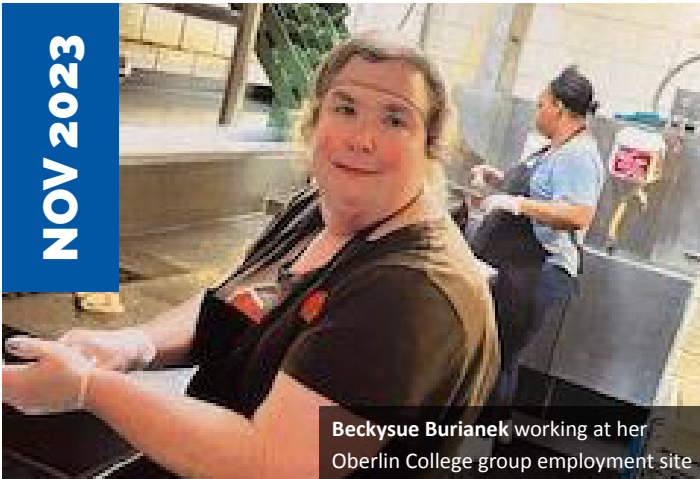




October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month

NOV 2023



Beckysue Burianek working at her Oberlin College group employment site

Supported Employment Spotlight: Beckysue Burianek

Beckysue works at several Supported Employment enclaves and lives independently in her own apartment. According to her Team Leader, Tracey Lewis, "Beckysue is kind, friendly, and she will go out of her way for others." Tracey adds that Beckysue "is hardworking and dependable," and that "she is always willing to go the extra mile for anyone." In her spare time, Beckysue likes to shop, bowl, and hang out with friends. Beckysue also enjoys participating in Special Olympics, especially softball. Beckysue likes cooking items in her air fryer and crockpot, and her favorite meals include meatloaf, soups, and spaghetti.

Murray Ridge Center was once again pleased to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. We're proud to salute the Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the local workforce, and the local businesses that provide jobs for these individuals. Through our Supported Employment (SE) Program, Murray Ridge Center continues to focus on finding and placing individuals in positions where they can grow and excel in today's competitive job market.



Ashley Spradling working at Clearview/Vincent Schools.

Supported Employment Spotlight: Ashley Spradling

Ashley is a participant in our SE Program and currently has two jobs performing custodial duties at Lorain Preparatory Academy and Clearview/Vincent Schools. She receives transportation from SE staff to and from her job at Lorain Preparatory Academy, and she walks to and from her job at Vincent Schools. In the past, Ashley has worked at Sears Hardware, Liberty Tax, the Brickyard, and Nutrition Group, as well as many group employment sites. Outside of work, Ashley lives independently in an apartment, likes listening to country music, and enjoys spending time with her nieces and nephews.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS Softball Update



The Murray Ridge Raiders Scarlet Team! Standing, left to right: Coach Leroy Keen, Jeffrey Torres, Daniel Montgomery, Ryan Eliason, Tim Dammeyer, Jeremy Foster, and Head Coach Russ Moye. Front, kneeling, left to right: Hector Lozano, Bobby McFadden, Ryan Brown, Diana Clement, Jon Torres, and Volunteer Debbie Roberts.

In September, the Murray Ridge Raiders Scarlet softball team traveled to Oregon, Ohio, where they placed second in the State Softball tournament on September 16th, earning them a silver medal. Additionally, five Murray Ridge athletes competed in the Softball Skills competition, earning one 5th place, one 4th place, and three 1st place awards. Congratulations, Raiders! Murray Ridge Center invites all adults with developmental disabilities in Lorain County to participate in our Special Olympics Program. If you would like to learn more about our upcoming Special Olympics Ohio activities and events and how to participate in them, please contact Shawn Hatcher at 440-284-2720 or shatcher@murrayridgecenter.org.



At our September Board meeting, Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center Program Specialist Jim Nagy presented a check for \$1,220 to Friends of Murray Ridge on behalf of Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW). The generous donation was raised at MCW's annual Breaking Down Barriers event, which occurred for the eleventh time this past April. The family-friendly wrestling show was started in 2011 by Nagy and his co-promoters Jeff Traxler and Brandon Xavier for the benefit of Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities.



THANK YOU!

EOVC Program Specialist **Jim Nagy** presenting MCW's donation to Murray Ridge Center Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

2023 Woollybear Parade in Vermillion

Murray Ridge Center was proud to once again take part in the annual Woollybear Festival Parade in Vermillion, Ohio! Our representatives came to the parade decked out in orange and brown, with a giant Woollybear decoration made at our Oberlin Adult Opportunity and Vocational Center. Thank you to everyone involved for making this a fun, inclusive event!

Pictured from left to right: Lutz Fazekas, Alicia Lawrence, Sandra Kilgore, Tiffany Harris, Tom Dammeyer, Brittany Tidd, Jeremy Foster, Charles Johnson, Provider Compliance/Resource Specialist Natalie Skiba, John Hall, OOVV Secretary Tina Tucker, Superintendent Amber Fisher, and Developmental Specialist Kathy Bevaque, with Zoe Yost wearing a woollybear mask and Levi Yost in a stroller.



STUDENT PICTURE DAY AT MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL

Thank you to Cavanaugh Photography for coming out to Murray Ridge School this past October to get some great photos of our students!



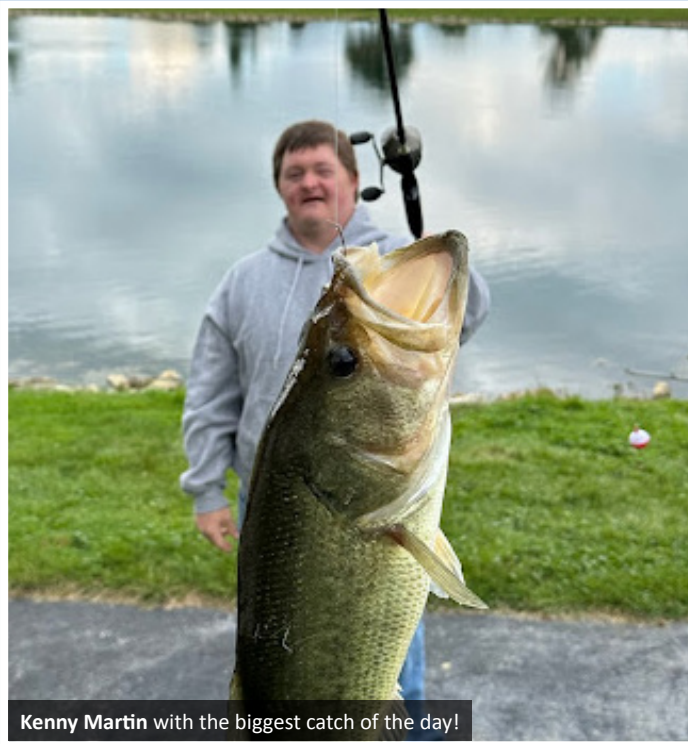
Jhoniel Rodriguez getting his picture taken by the photographer with the help of Teacher Amy Daniels



Sa'Niyah Birdsong getting her photo taken with support from Teacher Kristen Marunski behind her and Teacher Aide Brianna Krieg standing to her left

MURRAY RIDGE AND OUTDOOR FUN!

LOVC — Gone Fishin'



Kenny Martin with the biggest catch of the day!



Some Adult Program participants from our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center recently went fishing in New Russia Township!

Pictured above: Robert Seranno showing off his catch

EOVC's Annual Summer Picnic

The staff and Adult Program participants at our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center recently held their annual Summer Picnic, where they enjoyed the beautiful weather, outdoor games, and a cookout.



Left, pictured left to right: Tim Quisenberry, Michael Telloni, Activiy Aide Sherri Lhotsky, and Jonathan (Jackie) Allen

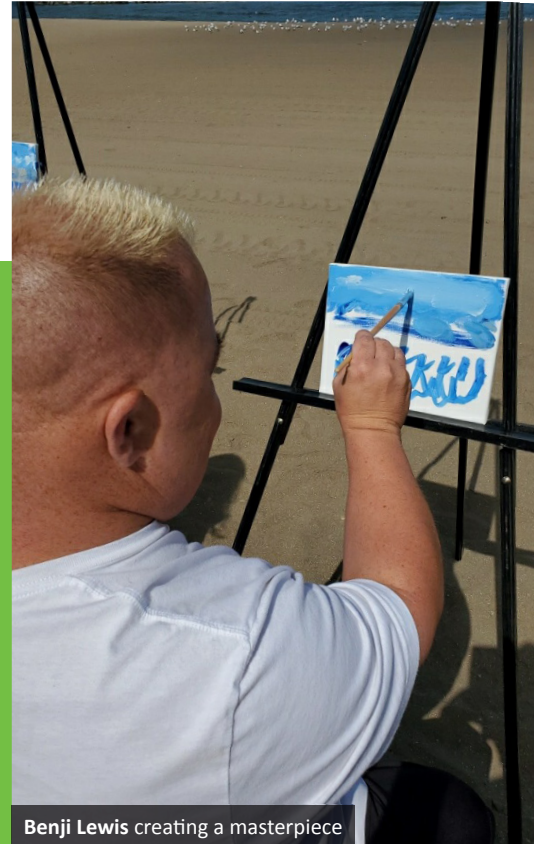
Pictured above: Lori Rhodehamel soaking Habilitation Manager Shawn Hatcher with the dunk tank

EOVC Makes Art in the Park

Recently, some Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center took a trip to Lakeview Park in Lorain to create "Art in the Park". The group of artists practiced with paints and brushes, creating renderings of the Lake Erie shoreline. Several boardwalk beach walkers even stopped to chat with the group as they painted!



Jacob Pantalone, Benji Lewis, Michael Telsoni, and Tim Quisenberry showing off their artwork



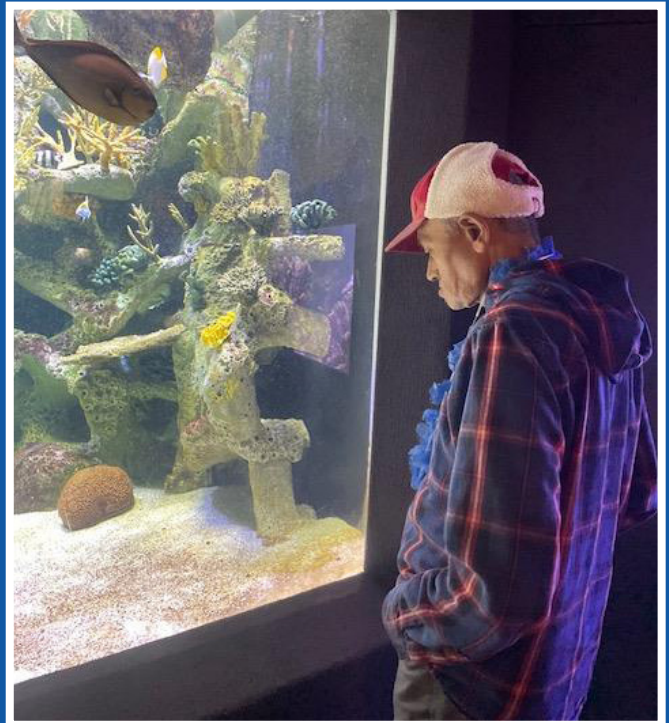
Benji Lewis creating a masterpiece

OOVC at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Some Adult Program participants from our Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center took a trip to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo!

Pictured left, from left to right: **Richie Brown, John Hall and Calvyn Bohner** during their visit

Pictured below: **Richie Brown** checking out the tropical aquarium



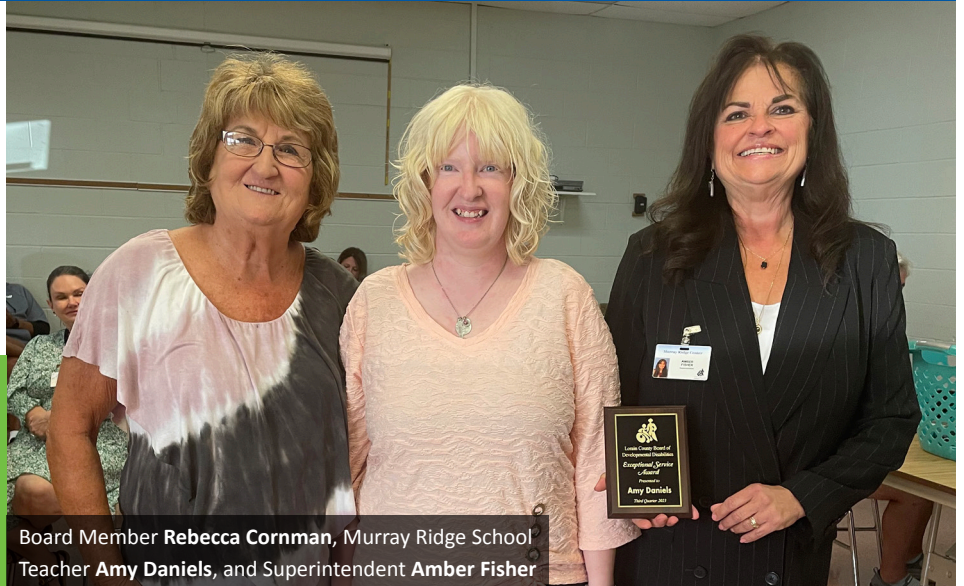
October was Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Did you know that each year in the United States, about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome? That’s about one in every 700 babies born in this country. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition, and it is estimated that today in the United States there are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome. Since the 1980s, American families touched by Down syndrome have observed October as National Down Syndrome Awareness Month: a time to recognize that those born with Down syndrome can indeed live happy, long and productive lives. This past October, we celebrated our friends and neighbors with Down syndrome. To learn more, visit the National Down Syndrome Society website at ndss.org.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED

The most recent recipient of our Exceptional Service Award was **Amy Daniels**, a teacher at Murray Ridge School. “I have known Amy for several years,” wrote Megan Costa, Amy’s nominator, “and year after year she continues to be an amazing teacher and educator.” Thank you, Amy, for your dedication to each of your students!

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.



Board Member **Rebecca Cornman**, Murray Ridge School Teacher **Amy Daniels**, and Superintendent **Amber Fisher**



2023 Synergy Conference at Kalahari Resorts

In October, Murray Ridge staff accompanied individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to the Synergy Conference at Kalahari Resorts. This annual event is designed to foster connections that encourage collaboration, innovation, and personal growth. At the conference, participants engaged in breakout sessions that covered topics like healthy relationships, self-advocacy, active participation in team meetings, as well as the different opportunities and resources available throughout Ohio. Additionally, participants had the privilege of hearing from DODD Director Kim Hauck. Our sponsorship of conference attendees was made possible by the Myrtle Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

Pictured, left to right: **Chelsie Jenkins**, **Michelle Miller**, **Kenny Martin**, **Annie Cirilo**, **Robert Serrano**, and **James Wilson**.



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, Community Education/Volunteer Director. 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 Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on September 25, 2023

Murray Ridge Program Specialist Jim Nagy, on behalf of Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW), presented a check for \$1,220.00; this donation was the proceeds from the 2023 Breaking Down Barriers wrestling event, the eleventh annual MCW fundraiser for the Friends of Murray Ridge. The 2022 Strategic Plan Progress Report was adopted. The Board passed a resolution that, effective February 26, 2024, the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities will no longer provide Murray Ridge Adult Services other than Supported Employment services at the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center (EOVC); impacted individuals will be notified of options, and after February of 2024 those not enrolled on Medicaid waivers will be able to receive Murray Ridge Adult Services at the Oberlin OVC or Lorain OVC. The Board appointed Board Member Keith Boey as delegate and Superintendent Amber Fisher as alternate to the 2023 delegate assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Murray Ridge School Teacher

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

School Aide

We have openings for PRN (as-needed) and Full-time (9-month) School Aides at Murray Ridge School.

Licensed Practical Nurse

We have openings for part-time, full-time, and PRN Licensed Practical Nurses.

Lifeguard (Full-time, 9-month)

We have an opening for a full-time (9-month) Lifeguard that will function also as a classroom aide at Murray Ridge School.

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)

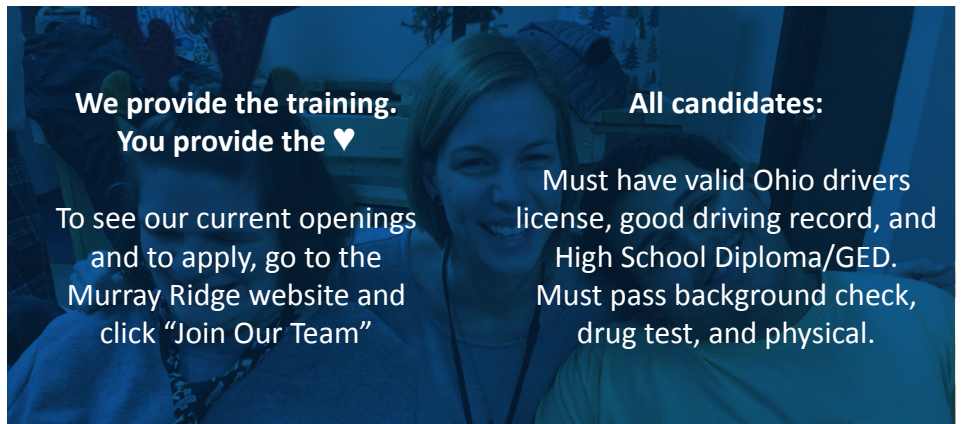
We have openings available for full-time, part-time, and PRN (as-needed) positions to serve participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

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

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Photo of the Month: Some folks from our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center visited Schuster's Pumpkin Patch in Elyria. Pictured, left to right: **Rovinson Villafane, Bernie Encarnacion, Kenny Martin, John Armstrong, Jessica Mager, and Todd Novotny.**

Contact Us

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Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

