

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

Murray Ridge School Graduation!

JUN 2023



Superintendent Amber Fisher singing the praises of the Murray Ridge School 2023 Graduating Class

On May 24th, Murray Ridge School held its annual transition ceremony, at which a group of guests – including the key note speaker, **Chase Farris**, Executive Director of “Save Our Children” – celebrated the accomplishments of some very impressive young people. While each graduate will be deeply missed by school staff, all are excited

about what lies ahead. Beyond the walls of Murray Ridge School, there will be many opportunities for the graduates to explore their interests, have new experiences, work at various jobs, give back within their communities, and live lives of increasing independence. Congratulations, **Murray Ridge School Class of 2023!**

Front, left to right: Teacher **Elizabeth Conroy**, **Sierra Long**, LCBDD President **Beverly Gedid**, LCBDD Member **Rebecca Cornman**, and MRS Principal **Dann Swift**. Back, seated, left to right: Keynote speaker **Chris Farris**, Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, and MRS Supervisor **Stacie Starr**



Paulina Lilly waiting to receive her diploma, with **Collette Jones** (Mason Crouch’s Personal Aide) seated behind her

For more pictures, visit our Murray Ridge School Facebook Page!

in memoriam...

REMEMBERING HELEN JONES (WOODSON)

Founder of Murray Ridge Choraleers

While Helen's tenure at Murray Ridge ended more than three decades ago, she left a lasting legacy as the founder of our celebrated Murray Ridge Choraleers. Helen began her Murray Ridge career at our school, but later transferred into our Adult Services Program, where she helped teach basic academics and living skills. Known for her ability to come up with new ideas and creative ways to teach, Helen soon organized a choral group of Adult Program participants. As many of her singers didn't read, Helen worked with them on ways to memorize songs; while they sang, she accompanied them on the piano. The Choraleers, who have been called "the original Murray Ridge ambassa-

dors," played in venues across Northeast Ohio, reportedly performing up to 50 times per year! After Helen departed Murray Ridge for other adventures, the Choraleers continued to practice and perform regularly at community events. Although the COVID epidemic put the Choraleers on pause, we are looking forward to getting the group 'up and singing' soon. With the news of Helen's recent passing, those who knew her are taking time to cherish her memory, and the Murray Ridge Family wishes to recognize and pay tribute to this remarkable woman, who was a pioneer in showcasing the talents and contributions of people with developmental disabilities.

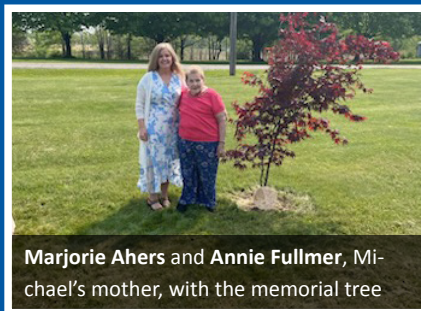


MICHAEL LEE FULLMER'S TREE DEDICATION

Friends, family, and loved ones of Michael Fullmer gathered for his tree dedication outside Murray Ridge School



On May 20th, friends, family and loved ones gathered outside Murray Ridge School to remember and dedicate a tree planted on school property in honor of **Michael Fulmer**, who was a student at the school upon its opening in 1968. Michael, who passed away on February 23rd of this year, went on to participate in the Murray Ridge Adult Service and Supported Living Programs. Michael's mother, **Annie Fulmer**, asked to have the memorial tree planted at Murray Ridge School because this was a place where Michael thrived in his youth, and that he loved. Just as we care for and nurture every student at our school, we will do the same for the tree planted in Michael's memory.



Marjorie Ahers and Annie Fullmer, Michael's mother, with the memorial tree

PRESCHOOL graduation



Merrick Pickett with Classroom Aide Vanessa Moye



Emery Thomas was excited to graduate!



Left to right: Brodie Reynolds, Teacher Lisa Kyer, Claire Demyan, Xavier Quinones, Alianna Meads, Owen Skinner, Chakrika Bommesetty, Classroom Aide Kammy Jones, Eli Seminatore, Classroom Aide Vanessa Moye, and Sebastian Serrano

Congratulations to all of our wonderful preschool grads!



Left to right: Calvin Kaminski, Kara Coleman, Mia Williams, School Aide Vanessa Morales, Audrey Dodge, School Aide Leslie Rebman, Anelly Ortiz-Lebron, Teacher Ryanne Gelp, Leonard Oray, and Adriel Neal came as Mario Kart characters!

Murray Ridge 500

Start your engines! On May 17th, the school held the "Murray Ridge 500", where our students and staff went for a spin in front of the school in 'racecars' that they had built and decorated. A special thank you goes to **Randy Maggio** of Lorain Raceway Park for bringing a real-life racecar to the event. The students were able to get inside the vehicle and take pictures with it. Randy also brought checkered race flags for all of the students! His kindness and generosity were truly appreciated by all who attended.

Left to right: Evey Rodgers, Paulina Lilly, Teacher Rachel Oser, Teacher Lisa Kyer, Jakob Scott, Jose Smith, Patrick Boey, Jansen Plumb, and Terri Mahon on tour as the rock band Kiss!



Left to right: Occupational Therapist Nicole Green, Occupational Therapist Jamie Novak, Physical Therapist Hannah Lilly, and Physical Therapist Anna Pecsok are ready for take-off!



For more pictures like these, visit our Murray Ridge School Facebook Page!

Congratulations, 2023 Graduates!

Please join us in congratulating the members of Murray Ridge School Class of 2022 and wishing them well as they move forward with the next exciting chapters of their lives!



MASON CROUCH

Mason liked to laugh and smile with his classmates, especially if something funny is shown on the classroom's SMART Board. Mason enjoys slapstick comedy very much, and he would laugh and move his arms when he and his classmates watched shows like America's Funniest Home Videos.

This year, Mason worked hard with various assistive standing devices to help him feel taller and look around the classroom. He particularly enjoyed standing in the stander-device during cooking class, where he stirred ingredients to help with

the preparation of the weekly bakery treat.

Mason worked at the Senior Store twice a month, serving as a greeter in the hallway. With the help of an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device, Mason would greet customers and give them a big smile.

After graduation, Mason will attend a day program at Alpha Care in Oberlin.

We will surely miss Mason's happy demeanor in the halls of Murray Ridge School, and the staff will truly miss admiring Mason's great hair.

PAULINA LILLY

Paulina is smart, friendly, and very sociable. She enjoys listening to music, watching TV, reading, pranking people, and spending time with family. While at Murray Ridge, Paulina participated in Girl Scouts and performed with the North Pointe Ballet company since 2018.

Paulina was a member of the work crew for six years, performing various work responsibilities both on-campus and throughout the community, and earning herself a weekly paycheck. Her community employment included work at IGA, Mercy Rec. Center, Rebman's Recreation Center, and Good Knights, which builds safe beds for children in Lorain County. Her on-campus work experiences included Pizzaland (sales/delivery), front lobby

cleaning, Senior Snack Shop (sales/customer service), and Scholastic News (collating/delivery).

Education has always been highly important to Paulina. When she came to Murray Ridge School, she stated in her Individual Education Plan meeting that her goal was to graduate with her high school diploma. We are proud to say that she not only received her Certificate of Completion, but she has also met all the requirements from the Ohio Department of Education to receive her diploma from Oberlin High School. She participated in Oberlin's commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 27th. She plans to continue her education and will be attending Echoing U at Lorain County Community College this August.



Paulina says that she will miss everything about Murray Ridge when she graduates.

SIERRA LONG

Sierra, or Sisi (“C-C”), enjoyed smiling and laughing with students and staff in her classroom. She always wore a bright matching outfit to show to anyone close by, but most of all, she loved pointing to her shoes, which always perfectly matched her outfit!

Sisi made strides this year in getting around independently in her wheelchair. As part of her morning work goals, she ‘visited’ a classmate each morning in her wheelchair. Additionally, with the

guidance of her physical therapist, Ms. Ann, Sisi accomplished a 250-foot ride down the hall independently on multiple occasions.

Sisi worked at the Senior Store twice a month as a greeter in the hallway. With the help of an AAC device, Sisi can greet customers when they arrive and wish them a nice day as they leave.

We will miss seeing Sisi’s smile each morning at Murray Ridge, and we will especially miss seeing her stylish shoes!



MARSHALL RICHARDSON



Marshall was truly our “techy” student and will be missed at Murray Ridge for his help with the SMART Board and other electronic devices. Marshall can easily navigate the SMART Board, switching programs back and forth with ease. He also ensured that Room 11 never needed to watch an advertisement, thanks to his quick response to the “skip ads” button that often appears before a video.

Marshall enjoys working with DVD players, iPads, and computers. He is proficient with all types of technology and could assist with any technological difficulties that may occur in a classroom.

Marshall worked for a semester at Peace Community Church, where he and his work crew cleaned the community room by wiping down tables and chairs and vacuuming the floor. During another semester, Marshall worked at Mercy Recreation Center, where he assisted his team with mopping and wiping off equipment. Additionally, Marshall worked with his classmates at the Senior Store by collecting money and handling the cash register.

We will miss Marshall’s tech-savvy assistance in the classroom and wish him much success in the future.

JAYDON SMITH

Jaydon was a joy to have in the classroom and will be sorely missed at Murray Ridge School. Jaydon likes to tell staff members that they are a “hot mess,” which makes everyone smile and laugh!

Jaydon loves music and dancing. He knows the lyrics to many songs, and he likes to sing them to whomever is close by. Jaydon could be counted on to make each school day interesting with his signature pop culture t-shirts. If asked, he will proudly tell you that he is “handsome”!

Last semester, Jaydon worked at Peace Community Church, where he and his work group vacuumed the floor and cleaned tables and chairs in the community room. Additionally, Jaydon worked at the Senior Store every other Friday, where he greeted customers and handled their money at the cash register.

We will surely miss Jaydon next year; especially his remarks about how he “loves this class” and how we are a “hot mess”!



LIBRARY GARDENING PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Recently, several Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center tended to some plants at the Elyria Public Library as part of the library's community garden project. The library stated that it started the community garden "to help patrons learn more about growing their own food, enjoy the outdoors, socialize, and increase access to fresh food." Community projects like this garden provide a nurturing space where individuals with developmental disabilities can blossom, cultivating not only plants but also confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging.



Above left, left to right: Justin Tucker, Benji Lewis, Helena Hurt, Dennis Johnson, and Lori Rhodehamel

Above: Dennis getting his hands dirty in the community garden

ELYRIA'S 2023 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Above: Mark Botnik and Juliette Casey looking patriotic

Right, left to right: Alec Jones, Joseph Linden, Dennis Johnson, Charles Johnson, Flat Rock House Supervisor Mary Yosa, Stephen Locurto, Charles Pasta, Flat Rock DSP Ida Stanislawski, and Tim Farkas.

This past May, Murray Ridge Center participated in Elyria's annual Memorial Day Parade. Decked out in red, white, and blue, our representatives proudly displayed our Murray Ridge Center banner as they marched through the main thoroughfares of downtown Elyria. Parades provide a joyous and inclusive platform for individuals with developmental disabilities to be recognized as integral parts of the community.

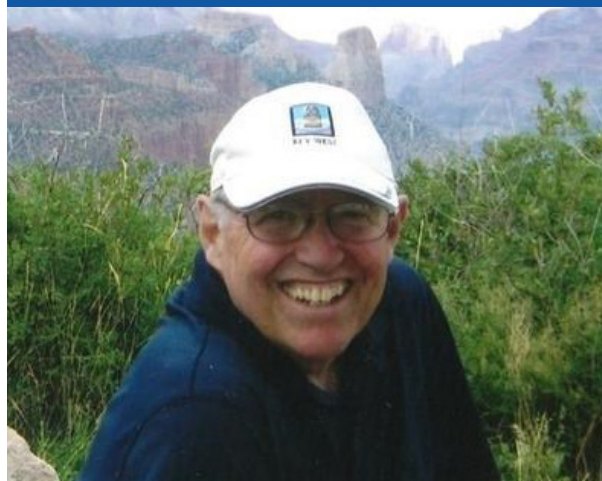




Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

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

Remembering MRHC Member Pete Barth



The Murray Ridge Family was saddened by the passing on May 29, 2023 of Pete Barth, a dedicated member of the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation. More on Pete's contributions will be included in a future newsletter.

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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Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: Congratulations to **Jaydon Smith**, winner of the **David Elsasser Spirit Award!**
Pictured below is Jaydon receiving the award
from David's Mother **Kathy Oblak**

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