

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

MAR 2023



Michael Hawley, Helena Hurt, and Austin Carpenter giving a DD Awareness Month flier to Theresa Gillis, the Director of Main Street Amherst

March is **National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**



Austin Carpenter giving a flier to Nancy from Ron's Barber shop in Amherst

Every March, Murray Ridge Center joins local, state, and national agencies to recognize **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** — a time for all of us to celebrate the unique and vital contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make in our communities. It's also a perfect time to amplify the message about the important role individuals with developmental disabilities play throughout our community as volunteers, co-workers, citizens, neighbors, and friends.

Murray Ridge is a provider of services; and plans, funds, and monitors services provided by other agencies and independent providers to people with developmental disabilities. Through the services and support offered by Murray Ridge Center, every year thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to develop critical skills, expand their vocational horizons, and receive necessary care.

WE'RE OUT...



Jean Morosky, Chelsie Jenkins, and Brione Monk visited the Lorain Historical Society, where they learned about some of the city's industrial history, including an exhibit about the Lorain Ford Assembly plant.



Yolanda Malone, Kary Horvath, and Willie Holloway from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center took advantage of the nice weather and visited the Miller Nature Preserve, part of Lorain County Metroparks.



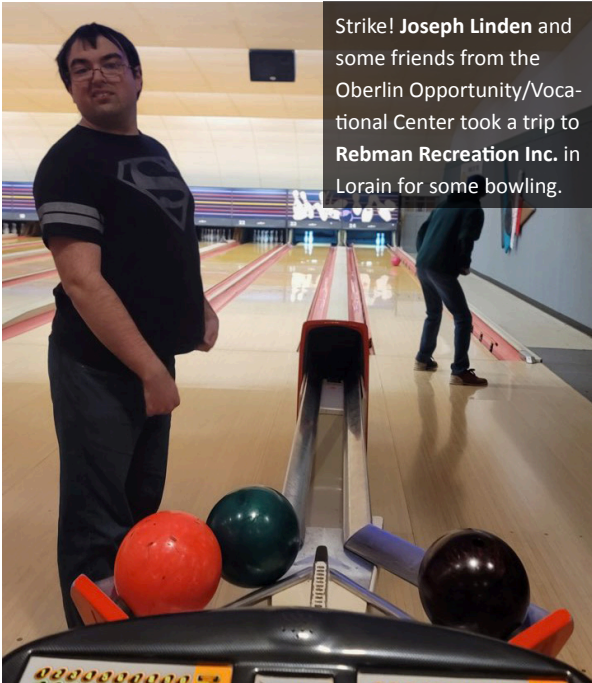
Ken Kiser jump-started his morning with a "Pinkship Latte" at Monkey Island Coffee at the Shipyards.

Lorain County and the surrounding regions have so many wonderful small businesses, local restaurants, and other fun places to offer its residents. Enjoy these photos of our Murray Ridge Center community out on the town!



Adult Program participants Cassie Kilgore, Austin Carpenter, Ashley Tarrant, and Michael Elliot from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center paid a tasty visit to Suzin L. Chocolatier to pick up some Valentine's Day confections.

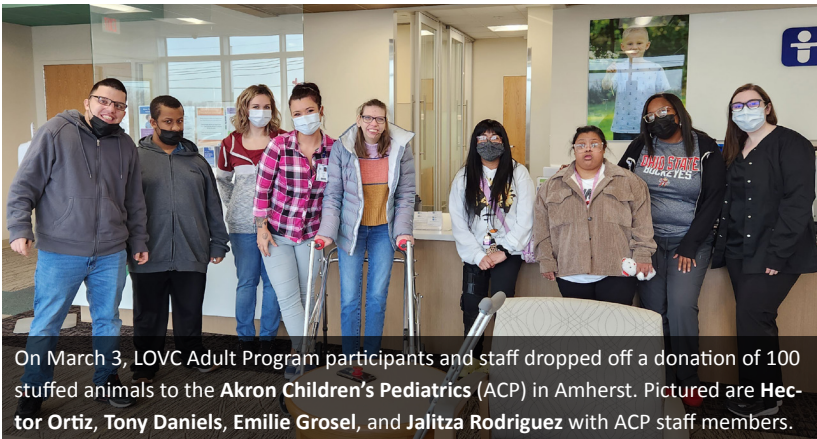
...AND ABOUT!



Strike! **Joseph Linden** and some friends from the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center took a trip to **Rebman Recreation Inc.** in Lorain for some bowling.



John Hanshumaker, James Wilson, Tony Daniels, John Armstrong, Hector Ortiz, Kenny Martin, and Julie Sobol from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center out for lunch at **Blue Sky Restaurant** in Elyria.



On March 3, LOVC Adult Program participants and staff dropped off a donation of 100 stuffed animals to the **Akron Children's Pediatrics (ACP)** in Amherst. Pictured are **Hector Ortiz, Tony Daniels, Emilie Grosel, and Jalitza Rodriguez** with ACP staff members.



Sean Ware acted as an impromptu tour guide for his OOV friends during a trip to the **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**, sharing interesting facts about all the different rainforest animals.



Michelle Miller from the Lorain Opportunity Vocational/Center treated herself by getting her nails done at **Princess Nails & Spa** in Elyria.



Diana Clement was one of the Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center who had some fun at a "Make your own Pizza" event at **Cozzeria Pizzeria**.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

On March 3rd through 5th, Murray Ridge Center athletes participated in the Ohio Special Olympics State Winter Games at Bowling Green University! Sixteen of our athletes competed in Basketball Skills and Aquatics events: the four basketball skills athletes earned two gold, one silver, and one bronze medal, and every one of our twelve swimmers achieved at least one medal. Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** joked that he would need an extra vehicle for all the hardware! Congrats, Special Olympics Athletes!



Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** leading the athletes to the vans as EOVC Adult Program participants and staff cheer them on.



Group photo of Aquatics (swimming) Team after dinner Friday night. Pictured, left to right, in front are Coaches **Laura Roby**, **Aaron Simmons**, and **Starr Price**. Standing are Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher**, **Kayla Stearns**, **Dylan Stearns**, **Richard Smith**, **Martha Lombeida**, **Shari Reitenbach**, **Pamela McClain**, Coach **Joe Croftcheck**, **Kenny Martin**, **Ryan Eliason**, **Lutz Fazekas** (hiding behind Justin), and **Justin Tucker**.

REMEMBERING ACTIVIST JUDY HEUMANN



We are deeply saddened by the passing of lifelong advocate for the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities, **Judy Heumann**. Heumann was instrumental in developing and implementing legislation that improved the lives of people with disabilities, including Section 504, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. "Some people say that what I did changed the world," she wrote in one of her books, "But really, I simply refused to accept what I was told about who I could be. And I was willing to make a fuss about it."

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT Murray Ridge School

Students at Murray Ridge School have been busy! On Thursday, March 9th, the Brew It Smooth Cafe had its first pop-up location outside of the school, and the students were thrilled to bring their vocational skills and delicious treats to the Murray Ridge Center staff and Adult Program participants at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC). Enjoy these photos from the visit! If you missed us at the most recent pop-up cafe at the EOVC, be sure to come see us when we come back on April 6th and May 25th. For more pictures of the pop-up cafe at the EOVC, be sure to visit our Facebook page!



Ja'Quan Warren helping Adult Program Instructor Mary Lakner with her order at the Brew It Smooth pop-up cafe. Behind him are Brady Bella, Personal Aide Emily Lippencott, and Personal Aide Amy Marrero.



Last month, Murray Ridge School teachers Taylor Blascak and Kristin Dickerhoff took their classes to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium for some hands-on fun! Above, student Aneesa Shakur gets a closer look at a different kind of school: a school of fish! For more pictures, be sure to check out our Facebook page.

SCARLETT WALLACE ON FOX 8 NEWS



On Tuesday, February 28th, Murray Ridge School student, 8 year old **Scarlett Wallace**, her mother **Jill Wallace**, and **Joellen Podoll**, a Professional and School Liaison with **Connecting for Kids**, appeared on Fox 8 News in a segment about the March 14th Connecting for Kids Resource Fair. In the segment, they discussed how Connecting for Kids has been able to connect Scarlett and her family with a variety of supports and adaptive programming that have allowed her the opportunity to dance, go swimming, and more. If you'd like to see Scarlett's complete appearance on Fox 8 News, you can find it on the wall of our Murray Ridge School Facebook page at: facebook.com/murrayridgeschool.



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



As part of the National School Lunch Program, Murray Ridge School has a Local School Wellness Policy. If you are interested in being involved with the development, implementation, periodic review, and/or updating of this policy, please contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational Services at (440) 329-3760 or dswift@murrayridgecenter.org.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for full-time, part-time, 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 full-time, part-time, 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 "Join Our Team"

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

Murray Ridge Center
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Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: Happy Easter! **Jamie Velez** and **Marilyn Flanders**, along with other Adult Program participants from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center, volunteered to put together hundreds of plastic Easter eggs, which will be used by the **Lorain County Metroparks** during its annual Easter egg hunts.

Contact Us

Phone :
440.329.3734

Address :
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Web & Email :
www.murrayridgecenter.org
kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

