

A Message from the Superintendent

- By Amber Fisher,
Dr. P.H.

FEB 2023

2023 promises to be an important year at Murray Ridge Center, and I am excited to share some of what lies ahead.

In recent years we have seen a **steady increase in our youngest service recipients**, and in 2022

Murray Ridge provided Early Intervention (EI) services to 945 infants and toddlers who have developmental disabilities or delays. In 2023, we plan to add two new Developmental Specialists to our EI staff.

At Murray Ridge School, our talented staff continues to provide high quality educational services to students referred by Lorain County school districts. In the months ahead, many are looking forward to **favorite school events such as dances, the (returning) Murray Ridge 500, prom, commencement, and much more.**

Our Supported Employment Department plans to continue to meet **ambitious benchmarks for assisting eligible adults to become employed by local businesses**, and to remain successful in these settings. At the Murray Ridge Opportunity and Vocational Centers (OVCs), the focus remains not only on vocational training and skills development, but also on **assisting Adult Program participants to be a part of and contribute to community life.** In fact, during the past year, many of our OVC attendees have volunteered with local programs including the Friendship Animal Protective League, Meals on Wheels, the Oberlin Food Pan-



try, the Good Neighbor Thrift Store in Avon Lake, the Lorain County Metro Parks, and Good Knights of Lorain County, just to name a few.

We also remain deeply appreciative of the **ever-expanding pool of private provider agencies that serve hundreds of eligible adults.** These organizations have made many wonderful opportunities available to Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities. Murray Ridge Service & Support Administrators (SSAs) link interested individuals with these providers, assist with development of individualized service plans to be implemented by providers, and monitor services. Murray Ridge also funds day services (and many privately provided residential services), primarily by using local dollars to cover the non-federal

share of Medicaid-funded services. This year, in recognition of the need for private providers of Day Support to serve an increasing number of eligible individuals with health and medical conditions, **Murray Ridge will begin providing subsidies for nursing services at Adult Day Support sites** where Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities are served.

It is also key to the Murray Ridge mission to partner with and support families of Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities. We salute the family members of those eligible for our services for the cherished and seemingly endless support, care and love that they provide to Lorain County children and adults with developmental disabilities. Effective in January, 2023, **required co-pays for goods and services accessed through our Family Support Program were reduced for families with eligible members who are not enrolled on Medicaid waivers.**

In other news, **a Renewal Levy for Murray Ridge Center – Issue 6 – will appear on the May 02, 2023 ballot.** This levy currently generates more than 35% of the agency's revenue, and some of the funds generated by the levy are used to pull down additional federal dollars. If passed, the levy will not increase taxes.

We look forward to continued progress and success through work with our committed staff, our provider partners, the many local businesses and organizations with which we collaborate, and the amazing individuals we serve and their families.

HOLIDAY FUN AT MURRAY RIDGE



Santa Claus Visits the Students at Murray Ridge School!

Left to right: Katalina Carter, Emery Thomas, and Calvin Kaminski with Santa Claus. Visit our Facebook page for more pictures!



A Murray Ridge Preschool Christmas Carol

In December, Ms. Emily and Ms. Lynne from Music on a Mission visited to provide music therapy to our morning preschool students. The preschool students are developing their creative musical abilities, listening skills, body coordination, ability to follow direction, and self-confidence. During the music therapy session, the students use their singing voices and play instruments to participate in dramatic play and singing games.



Ms. Emily and Ms. Lynne from Music on a Mission leading the class in song.



Owen Skinner, Alianna Meads, Claire Demyan, Eli Sminatore, and Brodie Reynolds kicking out the jams!

Family and Friends Day at Brew it Smooth!



Murray Ridge School teachers **Taylor Blascak** and **Kristin Dickerhoff** help students **Brady Della** and **Jonas Bennett** take their customers' coffee orders



On December 8th, Murray Ridge School's vocational coffee shop program, "**Brew It Smooth**", held its first "Friends and Family Day"! For the first time, loved ones were able to come patronize the cafe, appreciate everyone's hard work, and enjoy some tasty treats. Follow our Facebook page to learn when the next one will be!

OUT AND about!

Folks in our adult programs have been out on the town lately, visiting many small businesses around Lorain County, as well other exciting place and events in the region. You can see more pictures on our Facebook page!



Recently, Adult Program Aide **Amy Dunn**, **Sara Lempeck**, and a group of Adult Program participants from our Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center visited **Sandstone Coffee House** in Amherst, where they enjoyed having coffee and talking with friends.



A couple weeks ago, a group of Special Olympics athletes had a meet and greet with Cleveland Monsters player-captain **Dillon Simpson**! Dillon's 30th birthday was on the 10th, so we put together a 'Birthday Swag Bag' for him that included our "Today We Work, Tomorrow We Play!" t-shirt, a Raider Rag, a Raider Gaiter, and autographed Scarlet and Grey Team photos from this season's teams. Here he is pictured with Special Olympics volunteer **Sydney Hatcher**, **Jeremy Foster**, **Tim Dammeyer**, **Diana Clement**, and Special Olympics Local Coordinator/Supervisor **Shawn Hatcher**!

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED

The most recent recipient of our Exceptional Service Award was **Anita Graham**, the Director of Nursing at Murray Ridge Center. Anita's nominator told us that "Anita inspires her nursing team by utilizing compassionate leadership techniques, with the essence of resident care being the top priority!" Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher** stated that "having Anita in her position has been an absolute godsend," and remarked that she often thinks about how very difficult it would have been to get through the epidemic without someone like Anita, who is "one in a million." Thank you, Anita, for your dedication to the health and welfare of everyone at Murray Ridge Center.



Board Member **Rebecca Cornman**, Director of Nursing **Anita Graham**, and Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

Do you know a Murray Ridge staff member who has gone "above and beyond"? If so, please submit your nomination to Kevin Naughton, Director of Communications, at (440) 329-3734 or at kevin@murrayridgecenter.org.



I appreciate the strong leadership foundation Anita provides.

-Delia Blackburn

What Did You Learn at School Today?

Here are just a few examples of what our students have been working on at Murray Ridge School!

Adapted Physical Education Teacher **Shannon Tandarich** has been leading preschoolers in a yoga class! Yoga is a great way for students to develop coordination, balance, strength, and focus. Preschoolers, left to right: **Brodie Reynolds**, **Claire Demyan**, and **Alianna Meads**.

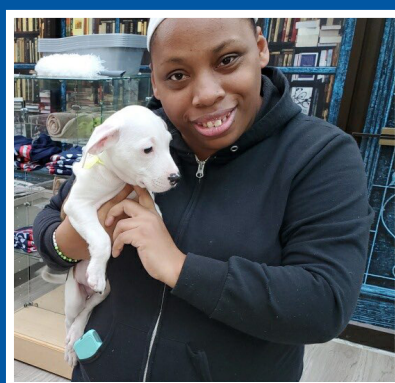


Students have been working on a new vocational skill at Murray Ridge School, sorting hardware into assembly bags to be used for building beds at **Good Knights of Lorain County**. Pictured are (clockwise from left) classroom teacher **Rachel Oser**, **Evey Rodgers**, **Jakob Scott**, **Paulina Lilly**, **Patrick Boey**, classroom aide **Terri Mahon**, and **Jansen Plumb**.

COMMUNITY engagement



This past December, some of our Adult Program participants at LOVC volunteered at Good Neighbor Thrift Shop in Avon lake! Pictured above are **Chelsie Jenkins** and **Michelle Miller** organizing a clothing rack.



Earlier this month, **Angelissa Pardo** (left) and **Ashley Tarrant** (right) volunteered at the Friendship Animal Protective League, and got to enjoy some 'puppy time'!

An important part of Murray Ridge Center's mission is helping people with developmental disabilities to be active members of their community. Here are some examples!



Every Thursday, LOVC Adult Program participants volunteer to deliver hot meals to seniors in Amherst. They volunteer through the Amherst Office on Aging, and the seniors love meeting and interacting with the volunteers from Murray Ridge. Pictured above are **Clayton Rhodehamel** and staff member **Trevor Doty**.



A GENEROUS DONATION

Murray Ridge Center would like to give a big thank you to **Bridget Boardman** at **Your Turn Consignment Sale** for donating the proceeds of her business' recent pop-up sale! In addition to the generous donation, Bridget invited some of our adult program participants to volunteer at the sale. We're looking forward to more opportunities to collaborate in 2023!

Donations and community partnerships like these are part of what makes our work at Murray Ridge Center possible. Thank you, Lorain County, for your continued support of our mission!



Triumph Through The Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

Virtual Zoom Meeting!

2023 Virtual Spring Series

Evening Sessions:

April 17, 2023: Section 1, 5-7:30 p.m.

April 19, 2023: Section 2, 5-7:30 p.m.

April 24, 2023: Section 3, 5-7:30 p.m.

April 26, 2023: Section 4, 5-7:30 p.m.

Registration Information:

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
Agency mobile # (440) 731-0358
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

Facilitators:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
Angelique Yost, parent/former foster parent



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to help them to reach their fullest potentials.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

Series Details

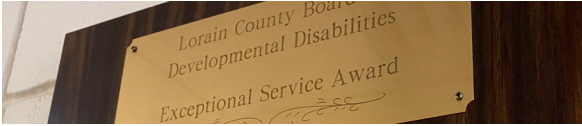
- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD; Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD; Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Behavioral Strategy; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

No fee to attend.



Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency CEUs provided by the MHARS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, now including EI.
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours



Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

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 Kevin Naughton, Director of Communications. Please include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions, contact Kevin at (440) 329-3734 or kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on January 30, 2022

At its annual Organizational Meeting, held immediately prior to the regular meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, the Board elected the following officers for 2023: Beverly Gedid, President; Keith Boey, Vice-President; and Robert Gajdos, Secretary. President Bev Gedid made committee appointments before adjourning the Organizational Meeting. At its regular meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6-21 in the 2023/2024 school year. Director of Educational Services Dann Swift announced that, for the third year in a row, Murray Ridge School applied for and received a GEER (Governor's Emergency Education Relief) grant that will cover the cost of an 'enhanced' summer camp program. Superintendent Fisher updated the Board on the status of an RFP for bus-ing services for the period 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028. Dr. Fisher also discussed plans of the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation to access funds available through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for a housing construction project.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for residents of our Meister Road Home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

Custodial/Maintenance Positions

We are looking for full-time and PRN (as-needed) custodial staff and a full-time Maintenance Technician. Hours are generally during the day.

Service and Support Administrator (SSA)

We have openings for full-time Service and Support Administrators. Hours are generally during the day.

Licensed Practical Nurse

We are looking for part-time, full-time, and PRN Licensed Practical Nurses.

**We provide the training.
You provide the ♥**

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click on "Opportunities"

All candidates:

Must have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED. Must pass background check, drug test, and physical.

www.murrayridgecenter.org

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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Photo of the Month: Out to lunch! Pictured left to right are **Michelle Miller, Tyler Watkins, Andy Rivera, Earnest Harrell, Jessica Mager, Robert McFadden** enjoying a group lunch at **Ziggy's** in Amherst.

Contact Us

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440.329.3734

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www.murrayridgecenter.org
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Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

