



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2016

Murray Ridge Honors Special Olympic Athletes at Annual Ceremony

At Murray Ridge Center's annual Special Olympics awards banquet on November 7, athletes were honored for their participation throughout the year in more than nine sports.

The evening's keynote speaker was Brian Chulik, current President of Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio, along with many other notable accomplishments. Brian's speech was heartfelt, and in it he called upon each person in the audience to find people who support them. "It is always very wise to surround yourself with people who have your best interest at heart," Brian said. "No person can experience success on their own."

At the awards banquet, exceptional achievements throughout the year were recognized. The inaugural Sportsman of the Year award was given to Kurt Karis for his displays of excellent sportsmanship, and Mike Urban's name was added to the Hall of Fame banner for his success in Special Olympics aquatics. Each athlete was called up - sometimes multiple times! - by sport and team, and awarded a Special Olympics tumbler 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,



The Murray Ridge Soccer Team (above) and Softball Team 1 (below) are recognized for their state champion wins this year!



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!

Below, Left: Brian Chulik gives his keynote speech. Center: Mike Urban thanks the crowd for his induction in the Hall of Fame. Right: Kurt Karis shakes hands with John Syrowski while accepting the Sportsman of the Year award.



Murray Ridge Center's Annual In-Service

On October 14, 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, Residential Department, Service and Support Administration Department, and other administrative and support roles.

Superintendent Amber Fisher delivered the annual address, highlighting the challenges ahead, and the opportunities they present. "Uncertainty about what's to come and how to accomplish what's expected can make us feel vulnerable and confused, but our strong experience and support of one another can enable us to face these challenges with courage, confidence, and creativity. We should not acquiesce to bad ideas, but we should be willing to think outside the box to find new solutions. With open minds and a strategic, trial-and-error approach, we can be leaders in bringing about positive change."

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, and 25, 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 20 staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016. Congratulations to our amazing Murray Ridge staff!

Other notable acknowledgements were the presentations of the annual C.A.R.E.S. award and Volunteer of the Year 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 2016 C.A.R.E.S. award was given to the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC), a non-profit housing board formed in January of 1992 for the purpose of providing financing, acquisition, and management of housing in Lorain County for individuals with developmental

disabilities. During the past two years, MRHC assisted Murray Ridge by purchasing homes to rent to individuals who had previously resided in LCBDD group homes; MRHC worked tirelessly to contribute to a smooth transition for our residents. Collectively, the homes owned by MRHC provide safe and affordable housing for more than 100 individuals with developmental disabilities. All 28 homes are located in traditional residential neighborhoods throughout Lorain County.

Each year, a volunteer is nominated to receive The Marilyn Hupfer Volunteer of the Year Award; this distinction is in honor of the example inspired by Mrs. Hupfer during her time with Murray Ridge Center.

This year Murray Ridge honored Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio, a non-profit organization whose entire goal is to perform random acts of kindness for children facing adversity.

With more than 25 super heroes working within the group, Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio makes costumed visits to children's hospitals, special needs centers, and various charitable events throughout the area. Through its visits, these caped crusaders bring joy and awe to the children with whom they are visiting, and encourage others in the community to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

These super heroes have been particularly generous to Murray Ridge Center, with repeat appearances at many events at both Murray Ridge School and our Opportunity and Vocational Centers. Additionally, the group hosted a very successful fundraiser on September 25 at Strongsville Hobby in Elyria, where many organizations contributed time, donations, and goods to make a memorable and fun event for children, and a monetary donation to Murray Ridge School for the purchase of much-needed Epi Pens. Thank you Super Heroes!

Superintendent Fisher ended the awards ceremony by thanking all of the staff members for their outstanding work throughout the year, and reflecting on the Agency's 50 year anniversary which takes place in 2017. "At fifty, you can take pride in what you've done, be sure of what you know, and feel excitement about what lies ahead. There's no time like now to make the most of it. I look forward to working with you to make the most of the year



Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio don their capes at the Murray Ridge Special Olympics Sports Banquet. They are part of the organization that was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Agency In-Service.

Right: 25 year service award recipients Sue Kotris (with supervisor Jill Camp), Karen Bodiford (with supervisor Christine Ash), and Angel Lopez (with supervisor Gregg Heiden), and Superintendent Amber Fisher.



Left: Murray Ridge Housing Corporation member Les Spike accepts the C.A.R.E.S. Award from Dr. Fisher. Right: members of the Murray Ridge Center Riches Committee smile as they worked the crowd before the In-Service began.



Vermilion High School Brings 3rd Annual Victory Day to Students at Murray Ridge School

Members from the Vermilion High School football team and cheerleading squad visited Murray Ridge School on October 20 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. This was the school's third year working with Murray Ridge School, and students and staff from both schools were excited for a repeat of 2014 and 2015's successful events!

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.

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



Above, left: Isabell Quintanilla plays catch with a member of the Vermilion football team. Above, right: Diane Davis shows off her uniform. Below, left: Emanuel Campos performs drills. Below, right: Brynne Diedrick, Stephanie Jackson, and Annessa Pugh cheer with the high school squad.



Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge

Will Taylor (right, pictured with Board member Dan White), Adult Program Aide at Murray Ridge Center, was presented with the Exceptional Service Award at an Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center staff meeting on October 27th. Will's nominators, family of adult program participant Stacie Brush, said in the nomination letter, "This particular man needs to be recognized for the important role he plays in our life. He is a man who takes the time to communicate about Stacie's day. He genuinely shows compassion and interest for the consumers in Stacie's area. He's professional and he is genuine."

Congratulations, Will, on receiving this award! Murray Ridge Center thanks you for your exceptional service and dedication to those we serve!



THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!

Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:

- * Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- * Conduct fundraisers
- * Address special financial needs of consumers
- * Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

M R S G

For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquin Page at 440.453.2576.

Murray Ridge Travelling Art Show Kicks off Fourth Year at Ritter Public Library in Vermilion

Murray Ridge is proud to continue showcasing the amazing artwork created by adults in our Opportunity/Vocational Centers, and students who attend Murray Ridge School. Now entering its fourth year, the Travelling Art Show can be seen at the following libraries throughout the year:

Ritter (Vermilion): November
Lorain South Branch: December
Domonkas (Sheffield Lake): January
North Ridgeville: February
Elyria: March
Avon Lake: April
Oberlin: May



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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November 2016

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

- 11/6 - Murray Ridge Center Inland Trail Marathon
- 11/7 - Special Olympics Banquet, Spitzer Conference Center at LCCC, 6:30 pm
- 11/8 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 11/9 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 11/11 - **Agency closed for Veteran's Day holiday**
- 11/16 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 11/18 - Murray Ridge Parent Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at Murray Ridge School
- 11/23 - **Murray Ridge School closed for day before Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/24 - **Agency closed for Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/25 - **Agency closed for day after Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/28 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria