

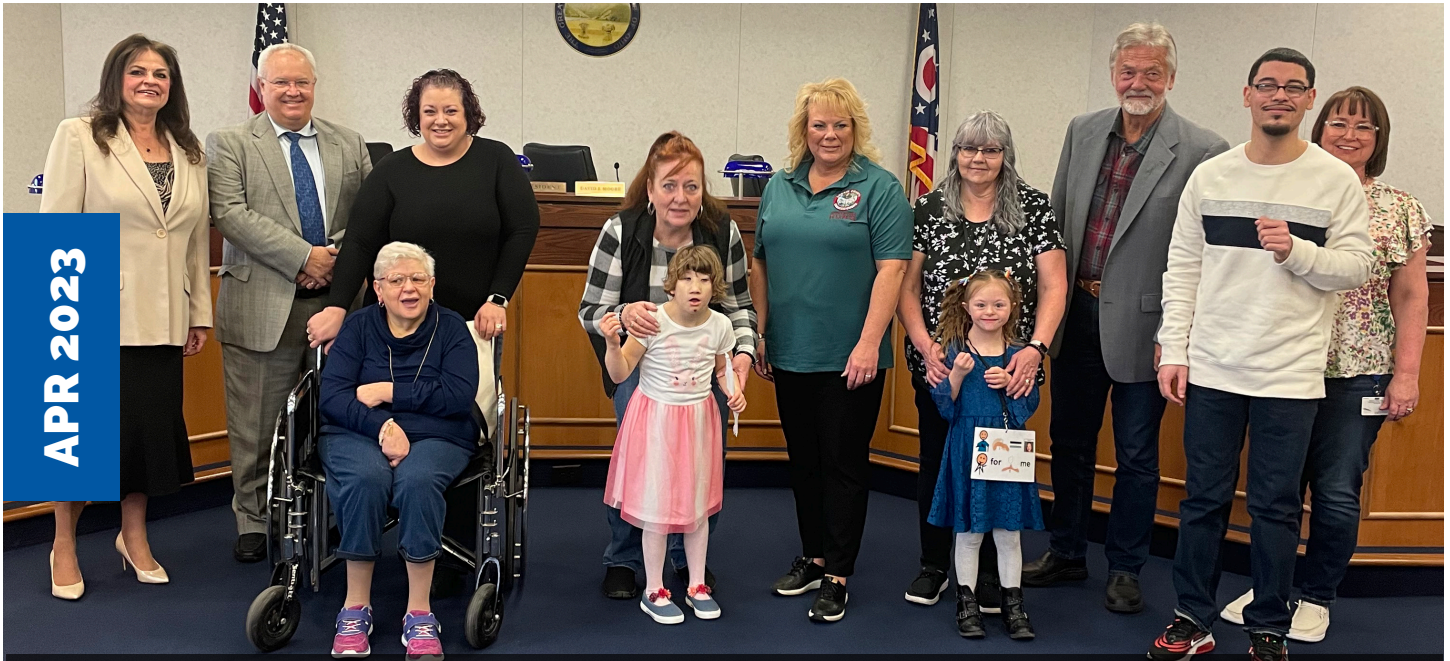
MONTHLY



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

APR 2023



Thank you, Lorain County Board of Commissioners! Pictured, left to right: Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, Lorain County Board of Commissioners' President **David J. Moore**, Our Lady of the Wayside Day/Residential Program Participant **Ana Rosa Santiago** (seated), Our Lady of the Wayside Administrator of Program Services **Alexis Szudarek**, Murray Ridge Material Resources Clerk **Barb Reynolds**, Murray Ridge School student **Icelee**, Commissioner **Michelle Hung**, Murray Ridge Classroom Aide **Sharlene Wharton**, Murray Ridge School student **Katalina**, Lorain County Board of Commissioners' Vice President **Jeff Riddell**, Murray Ridge Adult Program participant **Robert Seranno**, and Murray Ridge Adult Program Instructor **Beth Wissinger**.

## A SPECIAL VISIT WITH OUR County Commissioners

On Friday, March 24, 2023, representatives from Murray Ridge Center made a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month presentation at the meeting of the Lorain County Board of Commissioners, where services of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (a.k.a. Murray Ridge Center) were highlighted through the stories of four service recipients. Murray Ridge Superintendent Amber Fisher opened by stating that Murray Ridge Center is proud to support more than 3,000 Lorain County children and adults with developmental disabilities annually.

First up were Icelee and Katalina, seven year-old students and classmates at Murray Ridge School.

Dr. Fisher noted that both girls had been a part of the Murray Ridge Early Intervention Program for children ages birth to three years, through which Murray Ridge served 945 infants and toddlers last year. Icelee also attended the Murray Ridge Preschool, and both girls were subsequently referred to Murray Ridge School by their respective school districts. Icelee and Katalina personally thanked the members of the Lorain County Board of Commissioners for their support!

Next up was Robert, a man who resides with his family, and attends Murray Ridge Center's Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) five days per week. Robert told the commissioners

that he very much enjoys attending the Murray Ridge Day Program, where he does activities and assembly work, excelling at a job working on rods utilized by a local company. Through LOVC, Robert also volunteers at Meals on Wheels!

Finally, the commissioners heard from Ana, a woman who lives in a group home operated by Our Lady of the Wayside (OLW) and attends Pathways, a Day Program operated by OLW. In attendance to root her on was Maria Santana, Ana's Murray Ridge Service & Support Administrator (SSA). Dr. Fisher explained that those who receive residential and/or Adult Day Services from private

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providers (i.e. providers other than Murray Ridge) have Murray Ridge SSAs who assist them with developing Individual Service Plans, help them access resources, and monitor their services that are funded by Murray Ridge (Murray Ridge uses local levy dollars to pay the non-federal share of the cost of Residential and Adult Day services provided by private organizations, such as OLW). Ana shared that she had also participated in the Murray Ridge Special Olympics Program!

Many thanks to the Lorain County Commissioners for helping us celebrate the wonderful presence and contributions of people with developmental disabilities in our community!



Students **Katalina** and **Icelee** with **Dann Swift**, Murray Ridge Center's Director of Education, on their way to the meeting with the Lorain County Board of Commissioners

## EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED



Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, Service and Support Administrator **Kelli Sunseri**, and Board Member **Rebecca Cornman**

The most recent recipient of our Exceptional Service Award was **Kelli Sunseri**, a Service and Support Administrator (SSA) at Murray Ridge Center. Kelli's nominator, **Julie Long**, whose daughter attends Murray Ridge School, told us that "Kelli is reliable, dedicated, and eternally upbeat. Kelli multitasks effectively and is able to handle a high-volume workload." The letter concludes by stating how trustworthy Kelli is and stating, "She is a wonderful asset to the Murray Ridge Center." Thank you, Kelli, for your dedication to those you serve!

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, by phone at (440) 329-3734 or by email at [kevin@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:kevin@murrayridgecenter.org).



She is such an incredible person and I am touched by her general concern and care.

-Julie Long

## A Special Visit from Lorain Mayor Jack Bradley

On Friday, March 24th, **Lorain Mayor Jack Bradley** paid a special visit to the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC), which he called one of the "hidden treasures" of Lorain. "I was really impressed with the good work that you guys do here," Mayor Bradley observed in the video he posted on his Facebook page. In the video, LOVC Director **Cindy White** and Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher** answered his questions about the facility and Murray Ridge Center in general.

"He literally walked through the whole building meeting everybody," White recalled of the Mayor's visit. "He shook everyone's hands and the consumers were hugging him." LOVC Habilitation Manager **Gregg Heiden** added, "They talked about it all day afterwards, saying 'I met the mayor!'"

"It's such a nice group of people that work here," Mayor Bradley beamed. "You're not only a hidden treasure of Lorain, but you guys are angels."



Superintendent **Amber Fisher** and LOVC Director **Cindy White** chatting with Lorain's Mayor, **Jack Bradley**

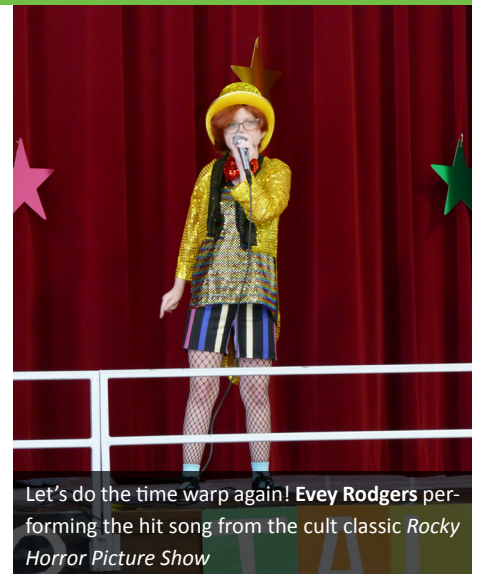
# MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL 2023 Talent Show!



Students and staff performing the grand finale of the 2023 Talent Show



On Wednesday, March 29th, Murray Ridge School held its annual Talent Show! Students of all ages were joined by staff on stage to perform dances, songs, and displays of athleticism for a packed audience of friends, family, and loved ones. The students dazzled the audience with such spectacles as lip-synced renditions of "Whip It" by DEVO and "Time Warp" from the cult classic film *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, a "Murray Ridge Warrior" obstacle course, and much more! Great job, everyone! If you would like to see a video of all the performances at the Talent Show, be sure to visit the Murray Ridge School Facebook page and go to the video section.



## Join Murray Ridge Center as we observe April as National Autism Acceptance Month!

Autism is treatable, and early diagnosis can lead to significantly improved outcomes. Visit [nationalautismassociation.org](https://nationalautismassociation.org) for more information. To learn about programs and services offered by Murray Ridge School, contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational Services, or Supervisors Stacie Starr or Bre Hedges at 329-3760.

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARD BANQUET



Athletes from all sports headed to the stage and joined the celebration shortly after Coach **Russ Moye** was named Coach of the Year.

**Congrats to  
all Special  
Olympians!**  
Enjoy these  
highlights!

## Honoring Our 2022-2023 Special Olympics Athletes

The 2023 Special Olympics Awards Banquet was held this past March 27th! More than 100 athletes were in attendance with their loved ones at the Spitzer Conference Center at Lorain County Community College; the event included a dinner prepared by the college's culinary arts program, a plethora of awards presentations, and more.



## Coach of the Year Award

Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** presented the Coach of the Year Award to Coach **Russ Moye** at the banquet.



## Hall of Fame Inductees

Dynamic duo, multi-sport athletes, and brothers **Mark and Bill Lacko** were inducted into the Murray Ridge Special Olympics Hall of Fame.



Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** with three of the five members of the Gold Medal winning 4X100M relay team: **Ajonie' Glinsey**, **Sarah Ward**, and **Alicia Lawrence**. Not pictured: **Tom Dammeyer** and **Elizha Suggs**.



Ajonie' Glinsey poses with Shawn Hatcher after receiving his Raider Rag from Board Member Rebecca Cornman

In addition to congratulatory addresses from Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** and Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, **Jeremy Foster** delivered a moving invocation. Next, after an energetic keynote address by the voice of the Lake Erie Crushers, Andy "Bull" Barch, special recognition was given to the Athlete and Coach of the Year, **Michael Jarrett** and Coach **Russ Moyer** respectively; the most recent Hall of Fame inductees, brothers **Mark and Bill Lacko**; and the 2023's State Champions, the 4x100 Relay Team and the Modified Volleyball Team. The ceremony also acknowledged and celebrated all of our amazing athletes and volunteers, as well as our community supporters, including **Casey Wolfe** at **Amherst City Schools**; **Amherst American Legion Post 118**; **Amherst Athletic Association**; **Rebman Recreation, Inc.**; and **Shoreway Sports & Graphics**.

## Banquet Highlights



Shawn Hatcher, clearly the taller of the two, presenting Andy "Bull" Barch, "The Voice of the Lake Erie Crushers", with a special plaque of recognition



## State Champions!

Members of the Modified Volleyball Team with their 2022 State Championship T-Shirts. Front Row, left to right: **Hector Lozano**, **Ryan Brown**, **Joe Bellottie**, **Ryan Busher**, and **Zuleka Perez**. Back Row, left to right: Coach **Stacy Rosecrans**, **Shari Reitenbach**, **Megan Craig**, and Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher**. Not Pictured: **Douglas McCartney**, **Tony Harris**, **Angelissa Pardo**, **Jeffrey Torres**, and Coach **Rick Rovere**.



## Athlete of the Year Award

Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** presented the award for Athlete of the Year to **Michael Jarrett**. Congratulations!

# LIVE PRO WRESTLING

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APRIL 29TH, 2023 SATURDAY • DOORS OPENS 4:30PM • BELL TIME 5:00PM



FRIENDS OF MURRAY  RIDGE FUNDRAISER

**BREAKING DOWN  
BARRIERS**

**LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIELD HOUSE**  
1005 ABBE RD N, ELYRIA, OH 44035  
PHYSICAL TICKET OUTLET: KEITH'S COMICS (ELYRIA)  
GENERAL ADMISSION - PRESALE: \$15 • DAY OF SHOW: \$20  
FRONT ROW - PRESALE: \$20 • DAY OF SHOW: \$25

TICKETS AT THE DOOR OR AVAILABLE ONLINE:  
[WWW.MEGACHAMPIONSHIPWRESTLING.COM](http://WWW.MEGACHAMPIONSHIPWRESTLING.COM)

## 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](mailto:kevin@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.

### Murray Ridge School Teacher

We have openings for full-time and PRN (as-needed) teachers at Murray Ridge School.

### 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 have openings 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.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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**Photo of the Month:** Go Guardians! Pictured, back row, left to right: Tim Quisenberry, Justin Tucker, Ashley Tarrant, Cassie Kilgore, Tim Young, Dennis Johnson, Harold Kilpatrick, Jacob Pantalone. Front row: John Bennington, Adult Program Aide Dave Renfrow, Bambi Fairbanks, Austin Carpenter, and Sandy Tite

## Contact Us

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