



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2015

Murray Ridge Center's Annual In-Service

On October 9, the staff of Murray Ridge Center came together to celebrate the men and women who work tirelessly each and every day in our school, Early Intervention Department, Adult Services programs, group homes, Service and Support Administration Department, and other administrative and support roles.

Superintendent Amber Fisher delivered the annual address, highlighting both the opportunities and changes ahead, and the importance of what has historically been provided by Murray Ridge Center. She said "It is where some of those we serve attended school, became adults, learned a majority of their life's lessons, made the majority of their friends, and worked on more types of jobs than most of us will perform in a lifetime. I believe that Murray Ridge is a place where our students can be superstars, where adult programs participants can take risks and pursue experiences within their own individual comfort zones, and where families can feel confident their loved ones with disabilities will be treated well and kept safe."

Superintendent Fisher then highlighted the successes of the Agency throughout the past year, and each department was asked to stand and be recognized.

Special recognition was given to individuals who this year reached the benchmark of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of dedication and service to our Murray Ridge consumers. Also recognized were some 100 staff members who contributed hundreds of volunteer hours, in addition to their regular duties throughout the year, to support the mission of Murray Ridge, and the 23 staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015. Congratulations to our amazing Murray Ridge staff!

Another notable acknowledgement was the presentation of the annual C.A.R.E.S. award. C.A.R.E.S. stands for Community Awareness, Recognition, Education, and Service. Every year, a C.A.R.E.S. award is presented in recognition of an individual or organization that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping people with

developmental disabilities. The 2015 C.A.R.E.S. award was given to Mega Championship Wrestling for its Breaking Down Barriers event held each May for Murray Ridge Center consumers, staff, and wrestling fans. This fundraiser benefits The Friends of Murray Ridge, and money raised from the events have helped assist Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities. Mega Championship Wrestling has raised almost \$7,000 in the five years they've held the show.

Superintendent Fisher ended the awards ceremony by thanking all of the staff members for their outstanding work throughout the year. As Superintendent Fisher noted, "Murray Ridge is an amazing place. It is where some of us have made the majority of our professional contributions...it is widely recognized that when you are on the Murray Ridge team you are part of a community that does amazing work with incredible individuals. It is a place where we can daily see the impact of our actions on the lives of others."



Mega Championship Wrestling representatives deliver a speech after the presentation of the C.A.R.E.S. award. Pictured (l-r): MCW staff Charles Bruce, Jim Nagy, and Jeff Traxler.

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30 years of service award recipients (top to bottom): Debbie Griffee with supervisor Gary Lyons; Jeff Camp; and Vicky Nagy with supervisor Linda Lapp and Superintendent Amber Fisher.

Throughout the past year...

Early Intervention:

- Expanded involvement in Autism Diagnosis Education Project and PLAY (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) Program
- Began partnership with local Help Me Grow staff to pilot a Primary Service Provider Model

Murray Ridge School:

- Continued traditions such as Murray Ridge 500, Veggie U, prom, and talent shows, and started new traditions like Senior Day and the Romp n' Stomp Race.
- Was a leader in Ohio's Employment First Initiative with the CREW, a simulated job program for students preparing for the workforce, as well as the arrangement this past year for many students to participate in community-based work

Opportunity/Vocational Centers:

- Exploring more community-based model of service delivery
- Working with Project STIR to train consumers on self-advocacy
- Displayed artwork at libraries and Metro Park locations

Supported Employment:

- Helped 34 individuals secure competitive jobs in 2015, thus far
- Convened a Supported Employment Advisory Committee made up of 17 local leaders to assist with identifying and finding employment for consumers
- Added three new enclaves with the Nutrition Group, the Avon Department of Parks and Recreation, and Green Impressions

Residential staff:

- Continued to provide excellent services to residents, and assisted some residents to transition into supported living settings

Service and Support Administration

- Developed one-page profiles for consumers to show individual values and the basic support the consumer needs
- Enrolled 17 individuals with intensive needs onto the Individual Option Waiver, implemented new Medicaid Level of Care determination process, completed 29 provider compliance reviews, and conducted 25 provider trainings and five trainings for parents

Administrative Departments:

- IS Department streamlined administrative processes
- Business Department met multiple challenges in the area of payroll processing
- Nursing Department continued to address highly specialized health needs of consumers
- Human Resources ensured personnel functions were handled smoothly and appropriately, and achieved a perfect outcome at the recent accreditation review
- Public Relations Department continued to solicit media coverage of our many activities and breadth of services
- Maintenance implemented a number of key projects to keep our buildings in good repair



MURRAY RIDGE CENTER CHORALEERS

Book Your Performance!

The Choraleers are prepped and ready to perform!

The Murray Ridge Choraleers have become a popular performing group for concerts, civic clubs, and special events throughout the county. Through singing and entertaining, the Choraleers provide insight into Lorain County citizens with Developmental Disabilities and the programs available at Murray Ridge.

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, commonly known as Murray Ridge Center, has been providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities since 1967. The Board currently serves more than 2,000 Lorain County citizens in Early Intervention, Murray Ridge School, and Opportunity and Vocational Centers. Murray Ridge also provides residential services, family support services, supported employment, and Service and Support Administration.

If you are interested in booking a Choraleers performance, please contact Amber Fitzgerald at the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center at 440.284.2720 or by email at afitzgerald@murrayridgecenter.org.



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Local High Schools Offer Fun Afternoon Events for Students at Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge School students have received some incredible visits from high school groups this past month.

On October 7, Murray Ridge School welcomed baseball and softball players from Amherst Steele High School. More than 20 young men and women spent the afternoon playing catch, hitting the ball, and fielding for our amazing student athletes at Murray Ridge. This opportunity was the idea of Murray Ridge School classroom aide Matt Rositano, who is also an assistant baseball coach for the Amherst Steele boys' team. Bringing the Amherst teams to MRS allows for interaction between both groups of students, and helps those in the community better understand the amazing abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

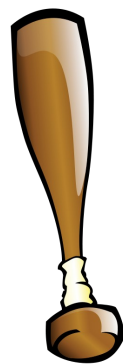
Members from the Vermilion High School football team and cheerleading squad visited Murray Ridge School on October 23 as part of its Victory Day, a program developed in 2010 as a way to help children with developmental disabilities learn football and cheerleading skills, and have the opportunity to interact with local high school students.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Robert Duray, the teams from Vermilion High School led almost 100 students from Murray Ridge School in a variety of skills stations that helped them learn passing, catching, and agility. They also held a mock game where students had the opportunity to run the ball. Additionally, a ceremony was held at the end, and Murray Ridge School students were given medals and mini Vermilion High School footballs for their participation.

This was the school's second year working with Murray Ridge School, and students and staff from both Murray Ridge and Vermilion High schools were excited for a repeat of 2014's successful event!

"This event is a great platform for students with disabilities to engage with their peers, and both seem to benefit greatly," said Murray Ridge Center Director of Education Dann Swift.

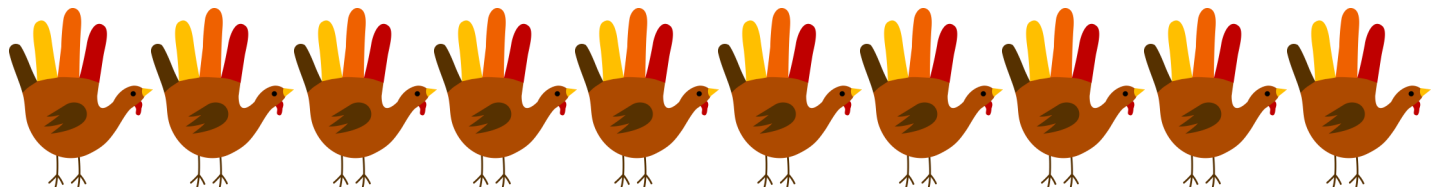
Thank you to both Amherst Steele and Vermilion High School for providing our Murray Ridge School students with fun and memorable events! We look forward to seeing you back next year!



Above, left: Members of the Amherst Steele baseball/softball teams. Below, left: Evey Rodgers, Shawn Selmon, Kendric Warner, Sean McCaffrey, Jennifer Sislowski, Tiffany Demyan, and Loryn Caso pose with the ASHS athletes. Middle: Shaun Tidmore with ASHS baseball players. Upper right: Jaquan Warren hits the ball.



Left: Vermilion High School coach presents Alana Smale with a medal. Below left: Sean McCaffrey kicks the ball with the help of a football player. Below middle: Jaquan Warren and Gus McKee prep for the big game with some Vermilion cheerleaders! Right: Brandon Rivera gives a mock arm to a Vermilion football player while running the ball!



D.E.I. Gifts T-shirts to the LOVC

On October 30, consumers at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) were surprised with a t-shirt delivery from one of its job suppliers, D.E.I. (Design Engineering, Inc.).

Founded in 1995, D.E.I. is fast becoming the leader in Heat Protective Technology for the performance racing industry. It provides in excess of 100 heat protection and performance enhancing products used in NASCAR and other professional race divisions. The LOVC works on 107 different jobs for DEI.

Because of their hard work and dedication, D.E.I. wanted to thank the consumers by donating t-shirts to the entire OVC, saying that they couldn't run D.E.I. without our Murray Ridge workers. Thank you, D.E.I. for this generous gift!



Alexshawn Averet and Carmen Perez show off their new shirts donated by D.E.I.

Murray Ridge Honors Special Olympic Athletes at Annual Ceremony

At Murray Ridge Center's annual Special Olympics awards banquet on November 2, athletes were honored for their participation throughout the year in more than nine sports.

The evening's keynote speaker was the unforgettable Olivia Sliman, whose memorable speech included dancing, singing, juggling, and riding a unicycle!

At the awards banquet, notable achievements throughout the year were recognized, and each athlete was awarded a Special Olympics bag with the Murray Ridge Special Olympics logo imprinted on the front.

At Murray Ridge, we strive to assist all of the individuals we serve to master skills, and we are thankful to the staff members and volunteers who take the time to coach, mentor, and support our athletes in the many competitions throughout the year.

Congratulations to all Special Olympics athletes! Murray Ridge is proud of all you've accomplished and looks forward to celebrating many victories in the years to come!



Left: Keynote speaker Olivia Sliman rides a unicycle with help from a friend while delivering her speech. Above: Tracey Lewis presents athlete Brian Austin with a plaque commemorating his 2015 Hall of Fame induction. Below: Board member Dan White shakes hands with athlete Kevin Plata as he presents him with his gift for participating in the Special Olympics this year.





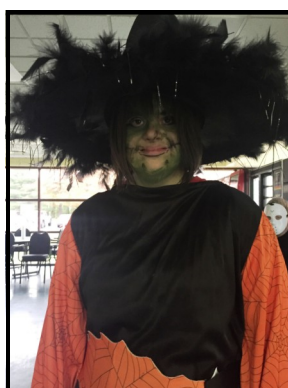
November 2015

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					

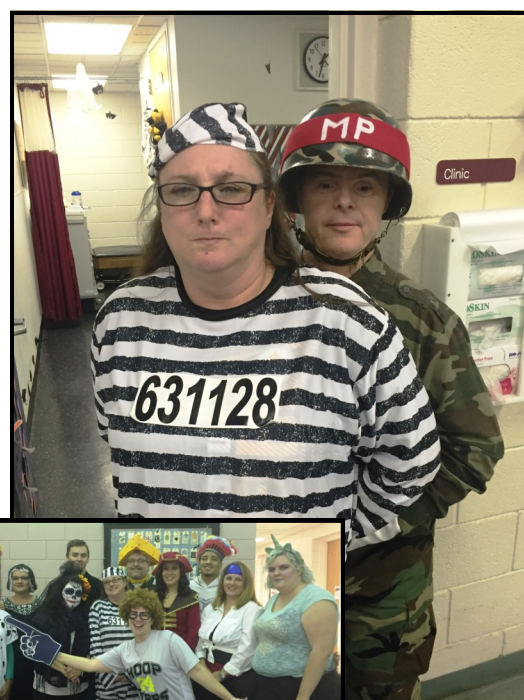
Activities & Events

- 11/2 - Special Olympics Banquet, Spitzer Conference Center at LCCC, 6:30 pm
- 11/8 - Murray Ridge Center Inland Trail Marathon
- 11/10 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 11/11 - **Agency closed for Veteran's Day holiday**
- 11/12 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 11/18 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 11/20 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 11/20 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at the Murray Ridge School
- 11/25 - **Murray Ridge School closed for day before Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/26 - **Agency closed for Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/27 - **Agency closed for day after Thanksgiving Day**

Halloween Fun at our Opportunity/Vocational Centers!



Upper left: Stephanie Budweg shows her scary side. Upper right: Nurse Marty Wells gets arrested by John Hall. Middle: Witches Maria Polong, and Megan Vanhooose pose with cop Becky Sue Burianek at the EOVC! Lower left: EOVC staff member Joaquin Page shows off his stripes. Lower right: OOVC staff are in the Halloween spirit!



Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with 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 Heather Gurchik, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach her by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

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by email, please visit
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and click on the
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