March is...  National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

Last year, Amherst American Legion Post 118 held two fundraisers, a golf outing and a Poker Run, at which a total of $6,000 was raised for our Special Olympics Program. Then, Terry Harper, an American Legion member who is a retiree from Nordson Electronic Solutions in Amherst, approached his former employer about matching the donation, and Nordson Electronic Solutions offered to double-match the donation, bringing it to a combined total of $18,000! Shawn Hatcher, our Special Olympics Coordinator, said he was “blown away by this generosity.” We at Murray Ridge would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Amherst American Legion Post 118 and Nordson Electronic Solutions!

THANKS, AMHERST AMERICAN LEGION POST 118 & NORDSON ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS!

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.
Recently, as part of their Service Club program, Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center voted to donate a portion of the proceeds from their holiday Santa Shop to the Friendship Animal Protective League. Jesse Frisch happily volunteered to present the $500 check and visit the animals. On top of that, EOVC’s Service Club recently donated cleaning supplies and personal care items that they collected for Safe Harbor/Genesis House in support of domestic violence awareness.

In November, Cleveland Clinic held its 8th Annual 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk at Avon Hospital and Richard E. Jacobs Health Center. Thanks to everyone’s efforts, the event raised substantial funds for Friends of Murray Ridge, a not-for-profit organization that collects donations that support the mission of Murray Ridge Center. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the race’s organizers and sponsors, and the more than 150 Lorain County community members for their support of and participation in the event.

Pictured at right, left to right: LCBDD Director of Vocational and Transportation Services Jeff Miller, Cleveland Clinic Community Relations Program Manager Marcus Madison, LCBDD Superintendent Amber Fisher, and Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital President Dr. Rebecca Starck.
Special Olympics Ohio’s Winter Games were held at Bowling Green State University on February 23rd through the 25th! Murray Ridge had 16 athletes represent our program in three different sports. In the Basketball Skills Competition, Alexshawn Averett and David Zsigray took 1st place, Joseph Linden won 2nd place, and Hector Ortiz earned a 3rd place medal. In Cheerleading, Taylor Tanner, Kim Nadolski, Cassie Kilgore, Zoey Moore won 2nd place with their routine! In swimming, Pamela McClain, Joan Gall, Ruth Squires, and Martha Lombeida participated in the women’s 4x25 Relay Swimming race, taking home a bronze medal. And lastly, Justin Tucker, Ryan Eliason, Richard Smith, and Kenny Martin participated in the men’s 4x25 Relay Swimming race, taking home first place medals. Congratulations, everyone!
WE’RE OUT...

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

LOVC’s Visit to the Rocky River Nature Center

In February, some Adult Program participants from our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center took a trip to Rocky River Nature Center.

OOVC Volunteering

While volunteering for the Amherst Office of Aging’s meal delivery program, Jorge Garcia ran into some community members who remembered him from when he was a child in his old neighborhood in South Lorain!
...AND ABOUT!

EOVC's Visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art

In February, some Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center took a trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

EOVC Adult Program participants Becky Sue Burniak and Kim Nadolski had a super time at Geeks and Sweets!

LOVC's Lunch at Ziggy's

A group of Adult Program participants from our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center went out for lunch at Ziggy's in Amherst!

EOVC's Visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art

In February, some Adult Program participants from our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center took a trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Pictured, left to right: Michelle Miller, Chelsie Jenkins, Dee Dowdell, Amanda Spreng, Jean Morosky, and Bobby McFadden

Diana Clement

Alec Jones and Joseph Linden
Join us for our 2024 Murray Ridge School Prom Fundraiser!

Please join us as we raise funds for the Murray Ridge School Prom with an evening of classic acoustic rock with The Sweet Judys, the first all-female tribute to the music and spirit of Crosby, Stills, and Nash (and Young).

This intimate show will take place at The Barn (also known as Barnegie Hall). Seating is limited so get your tickets now!

Want to give back to Murray Ridge Center?

Consider volunteering for the Family Support Services Committee!

- Currently assists more than 600 local families to support members with developmental disabilities
- Meets monthly at Murray Ridge Center’s Administration Offices at 1091 Infirmary Rd. in Elyria
- Reviews Family Support applications, and assigns funding levels
- Provides insight on additional resources that could be accessed to meet needs identified by families

Interested? Contact Damita at Dgvanche@gmail.com!

Special Announcement!

Due to the solar eclipse, Murray Ridge Adult Activity Centers will be closed on April 8th.

Additionally, most Murray Ridge Group Employment sites (enclaves) will not be operating on April 8th; Vocational Placement Specialists will individually contact those who work in enclaves.

Safe viewing is essential during an eclipse! It is not safe to view the eclipse unless you are using eye protection specifically for solar viewing. Per the Ohio EMA website, solar viewers should comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard. Beware of cheap imitations that are not designed to protect you!
**Boardroom Briefing**
The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on February 26, 2024

Superintendent Fisher provided an overview of 2023 Agency spending, as compared to the 2023 Budget and 2022 spending. The Board unanimously approved 2024 Board Member Training Topics and the 2024 Superintendent Professional Development Plan. Dr. Fisher shared issues related to the April 08 solar eclipse, and the Board declared April 08 to be an Agency “calamity day”. Consequently, the Murray Ridge Adult Activity Centers will not be open on Monday, April 08, 2024. Dr. Fisher and Director of Adult Programs Gary Lyons provided an update on the discontinuation of Murray Ridge Adult Services at the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center (EOVC), and the transition that day of former EOVC attendees and staff to the Oberlin and Lorain OVCs, reporting that all had gone smoothly. Dr. Fisher updated the Board regarding busing arrangements. Board members were provided with information on an upcoming fundraiser for the Murray Ridge School Prom (see opposite page).

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**Now Hiring!**

**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.

**Assistant Manager, Residential**
This is a full time management position at our Meister Road Home.

**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.

**Provider Compliance and Resource Specialists**
This is a full time position within our Service and Support Administration Department.

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

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

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

**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.

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.

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**Interested Parties Invited to Help With School Wellness Policy**

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.
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!

Photo of the Month: Our Elyria Opportunity And Vocational Center staff got together for a group photo on the Center's last day!