

MONTHLY



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

MAY 2023



Chase Blackham (standing, yellow shirt) had a great time at the show!



A triumphant looking Michael Hawley

Saturday, April 29th was **Mega Championship Wrestling's** (MCW) 11th annual **"Breaking Down Barriers"** professional wrestling fundraiser event! Over the course of these exciting, family-friendly shows, MCW has raised more than \$15,000 for Friends of Murray Ridge.

Dozens of wrestlers came to the Lorain County Community College Field House to perform, showing their support for people with developmental disabilities in our Lorain County community. Fans cheered and jeered as the wrestlers put on an incredible display for everyone.

What really made this event special was the spirit of inclusivity that was present throughout the night. People from different backgrounds came together to see the spectacle, sharing a rowdy night of thrills together. Thank you to everyone at Mega Championship Wrestling for putting together such a fun and exciting evening for a great cause!



Wrestlers brawling during the "Break the Barrier" Battle Royale



Wrestler **"Maddog" Manson**, who looks conspicuously like EOVC Adult Program Instructor **Jim Nagy**, uses a piece of cutlery to fend off two assailants.

Be sure to visit us on Facebook for more photos of the exciting event!

“Once Upon a Time”

at the 2023 Murray Ridge School Prom

Board Member **Rebecca Cornman** crowns **Paulina Lilly**, one of the Prom Queens. **Mason Crouch** was crowned Prom King by Board Member **Keith Boey**, and **Sierra Long** was crowned Prom Queen by Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher**



Once upon a time, in a kingdom of learning, a royal decree was sent forth announcing the much-anticipated school prom. The students, dressed in their finest gowns and suits, arrived for dinner and dancing at the grand ballroom, which was adorned with shimmering lights and magnificent decorations. As the night went on, the sweet melodies of the music filled the air, and the students danced the night away in a magical realm of their own. As the night came to an end, and as the last notes of the music faded away, the students bid each other goodbye, promising to remember the night as a fairy tale come true. And as they left, the enchantment of the night lingered on, leaving a trail of glittering memories behind.

A special thanks goes out to Murray Ridge School staff members **Lilly Tapia** and **Barbara Reynolds** for putting together such a special evening. Also, thank you to **Jocelyn Noble-Spraggins**, who was the evening’s DJ, and **Dominic Price**, who photographed the prom; both of these individuals graciously donated their time and talents.



Alexis Throckmorton and **Christopher Ackley** showing off their stylish dance moves



It’s electric! Left to right, Teacher **Ewa Rozewicz-Blaz**, **Dominique Hall**, Occupational Therapist **Nicole Green**, School Supervisor **Stacie Starr**, School Secretary **Lilly Tapia**, Substitute Aide **Theresa Myers**, **Patrick Boey**, Personal Aide **Emily Lippencott**, **Nick Green**, and **Linda Young** doing the “Electric Slide”

Visit our Facebook page to see video and many, many more pictures of our 2023 Prom!

“UNDER THE SEA” AT Oberlin’s Big Parade

Saturday, April 29th was “The Big Parade” in Oberlin! In keeping with the “Under the Sea” theme, representatives from Murray Ridge Center wore silly sea-creature hats and carried a banner with fun aquatic imagery. Parades and events like these

remind us of the importance of inclusivity and the beauty of diversity, and they serve as a powerful reminder of the positive impact that a strong and supportive community can have on individuals with developmental disabilities.



Murray Ridge on the march! Pictured, left to right: Charles Johnson, Jeremy Foster, SSA Director Heather Gurchik, Diana Clement, Habilitation Manager Jill Camp, Tim Dammayer, and Juliette Casey



Devin McNeil showing off his shark teeth

LCBDD Cooking Classes at LCCC



Tim Quisenberry practicing his cutting skills



Clockwise from left: Jaclyn Guerrieri, Jeremy Foster, Nathan Gezzer, Megan Beals, Katie Weaver, and Audrey Stout

In April, adults eligible for Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities services had the opportunity to participate in two cooking classes held at Lorain County Community College’s Culinary Arts Institute.

After finishing cooking, the participants were able to enjoy their meal and share the culinary delights with their friends, family members, and caregivers who attended with them. While they dined, the culinary apprentices discussed self-advocacy

topics that are important to them, as well as the kinds of future classes and activities they would like to participate in. If you would like to see more pictures from the class, make sure to visit us at our Murray Ridge Center Facebook page!

This opportunity was made possible by Myrtle’s Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County, which helps fund self-advocacy opportunities for LCBDD eligible adults in our community.

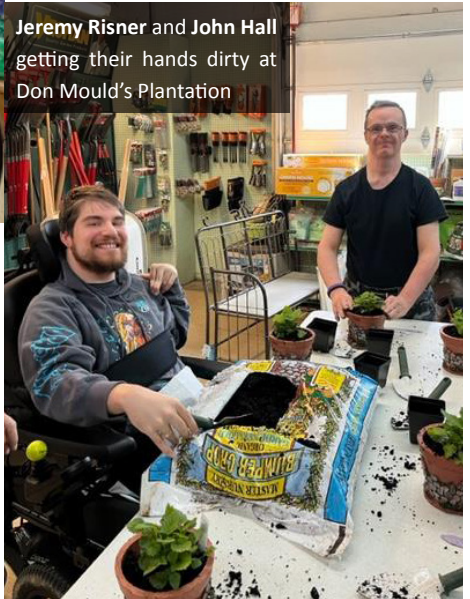
OVC GARDEN & FOOD DONATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Left to right: Saunda Kilgore, Katie Weaver, and Laura Kristoff showing off their green thumbs

In April, Adult Program participants from our Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) visited Don Mould's Plantation in Amherst. There, they picked out planters and vegetable seeds that they will plant, grow, and tend throughout the spring and summer at the OOVC. When the vegetables are ripe, they will pick them and donate the harvest to the Oberlin Community Food Bank!



Jeremy Risner and John Hall getting their hands dirty at Don Mould's Plantation

Food Donations & Deliveries



Kenny Martin, Robert Serrano, and Michelle Miller posed with a Murray Ridge Center bench they saw while out delivering meals to the elderly in Amherst

Donating and delivering food is a significant part of how we help individuals with developmental disabilities give back to our Lorain County community.

For example, every Thursday, Adult Program participants at our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center volunteer to deliver meals through the Amherst Office of Aging. The recipients of the meals are always happy to see the volunteers, and likewise, the volunteers love delivering the meals.

Additionally, for Easter, Adult Program participants and staff at our Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center collected food and other goods, donating the offerings to the Oberlin Community Food Bank. Our Adult Program participants were excited to deliver the food donations in time for the Easter holiday.



Brian Boyd and Laura Kristoff loading up a van with items to donate to the Oberlin Community Food Bank

Follow us on Facebook to see the many ways we give back to our community!

LIBRARIAN APPRECIATION DAY



April 16th was Librarian Appreciation Day, so some Adult Program participants at our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center baked cookies and delivered them to the librarians working the Elyria Public Library System's bookmobile.



Pictured in upper left: **Michael Telsoni** and **Mathew Kantner** delivering cookies to two librarians at the Elyria Library Bookmobile

Pictured above, left to right: **Alex Shearer**, **Megan Giammaria**, and **Jackie Allen** baking cookies for Librarian Appreciation Day

Volunteering at Your Turn Consignment Sale



Left to right: **Ashley Tarrant**, **Cassie Kilgore**, **Tiffany Harris**, **Sandy Tite**, and **Hector Lozano**

Recently, Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center volunteered at another pop-up sale with **Bridget Boardman's "Your Turn Consignment"**. Throughout the sale, they helped set up, stock, and take down the clothing displays, including a red, white, and blue themed rack that everyone was very proud of. In addition to the vocational experience offered by the volunteer opportunity, proceeds from the sale will be donated to Friends of Murray Ridge. Community partnerships like this provide wonderful ways for the individuals we serve to engage with their community.

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

Easter Blessings

In April, some Adult Program participants at our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center donated Easter goodies to **Blessing House**.



Left to right: **John Bennington**, Blessing House Staff **Sister Mary**, Adult Program Instructor **Ken Lewis**, and **Michael Hawley** (with **Grace**, the dog)

WHAT'S NEW AT Murray Ridge School

Recently, **Mr. Glenn Mittler**, one of our substitute teachers, worked on an art project with a group of students. Together, they followed a diagram and arranged dominoes in a pattern that formed the Statue of Liberty.



Back row, left to right: **Marvelous Seymore**, **Wyatt Bathurst**, **Diane Davis**, **Mr. Glenn Mittler**, **Christopher Ackley**, **Tyrese Whitfield**, and **Jazlynn Smith**. Seated on the floor, left to right: **Deuniel Galarza**, **Emanuel Campos**, **Aiden Harper**, **Kenneth Kingsley**, **Ja'Leigha Sanders**, **Jayden Steible**, **Dean Wisniewski**, **Owen Richardson**, and **Evan Clarke**.



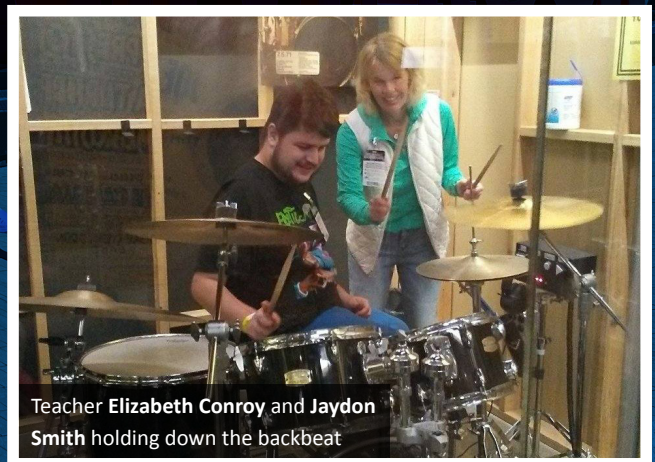
Left: **Mr. Glenn Mittler** helps **Christopher Ackley** glue a domino in place

Ms. Elizabeth's Class Visits the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame!

In April, Ms. Elizabeth's class took a fun and informative field trip to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame! The students and staff attended three educational demonstrations about music's role in civil rights movements, and they were able to test out their musical skills by playing drums, bass, and electric guitar. It was an exciting day for the entire class!



Back row, standing, left to right: Personal Aide **Coco Jones**, Personal Aide **Michelle Kisner**, Teacher **Elizabeth Conroy**, **Jaydon Smith**, and Classroom Aide **Martha Hoyt**. Front row, seated, left to right: **Mason Crouch**, **Chris Dodson**, **Naya Scribner**, and **Sisi Long**.



Teacher **Elizabeth Conroy** and **Jaydon Smith** holding down the backbeat



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 April 24, 2023

Board President Beverly Gedid welcomed new Board member Elaine Baus, who was appointed by Lorain County Probate Judge James Walther; Judge Walther accompanied Ms. Baus to the Board meeting, administering the Oath of Office to her just before the meeting was called to order. Superintendent Amber Fisher discussed an agreement with First Student Inc. for the provision of busing services for the period July 01, 2023 through June 30, 2028. Agency calendars were approved for July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024; these are posted on the Agency website.

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 serve 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 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 "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
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Photo of the Month: Murray Ridge School Prom attendees and staff, left to right: DJ **Jocelyn Noble-Spraggins**, Supervisor **Stacie Starr**, Receptionist **Britney Perkins**, Early Intervention Supervisor **Heather Knoble**, Teacher **Nicole Myntti**, Secretary **Lilly Tapia**, Occupational Therapist **Nicole Green**, Teacher Aide **Polly Allman**, Material Resources Clerk **Barb Reynolds**, Teacher **Amy Muriello**, Classroom Aide **Susan Rundell**, Teacher **Ewa Rozewicz-Blaz**, Teacher Aide **Sharlene Wharton**, Physical Therapist **Hannah Lilly**, Speech-Language Pathologist **Brittini Jenkins**, Occupational Therapist **Jamie Novak**, Physical Therapist **Ann Pecsok**, Personal Aide **Brittany Harness**, and Classroom Aide **Adam Harness**

Contact Us

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