



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

November 2017

Murray Ridge Center Holds Annual Agency In-Service

On October 20, 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 many successes Murray Ridge Center has had the past year and what we have to look forward to in the future. "In the year ahead, key goals will be, within resource constraints, to continue to prepare and assist those we serve to be part of the community, to prepare and assist the community to embrace people with developmental disabilities, and to inform the public about the important work of Murray Ridge Center." Superintendent Fisher also introduced the new Agency video; staff were delighted to be the first to view it!

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 staff members who had perfect attendance from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. 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 2017 C.A.R.E.S. award was given to The Friendship Animal Protective League.

The Friendship APL is a private, independent, non-profit humane society founded in Elyria in 1957. The APL owns and operates the largest animal shelter in Lorain County. Murray Ridge consumers have been working with the APL since July of 2016. We have volunteered there more than 532 hours with 28 of our consumers putting in volunteer hours! And all three of our Opportunity and Vocational Centers have donation drives with collections of homemade cat and dog treats, money, and supplies given to the APL. In the words of Greg Willey (right, with Superintendent Fisher), Executive Director for the APL, "Murray Ridge consumers' hard work allows my staff to focus more of their attention on the animals at the shelter. Their dedication to making our shelter look nicer makes the adoption process better for our potential adopters."



And while our volunteer work has helped in keeping with the APL's mission, it is through the acceptance of Murray Ridge volunteers that the APL has helped our staff learn how to work with animals, forge friendships with community members, and be "in the community, and of the community" by volunteering with the organization.

Each year at the in-service, a volunteer receives The Marilynn 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 Michelle Hunt (right, with Superintendent Fisher), President of the Board, with the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Michelle is currently serving the last year of her third term as a member of the LCBDD. Throughout her time on the Board, she has gone above and beyond her duties as Board President to immerse herself in the Murray Ridge community by continuously fighting for the rights of those it serves and taking active roles in the many activities and events hosted by Murray Ridge.

Michelle works enthusiastically with Murray Ridge cheerleaders, participates tirelessly as a member of the Murray Ridge Support Group, and has advocated with legislators to support the interests of those we serve. Recently, Michelle coordinated our 50th anniversary celebration, an enormous undertaking.

Her fellow Board members wholeheartedly supported Hunt receiving this award, saying "She has raised the bar for all who have any involvement with Murray Ridge. She deserves this award one hundred times over."

Superintendent Fisher ended the awards ceremony by thanking all of the staff members for their outstanding work throughout the year, "Again, thank you all so very much for what you do every day. I don't think there's a better team anywhere."



Above, 20 year award recipients smile with their supervisors.



Top, left: Jerry Smith, Kevin Donoughe , and Larry Schuman get ready for a fun day! Top, right: RICHES committee members Natalie Skiba, Samantha Shaw, Kristin Dickerhoff, Starr Price, and Paul Doseck. Middle, right: Our 25 years of service award recipients with their supervisors! Judy Hartung (supervisor) with Mo Silvis, Keith Rawlinson with supervisor Rich Haase, and Gary Lyons (supervisor) with Jim Nagy. Middle, left: Mike Dougall, one of our 30 year award recipients, poses with his supervisor Jodi Denes. Bottom, right: Our other 30 year award recipient, Tracey Carroll, poses with her plaque.

Happy 50th to Murray Ridge!

On September 30th, the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSG) held a celebration to recognize the 50 years that Murray Ridge Center has been providing lifelong services to Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities.

The evening featured dinner, dancing, slide shows, and speeches from Superintendent Amber Fisher and Board President and MRSG member Michelle Hunt. More than 300 individuals who are served by, or have worked with and/or for Murray Ridge were in attendance. Thank you to the Murray Ridge Support Group for recognizing this very big milestone!



Above, left: Angel Rivera and Michelle Lott dance the night away! Above, right: Clayton Rhodehamel, Kaytie Corbett, Carlton Mitchell, Christine Ash, Kara Zudell, and Ray Kelley. Middle, left: Maria Poling smiles during dinner. Bottom, left: The Murray Ridge Support Group! Sherry and Brian Chutes, Joaquin Page, Michelle Hunt, Cindy and Gray Worzel, Penni Shuster, and Karen and Dave Moore. Below, right: Jodie and Lori Stump.





Above, left: Mark Oliveras dances with a friend. Above, right, Kara Zudell, her mom, Mary Zudell, and Kara's sister Jillian (back) share a laugh! Left, Diane Porchillo, Todd Bernabale, and David Zsigray smile before dinner. Below, right: Kimberly Hermann. Bottom, left: Board President Michelle Hunt with MRSG President Joaquin Page.



Important Weather-Related Announcements

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, and on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, as it has in the past. **There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:**

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**



Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School."

Conversely, adult consumers who attend our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and their parents/caregivers should disregard the "Murray Ridge School" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers."

If "Open—No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers," parents/caregivers are welcome to transport adult consumers to their day service sites. Regular programming will be provided. Consumers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to transport individuals to Murray Ridge Center will be based on the ability of our buses to travel safely on city and county roads. Regardless of whether or not transportation is available through Murray Ridge Center, if our Opportunity/Vocational Centers are open, but there is an individual concern about the weather, adult consumers should feel free to stay home. Likewise, parents/caregivers of Murray Ridge School students who have individual concerns regarding the weather should feel free to keep their child at home, even if school is in session.

Please be aware that transportation to enclave sites is generally available even if transportation to the Opportunity/Vocational Centers is cancelled. Murray Ridge Center does not broadcast the status of enclave transportation on the television or radio. Consumers should assume that enclave transportation will be available unless they receive a phone call from a member of our Supported Employment Department.

Happy Halloween From Murray Ridge Center!



Murray Ridge had a great time celebrating Halloween at our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and at Murray Ridge School. Pictured: left, Cathy Duncan (staff) & Betsy Schneider, below: Sarah Whorton, Emilie Grosel & Theresa Ramos, and right: Evey Rodgers and Christian Martin.



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



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

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035


Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



Standard Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 146
Elyria, OH 44035



November 2017

| 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

- 11/5 - Murray Ridge Center Inland Trail Marathon
- 11/8 - Special Olympics Banquet, Spitzer Conference Center at LCCC, 6:30 pm
- 11/8 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 11/10 - **Agency closed for Veteran's Day holiday**
- 11/15 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 11/15 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 11/17 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at the Murray Ridge School
- 11/22 - **Murray Ridge School closed for day before Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/23 - **Agency closed for Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/24 - **Agency closed for day after Thanksgiving Day**
- 11/27 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria