



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

October 2015

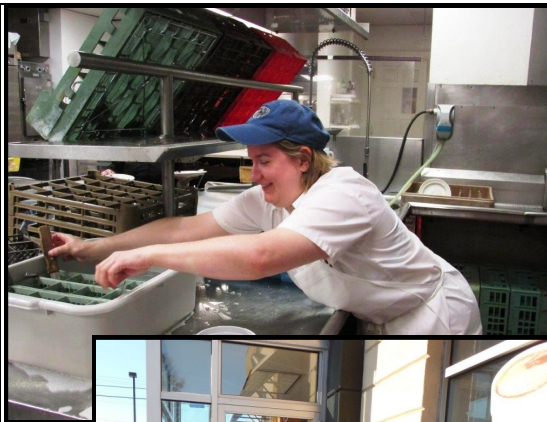
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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 1,000 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 supported 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.



Some of our MRC Supported Employment workers! Left: Tracey Horn at Kmart. Top middle: Amy Trigilio at Elyria Country Club. Bottom right, Benji Lewis at Dunkin' Donuts.

Consumer Spotlight:

People of Lorain County can breathe easier knowing Timothy Christian is on the streets, watching for danger and helping those in need.

After graduating from Elyria High School in 2002, Tim, as his friends and family call him, began attending Murray Ridge's Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC). Today, he works in the EOVC cafeteria, preparing for and cleaning up after lunch. But Tim feels his real job, and the most important one, lies outside of the Murray Ridge walls.

Tim has spent the last six years helping others. In 2009, he earned his CPR/First Aid certification, and has been re-certified every two years since. His reasoning for this certification was simple: to be of assistance should anyone need him. "If my mom and dad get sick," Tim said, "I'll know how to help them before other help can arrive."

And help he does! Over the years, Tim's dedication to helping others has allowed him to work with local agencies, such as the Red Cross, and with his local Neighborhood Watch Program. He has also helped Kathy Justy, a Murray Ridge staff member and Lead Instructor of the EMT Course at LifeCare EMS Training Academy in Elyria. The course is designed for firemen, police, metro park rangers, and others who may be first on the scene of an emergency. It is an intensive course that teaches the life saving skills needed to stabilize a patient until an EMS squad arrives. Tim received a certificate for completing the course, although he did not get certified for the training; he simply wanted the knowledge to help his family, friends, and the community.

Tim assists Kathy in training EMT students during medical and trauma field days as well as during practical (hands on) testing; he portrays a patient with either a medical or trauma issue.

Tim smiles and shows off his Certificate of Completion from his EMT course, which was taught by MRC staff member Kathy Justy.

"I appreciate the way that Tim interacts with my Emergency Medical Technician students," Kathy said. "He knows as much about securing c-spine and back boarding a patient as they do! I am very proud of him for his block watch commitment and for his help with the Red Cross. He keeps his eyes open and his ear to the ground, and he is always looking out for others."

Tim's dedication to his work prompted the purchase of a personal scanner, which allows him to listen for calls and be the first on the scene if he hears of an accident nearby. His most recent situation came after he heard a scanner call about a car hopping the curb. Tim was able to go to the scene, call 9-1-1, and talk with the victims to ensure their safety and well-being.

"I want to have a chance to save people's lives...and maybe give them a second chance to be with their families," Tim said. "I feel happy helping people."



Murray Ridge Annual In-service is October 9!

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

The agency offices will be closed.

'Tis the Season for the Cold and Flu

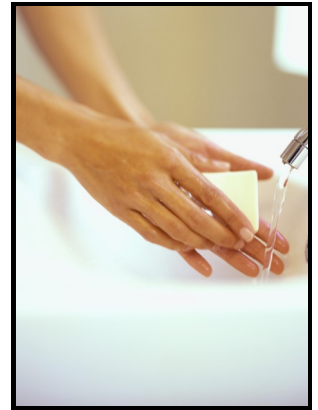
How do you know if you have the symptoms of a cold or of the flu? Here is a helpful guide!

Symptom

Cold

Flu

Fever	rarely	100-102 degrees (lasting 3-4 days)
Cough	hacking	severe cough
Chest Discomfort	mild to moderate	mild to moderate
Sore Throat	common	sometimes
Sneezing	common	sometimes
Stuffy Nose	common	sometimes
Exhaustion	never	early and severe
Fatigue	mild	can last several weeks
Aches/pains	mild	severe
Headache	rarely	can be severe and last several weeks



Recommendations to stay healthy and prevent the spread of illness:

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

A Colorful Day at Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge School held it's first Romp n' Stomp Race on September 25.

Students and staff ran the "race track" in front of the school, while colorful (and safe) powder was showered upon them.

Students couldn't wait to show off their fun decorations and rainbow shirts! Thank you to all staff and volunteers who made this event a success!



Pictured upper left: Volunteer "color throwers" (l-r) Jay, Julie Peterson, Julie Knoble, Nicole Sauer, Trish Myers, and Stacie Starr. Middle: Students and staff (l-r) Joshua Ivancic, Zachary Mutnansky, Leah Buzzelli, Jason Yee, Steven Pryor, Addison Rodgers, and Kelly Kinkopf! Far right: Evey Rodgers and Jalaysia Brown are all smiles as they run the race.

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.



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.

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 2015. Superintendent Amber Fisher discussed the Agency's plan for 2016 to recruit providers and reduce the number of individuals who receive waiver services from the county board; submission of a plan addressing these issues is being required by the Ohio Department of DD. In other news, the Board nominated Michelle Hunt to serve as the delegate for the annual assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards; Superintendent Fisher will be the alternate. Additionally, the 2015 Organizational Meeting date was set for January 29, 2016, and upcoming meetings of the Budget and HR Committee, the Special Olympics Committee, and the Public Relations Committee were discussed. The Murray Ridge Support Group dance will be held on October 30; all are invited to come in costume.



October 2015

Activities & Events

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

Murray Ridge Center Honors Volunteer of the Year

Dr. Jeffrey Buckley of Oberlin was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award on September 21 by students from Murray Ridge School for his years of volunteerism with Murray Ridge Center.

Each fall, Dr. Buckley brings his horses and ponies to Murray Ridge School for a hands on experience for students, staff, and attendees of our Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center. These gentle creatures spend hours interacting with students, allowing for feeding and petting by interested children.

Thank you, Dr. Buckley, for your continued volunteer service throughout the years!



Pictured l-r: Brynne Diedrick, Shawn Selmon, Dr. Buckley, Obed Robledo, Sean McCaffrey, and Jalaysia Brown.

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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