



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

October 2014

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Murray Ridge Center will once again be participating in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. Murray Ridge Center's Supported Employment Program provides services to assist individuals to choose, obtain, and maintain employment in the community through two channels:

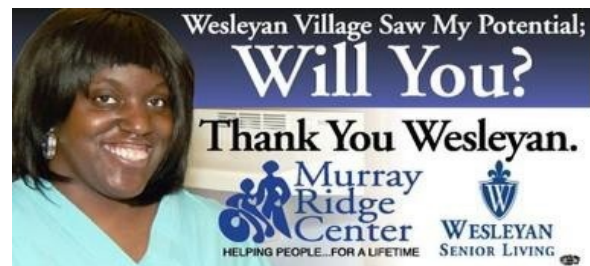
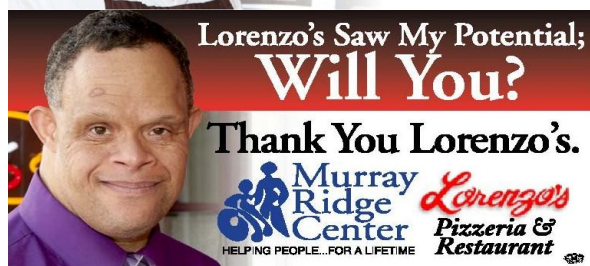
- **Community Employment (Competitive Job Placement Model)** - Individuals are assisted to identify and apply for local job openings that match their skills and interests. Our staff assists local employers that hire people with developmental disabilities to access various employment incentives and, if necessary, to "carve out" duties that are well matched to individual skills. Murray Ridge staff then go to new jobs with program participants to help them adjust to the work environment and master job duties, which may include the use of available transportation to get to work. Murray Ridge staff "fade out" as competitively-employed individuals achieve independence on the job.

- **Supervised Work Crew (Enclave Model)** - The Murray Ridge Production Center (MRPC) secures contracts to perform jobs for local businesses. Based on skills and interests of program participants interested in supported employment, individuals are assigned to work on crews that fulfill MRPC contracts. Enclaves are supervised by Murray Ridge staff who assist eligible individuals with their personal needs and ensure high quality work for the local businesses that contract with MRPC.

Murray Ridge Center is proud to salute the nearly 800 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the local workforce, and the more than 100 local businesses that provide jobs for these individuals. Through its three Opportunity and Vocational Centers, supported employment sites, and community employment program, Murray Ridge Center continues to focus on finding and placing individuals in positions where they can grow and excel in today's competitive job market.

## Bus Bench Campaign a Success!

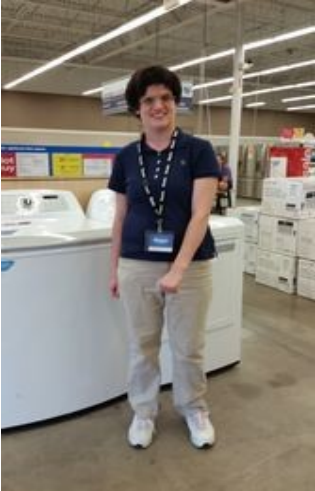
The Community Employment department began utilizing bus bench advertising throughout Lorain County to increase public awareness of Murray Ridge Center's Supported Employment services, recognize businesses that currently employ individuals with developmental disabilities, and solicit/encourage additional businesses to hire Murray Ridge program participants. **Please consider how your business could benefit from the Murray Ridge Supported Employment Program.**



# Community Employment Spotlight

Proof that the new Community Employment benches are working for Murray Ridge Center can be found in the stories below.

Upon seeing our Community Employment benches, Rick Vicens, General Manager for Sears Hardware in Amherst, called us seeking employees to hire. Three program participants were interviewed and all three were hired!



## Ashley Spradling

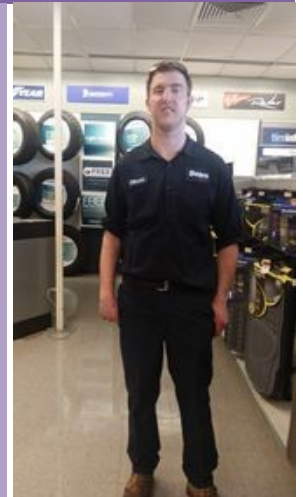
Ashley Spradling was hired and started working at Sears Hardware and Appliances in Amherst on June 23, 2014. She works Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, greeting customers and stocking shelves. Ashley walks to her job, which is about a half mile from her home.

When Ashley is not working at Sears, she works part-time at the Cutting Dynamics Incorporated enclave in Avon and the Port Authority Enclave in Lorain, and also attends our Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center.

## Elliot Van Curen

Elliott has always wanted to work in the automotive business. Carol Wallace, a member of the Murray Ridge Job Placement staff, assisted Elliott to fulfill his dream. On August 9, 2014, Elliott was hired and started a job at Sears Automotive in Elyria as a battery and tire changer.

His boss, Tom, says he really likes Elliott because he is a dedicated worker and is very enthusiastic about his work. Elliott hopes to work at Sears for many years to come. Elliott says he loves working on cars and helping people.



## Tyler Novosielski

Tyler Novosielski was very enthusiastic about starting a competitive job and, with the help of Murray Ridge Center Job Placement staff Carol Wallace and Mike Dougall, he succeeded in obtaining a job at Sears Hardware and Appliances in Elyria, where he does stocking and facing work. Tyler is very happy at his new job.

Tyler's dad is a mechanic, so Tyler puts the knowledge he gained working with his dad to the test as he works with all the tools Sears Hardware has to offer. He loves his new job and hopes to add more responsibilities down the line.



# 'Tis the Season for the Cold and Flu

How do you know if you have the symptoms of a cold or of the flu? Here is a helpful guide!

## Symptom

Fever

Cough

Chest Discomfort

Sore Throat

Sneezing

Stuffy Nose

Exhaustion

Fatigue

Aches/pains

Headache

## Cold

rarely

coughing

mild to moderate

common

common

common

never

mild

mild

rarely

## Flu

100-102 degrees (lasting 3-4 days)

severe cough

mild to moderate

sometimes

sometimes

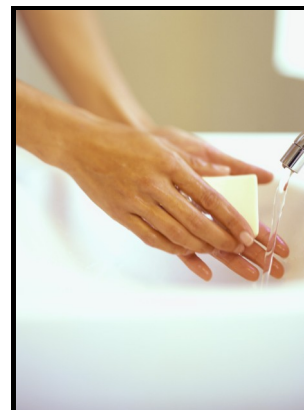
sometimes

early and severe

can last several weeks

severe

can be severe and last several weeks



Recommendations to stay healthy and prevent the spread of illness:

1. Wash hands frequently and thoroughly.
2. Encourage others to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly.
3. Cough or sneeze into a tissue. You can use your sleeve on your upper arm.
4. Regularly disinfect surfaces and items, such as door knobs, phones, and items people touch often.
5. Keep alcohol based sanitizers nearby.

## East College Resident Donates Hair to Locks of Love

For the second time in her life, Murray Ridge Center Adult Program participant and East College Group Home resident Sarah Ward donated 12" of hair to Locks of Love!

Sarah, who has been with Murray Ridge Center for 14 years, has been growing her hair out for some time in order to obtain the length requirements to donate to Locks of Love. "I knew it was time to get it cut, and I wanted to donate again!"

Sarah's big haircut came from a student at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School who visits the East College Group Home every few weeks to provide hair cuts for the residents.

Sarah is happy with the results, and can't wait for the chance to donate again someday. "I'll do it again...grow it out and donate. It makes me happy."

Sarah smiles in her before and after pictures!.



## Now Accepting Nominations for the Murray Ridge Center Exceptional Service Award

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Jennifer Judkins, Public Relations/Volunteer Director. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).





## 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.

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 Community Employment program.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222



## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on September 26, 2014:**

The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter of 2014. Superintendent Amber Fisher presented on the Medicaid Match costs of the Agency for 2015. The Board unanimously passed a new Employment First Policy, and an amendment to the Strategic Plan establishing targets and strategies related to community employment. In other news, the Board nominated Michelle Hunt as the new Advocacy Chair. Additionally, meeting dates were identified for the Budget and Human Resources Committee, Special Olympics Committee, and the Public Relations Committee. The Murray Ridge Support Group dance will be held on October 24; all are invited to come in costume.

# October 2014

## Activities & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4	10/9 - Murray Ridge Parent Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m. at the EOVC
5	6	7	8	9 	10	11	10/13 - Columbus Day, Agency Closed for Holiday
12	13 	14	15	16	17 	18	10/17 - Agency Inservice Day, Agency Closed
19	20	21	22	23	24 	25	10/24 - Murray Ridge Parent Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at the Murray Ridge School
26	27	28	29 	30	31 		10/29- Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmmary Road in Elyria
							* There is no Board Meeting this month.

## Woolybear 2014

Murray Ridge Center Program Participants, staff, caregivers, family, and friends represented Murray Ridge Center at the 2014 Woolybear Festival Parade in Vermilion on September 28. Thank you to all those who came out to march and spread the word on MRC!



## Murray Ridge Annual In-service is October 17!

The annual employee In-service promises to be an entertaining and educational day for all.

## OOVC Attendee Wins Big at Lorain County Fair!

Linda Wells, and adult program attendee from the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center, has been crocheting (one needle) and knitting (two needles) for more than 40 years, ever since her grandmother taught her when Linda was 16 years old! This year, after working on her Ripple Pattern Afghan for two weeks, Linda entered and won 3rd place at the Lorain County Fair! The afghan, which uses a nine-stitch pattern, will be a Christmas gift for her Aunt.

Congratulations, Linda!

Right: Linda poses with her award-winning afghan and 3rd place ribbon.



Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

**Murray Ridge Center**  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://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 Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

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