



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

October 2011

Congratulations Kathy Bevaque FASD Advocate of the Year

As a facilitator of the training series Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Kathy Bevaque has helped hundreds of parents, caregivers, and professionals understand FASD and how to help those living with the disability. She has mentored, motivated, encouraged, and inspired these individuals. She has tailored courses to her audience – working with enrollees to ensure that each walks away with practical and beneficial information. She supports the Ohio FASD Initiative Mission, oftentimes putting the needs of those she serves above her own.



Kathy Bevaque and Director of the Department Of Developmental Disabilities John L. Martin.

For all of these reasons, Kathy was honored as the FASD Professional Advocate of the Year on September 7, 2011, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, OH.

This award is presented by the Ohio FASD Initiative. Started in 2004, the Ohio FASD State Steering Committee, which partners with nine cabinet level state agencies, youth and family serving organizations, and parents of children diagnosed with FASD, focuses on “increasing the availability of services, providing education, developing screening procedures, and enhancing data collection efforts.” The term FASD describes a range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol

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Murray Ridge Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Murray Ridge Center is proud to salute the more than 1,000 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the American workforce. Through our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and supported employment services, Murray Ridge Center continues to focus on enabling individuals with developmental disabilities to pursue their vocational goals. Two such individuals, Lori Norton and Mark Evans, are excellent examples of program participants who have partnered with Murray Ridge to achieve success.

Lori Norton



Lori started in the Murray Ridge Community Employment program, or CE, more than twenty years ago. Over the years, she has experienced many different jobs, adapting well to each new work site and position. Her impressive resume includes employment with Pizza Hut, Oberlin College, East of Chicago Pizza, Mama Joe's Pies, and PC Campana. Lori currently works three jobs; as a dining room hostess at McDonalds, providing janitorial services in an Ohio Department of Transportation garage,

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during pregnancy, and include mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities. The FASD Initiative motto, "Not a single drop," refers to the commitment from mothers to refrain from alcohol throughout their pregnancies.

Kathy is no stranger to the struggles of local children. As an Early Intervention Specialist at Murray Ridge Center for the past 11 years, Kathy has acted as a consultant to numerous families and foster parents throughout Lorain County in the Help Me Grow program. In her role, she counsels these families, providing support, encouragement, and ideas on helping each child reach crucial milestones.

As a volunteer guardian Ad Litem for Voices For Children in Lorain County, Kathy has helped countless children find their voices and tell their stories inside a courtroom. She has been trained to work in cases where there has been abuse or neglect, and she advocates for a safe, permanent, and loving home for every child.

Because of her passion for children, Kathy chose to become a certified facilitator for the Triumph Through the Challenges series. In 2006, she participated in a five-day training program to co-facilitate the series with Judy Petricevic, an RN from the Lorain County Health District. Over the past 5 years, they have hosted the training for counties from all over Ohio.

Kathy's nominations for the award were numerous. One nominator was her co-facilitator, Judy Petricevic, who took home the honor in 2010. Other nominators included Murray Ridge co-workers: Amber Fisher, Superintendent, Dann Swift, Director of Educational Services, and Valerie Deptula, Early Intervention Supervisor.

"The reason these nominations were so important

was because they recognized how important this initiative [regarding fetal alcohol syndrome] is for our consumers," Kathy noted. "Just being nominated was an honor."

In true selfless form, Kathy noted that winning this award was not only an honor for her, but for Murray Ridge Center as well. "I'm proud to work for this agency, and I want to get our name out there," she said.

Kathy will continue to work tirelessly for the children of Lorain County. "This is a lifetime thing," she said. "It doesn't go away."

Congratulations to Kathy Bevaque, FASD's 2011 Professional Advocate of the Year.



Kathy and co-facilitator Judy Petricevic, pose in front of the FASD motto.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on September 30, 2011:

The Board appointed Kurt Koepf to the Ethics Council, replacing Vassie Scott. A revision to the policy on *Soliciting, Selling, and Fund Raising* was approved. Superintendent Amber Fisher, Nikki Dye, and Heather Gurchik reviewed financial projections for the next four years and presented a number of potential scenarios based on current information. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter in 2011. Board President Michelle Hunt was selected to be the delegate for Murray Ridge Center at the upcoming Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities delegate assembly, and Superintendent Fisher was selected as the alternate. The Board approved a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the availability of Medicaid match money in the amount of \$1,912,782 for the calendar year 2012. The 2012 Organizational Meeting date was set for Jan. 27, 2012, at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center. The next Board meeting will take place on Nov. 18, 2011.

and at Murray Ridge Center's Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OVC). While this heavy work load may seem daunting to some, Lori thrives on being part of a different work team in each position, and interacting with patrons and coworkers alike. As Lori's work experience has progressed, so too has her personal independence. In the early nineties, she moved out of her family home and into a supported living setting in Vermilion (a Murray Ridge Housing home), where she lives to this day. Lori participates actively in recreational activities offered through Murray Ridge, and in our Special Olympics program.

Mark Evans



In Mark's first year with CE, he has shown that hard work and willingness to take on new responsibilities can lead to rewarding opportunities. Mark moved to Lorain County in late 2010, after attending school in Chardon. Through Murray Ridge Center's supported employment services, he immediately began working on a mobile cleaning crew and participating on a supervised work crew at Cutting Dynamics, Inc. Mark enjoys working on both teams, and likes traveling with the cleaning crew to different locations, such as the fire and police stations. In addition to maintaining a busy work schedule, Mark finds time to enjoy recreational activities at Murray Ridge. Through our Special Olympics program, he recently completed his first season of softball with the Murray Ridge Raiders.

Congratulations Raiders!

Murray Ridge Annual In-service is October 21!

The annual employee In-service promises to be an entertaining and educational day for all. This year's In-service will be held at DeLuca's Place in the Park and will include a variety of presentations on topics ranging from gentle teaching to team building.

From the Field MRC Special Olympics Softball finish up a fantastic season

Murray Ridge Team 2 finished 2nd in Division 4, defeating Lucas County in their semi-final game 21-2 to advance to the championship game. They lost to Goodwill Columbus 6-12 to finish their stellar season.



The softball skills squad returned from Oregon, OH with 4 Gold, 5 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals. Gold medalist were: Katie Kellogg, Chris McMichael, Andrew Prihoda, and Alex Averett. Silver medalists were: Britiny Bennett, Maria Poling, Linda Brewer, Doreen Alaksa, and James Peters. Bronze medalist were: Sally Gordon, and Lori Rhodehamel.



Murray Ridge Center presents the

Fun & Wellness Expo



Check out our booths!

Little Gym of Avon
Children's Services
Walgreens
Ten Point O Gymnastics
Vermillion Sherriff's Department K9
LifeShare

....and many more!

The Elyria Sherriff's
Department will be
creating free child ID
cards!

Saturday, November 5, 2011

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

Join us for a day of free family fun and wellness that will include food, games, pumpkin painting, and a variety of informational booths from local health, sports, and wellness organizations.

Plus, you will have an opportunity to pre-register or sign up to participate in the Murray Ridge Inland Trail Marathon|Half-marathon|5K on November 6, 2011.



MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

For more information call 440-329-3734.

October 2011

Activities & Events

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
23/30	24/31 	25	26 	27 	28 	29

- 10/6 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 10/9 - Woollybear Festival
- 10/10 - Columbus Day, Murray Ridge Center closed
- 10/13 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 10/15 - Lorain County Community College Fun Fair
- 10/21 - Agency In-service Day
- 10/26 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 10/27 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 10/28 - Murray Ridge Support Group dance, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria



Lunch Menu

Youth = \$3.05 Adults = \$2.90



Oct. 10 - 14
Oct. 31 - Nov. 4

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Sept. 26 - 30
Oct. 17 - 21

Monday- Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

Tuesday- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Wednesday- Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

Oct. 3 - 7
Oct. 24 - 28

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Tuesday- Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

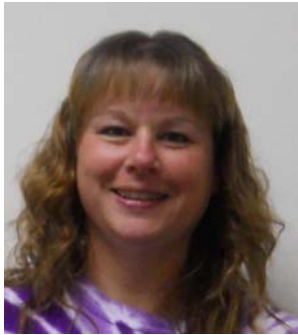
Wednesday- Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Sharon Fleisher joins MRC as a part-time secretary at the Elyria OVC. She is a certified STNA and real estate agent. Sharon lives in Grafton with her husband, Lenny, son, daughter, two stepsons, and two dogs.

Louise Anthony joins us as a Clerical Counselor with the East 9th Street Group Home. She is currently working toward her BS in Allied Health at Youngstown State. Louise has also spent the last 40 years working as a Med Tech.



Bob Burkhardt has rejoined Murray Ridge as Habilitation Manager of Recreation Services. Bob previously worked with MRC in this same position. He is a graduate of OSU with an MA in Physical Education. Bob lives in Lorain with his wife, Cheryl.

Margaret McCloud will be working as an aide for the East 9th Street group home. Margaret is the mother of five grown children, and is an active member of the Cathedral of Praise Church. She currently lives in Elyria.



Russell Moyer moves to a full time Workshop Aide position. He is currently attending LCCC working towards his degree in social work. Russell has four children and enjoys playing basketball in his spare time.

James Fallon joins MRC as a Workshop Aid with the Oberlin OVC. He previously worked with Our Lady of the Wayside at the Parsons Home. James lives with his wife and three children in Carlisle Township.



Kyle Brandt-Lubart will work as a part time Group Home Aide at our South Professor group home. Kyle previously volunteered at MRC, and recently graduated from Oberlin College with a double major in history and sociology.



Do the Monster Mash!

On October 28, Murray Ridge consumers are invited to celebrate Halloween at the 2nd Annual Halloween Dance and Costume Contest at Murray Ridge School!

Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Get ready for a ghoulishly good time as you dance the night away!

Where: Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Happy Birthday Murray Ridge!

3 Group Homes Celebrate 30 Years

This month, three group homes operated by the Murray Ridge Center - Meister Road, East College, and East Ninth Street - are celebrating their thirtieth anniversary of continuous operation since 1981.

The Meister Road Home will be holding an Open House for families and friends on Saturday, October 15th from 1-4 p.m. Many residents of this home have lived there for most of their lives. Everyone here is truly one big family.

The East College Home has two individuals residing in this group home for 30 years. The residents enjoy living in downtown Oberlin where they are so close to many activities.

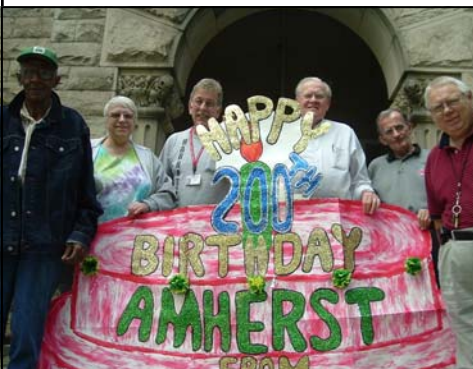
The East Ninth Home residents love their home, and especially like that it is close to their jobs and places in their community.



Meister Road, East College, and East Ninth group homes will be celebrating their birthdays in October.

OVC Happenings

Lorain OVC presented the City of Amherst with a 200th birthday banner. The banner, created by Workshop Specialist Marty Lucey, was intended for the Amherst Bicentennial birthday celebration parade that was cancelled. The city was happy to have the banner anyway!



L to R: Robert Finley, Kathleen Gardinier, Marty Lucey, Mayor David A. Taylor, Tim Mack and Gloy Bennett.

Elyria OVC consumer Patty Mitchell officially retired after more than 32 years of attending the MRC Adult Services Program! A retirement party was held in Area G-7 and many staff and friends attended. Cake and ice cream was served and Patty received several gifts, including a framed certificate signed by Pam Sebastian, congratulating her on her many years of attendance. Patty's retirement plans include sleeping in late, watching soap operas, and occasionally attending Senior's events at the workshop on a very limited basis.



Oberlin OVC staff member Tammy Stanley and consumers are entering The Scarecrow Fest contest on October 7-9 at the East Oberlin Nursery. The Fest includes a scarecrow contest, food drive, and benefit auction. Come out and vote for your favorite scarecrow!



L to R: Tracy Weaver, Mary Gressler, and Wendy Smitkowski is standing help make the scarecrow.

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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Ohio SIBS Conference

Ohio SIBS, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting siblings of adults with developmental disabilities, will hold its annual conference on Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, 2011, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel.



To learn more, visit the Ohio SIBS website at www.ohiosibs.com, or contact Michelle Truby at truby.5@osu.edu or 614-571-4542.

Happy Halloween

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please contact Jennifer Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

FASD Series Register Now for October Class!

Since 2003, the FASD Information Series has been offered 38 times in Lorain County, and more than 610 participants have attended the program. This October, Murray Ridge is once again co-sponsoring this series with the Lorain County General Health District. The course will take place on October 18 and 25 from 8:30 – 4:00 each day. The classes will take place at the Murray Ridge Service and Support Administration Building and are free for any interested participants. Space is filling up fast! For further information or to register for this series, please contact the Lorain County General Health District at 440-322-6367, or visit them online at www.loraincountyhealth.com. Learn about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and how to help those living with FASD reach their full potential.