in 2007, Sherwin-Williams donated its professional design services to create a palette of colors proven to be successful in classrooms dedicated to reaching children with autism spectrum disorders. And if that wasn't enough, they also donated the paint required to make these remarkably colorful approaches to learning possible.

The Sherwin-Williams Company has a long history of philanthropic activity across the country and Murray Ridge Center is honored to be included in its charitable endeavors. On behalf of the people we serve, Murray Ridge extends its sincere thanks to The Sherwin-Williams Company!

New Positions Assumed



Previously a Program Assistant at Meister Home, **Ron Hauch** has been promoted to Program Supervisor at the home.



Wendy Reddinger, formerly a Group Home Aide at East College Home, has been hired as a Licensed Practical Nurse for the Meister Home.



Previously a Program Specialist at the Elyria Work Activity Center, **Mary Lynn Woodyard** has been hired as a Community Based Specialist at the Lorain Work Activity Center.

Seize the (Birth)day



Shirley Hollingsworth, Murray Ridge Center staff member for 12 years, laughs behind a decorated office door. Happy 60th, Shirley!

Board Room Briefing



At the October 15 meeting of the Lorain County Board of MR/DD:

Superintendent Fisher introduced a new Non-Medical Transportation Policy and a revised Drug Free Work Place Policy which were unanimously passed by the Board. The transportation policy reflects new administrative rules and the Drug Free Workplace reflected a focus on the substance of the policy, while eliminating some unnecessary document reproduction costs. Mr. Steve Decatur of Information Systems Integration Specialists and Mr. John Pouliot of Cisco Systems outlined the cost savings that a new telephony system could produce for the Board over a period of five years. The system would enhance messaging capabilities for internal and external customers, while eliminating a significant amount of monthly service charges. Mr. Glen Sazana, an independent insurance consultant, updated the Board on the agency's comprehensive review of its health coverage competitive bid process which was recently conducted. Seven vendors provided quotes for plans and Cigna was distinguished by its menu of benefits that either met or exceeded the current policy, but at less cost to the staff and agency. The Board moved to accept Cigna as the new health benefits insurance provider for the agency. Dr. Fisher informed the Board that it would be necessary for the agency to put either a renewal or replacement levy issue before Lorain County voters in the March 4, 2008 primary election. After outlining the economic pressures of rising costs in a number of agency areas over the next five years, the board unanimously resolved to seek a certification of the current levy's yield by the County Auditor—a first requirement in filing for a ballot issue. In other business, the Board resolved to pay the non-Federal Medicaid Match for 2008 and Dr. Fisher announced that the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD conference and delegate assembly will be held in Columbus, on Wednesday, December 5 through Friday, December 7.



November 2007

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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Murray Ridge Center Events

- 11/5—Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Rd., 4:15 p.m.
- 11/5—Special Olympics Award Banquet, Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center, 6:00 p.m.
- 11/12—Agency Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day
- 11/15—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 11/19—LCBMR/DD Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 8:00 p.m.
- 11/22-11/23—Agency Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/27—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 6:00 p.m.

A Pumpkin By Any Other Name



Friends **Jerome Tatum**, **Patrick Curry**, **Loretta Goodin**, and **Jean Knerien** enjoy the first days of autumn with a trip to Schuster's Pumpkin Patch in Elyria.



A History of Thanks

As we approach what is, for many, a favorite holiday, you may be interested to know more about the history of Thanksgiving Day.

The first day of thanksgiving occurred in 1621 to celebrate the first great harvest at Plymouth Rock. With the help of the Wampanoag tribe, the settlers learned how to cultivate and store corn and other native vegetables that would sustain them through the harsh New England winters. This original feast, occurring sometime between September 21 and November 11 lasted three days. Following that first harvest, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a "day of thanksgiving" to be shared by all of the colonists and neighboring Native Americans.

Over time, the custom of annually celebrating thanksgiving after the fall harvest gradually prevailed. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed the last Thursday in November to be a day of thanksgiving. It was not until 1941, 320 years after that first Thanksgiving feast, that congress passed a joint resolution declaring thanksgiving to be the fourth Thursday of November.

However—and *whenever*—you decide to give thanks, Murray Ridge Center would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!



'Tis Better to Give



*Pictured above: **Veronica Ruminski** and **Shirley Wires** show the bags they have prepared to cheer children dealing with illnesses.*

Teaching each of us that the spirit of *helping people* extends beyond the doors of Murray Ridge Center, the Young At Heart Seniors and the Red Hat Society from the Elyria Work Activity Center prepare goody bags for children with serious illnesses at the northeast Ohio Ronald McDonald House. The Seniors delivered the bags to the children on October 25, 2007.

Being Kind to Animals

Stephanie Snyder, Elyria Work Activity Center consumer, pictured below, gently pets a donkey while on an outing at Miller's Apple Hill in October.



The "Incidental" Column

Hello! Over the last couple of months we've talked a little about Major Unusual Incidents (MUI's). But what about that other category, the Unusual Incident (UI)? What's the difference? It might seem that an incident is an incident, right? Well, not ex-



John Syrowski

actly, and let me tell you why.

As part of an exercise in curiosity, I decided to research the generally accepted definitions of "unusual" and "incident." In everyday language, the word "unusual" means "uncommon" or "rare." And, the word "incident" means a "minor occurrence or condition." So, if you combine the two words, a general definition of a UI would be an "uncommon minor occurrence." This is pretty close to the ODMRDD definition of a UI: "an event or occurrence not consistent with routine operation, policies, procedures or the care and habilitation plan of an individual with mental retardation and/or other developmental disability, but does not meet the criteria of an MUI."

You may recall that, to be an MUI, an alleged, suspected or actual occurrence must reasonably be expected to result in harm to an individual. So, the difference between the two might be the difference between forgetting to offer a consumer a menu item or substitute for such, and giving a consumer a food item to which he or she has a known allergic reaction.

Often times UI's are submitted to Investigative Agents as "potential MUI's." In reviewing these UI's, we are able to recommend measures to prevent these concerns from escalating into incidents where individuals' health and safety are impacted.

Whether it's a UI or an MUI, we are all working together to make sure our consumers' needs are met.

Incidentally Yours,
John

Editor's Note: Over time we hope to feature a guest columnist on a occasional basis. It will give everyone an opportunity to know a little bit more about how different departments work to serve the mission of Murray Ridge.

Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Visit our Web site
www.loraincountymrdd.org



Lunch Menus for Murray Ridge Center

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.55, Adults = \$2.50

Week of November 5-9 And Week of November 26-29

Monday- Ham, 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

Week of November 12-16 And Week of December 3-7

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Wedges, 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, Jelly, Cookie

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

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

October 29-November 2 And Week of November 19-23

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