

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER



Mike Telloni, Dennis Johnson, Jasmin Zahn, and Katie Schneider delivering a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month flier to Theresa Gillis (second from right), Director of the non-profit Main Street Amherst.

March was National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

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.



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 for more information. To learn about programs and services offered by Murray Ridge Center, visit our website at murrayridgecenter.org

CONNECTING FOR KIDS RESOURCE FAIR

Our mission is to ensure the availability of services and supports that assist eligible individuals in living the life they choose; to promote their health and safety; and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving these goals.



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME



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On Tuesday, March 14th, Connecting for Kids sponsored its Lorain County Resource Fair to highlight local providers and supports for families who have concerns about their children ages birth to 22. This year's Resource Fair took place in the Spitzer Conference Center at Lorain County Community College, and Murray Ridge Center's Service and Support Administration Department and Early Intervention Program were among the event participants. For more information, call Connecting for Kids at (440) 570-5908, or go to its website at connectingforkids.org.

Intake Service and Support Administrators **John Bender** and **Lisa Neely** tabling for Murray Ridge Center at the 2024 Connecting for Kids Resource Fair



At the Good Neighbor Thrift Store's volunteer appreciation banquet! Pictured, clockwise from front left: **Amanda Spreng**, **Michelle Miller**, **Annie Cirilo**, **Judy Tesar**, **Katie Schneider**, Adult Program Instructor **Laura Witkowski**, **Hector Ortiz**, **Dylan Stearn**, and **Chelsie Jenkins**

Murray Ridge Volunteers!

On Sunday, March 24, a group of Adult Program participants from our Lorain Opportunity Vocational Center were invited by Good Neighbor Thrift store to an appreciation banquet for its volunteers at Parker's Grille & Tavern in Avon Lake. Every Tuesday, Adult Program Instructor **Laura Witkowski** takes a group from LOVC to volunteer at the store, where they help with the sorting, hanging, and tagging of clothes. Also in March, **Jesse Frisch** presented Elyria's Friendship Animal Protection League (FAPL) with his annual St. Patrick's Day donation. According to Jesse, in 2011, he began visiting several Murray Ridge sites dressed as a Leprechaun and would collect donations for his "bag of gold." When he finished his rounds, he would donate the collection to FAPL. An important part of Murray Ridge Center's mission is helping people with developmental disabilities to be active members of their community! Great job, everyone!



Jesse Frisch (right) with **Greg Willey**, the Director of the Friendship Animal Protection League



Left to right: **Cameron Conn** (seated), **Chris Fowler**, **Ja'Quan Warren**, Personal Aide **Stephanie King**, **Ja'Laysia Brown**, **Jonas Bennett**, **Nick Green**, Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff**, and **Jenny Sislowski** performing "The Greatest Show" at the 2024 Talent Show, with Personal Aide **Emily Lippincott** in front.

School Talent Show

On Friday, March 22th, Murray Ridge School held its annual Talent Show! Students of all ages were joined by staff on stage to perform dances, songs, and other special skills and talents for a packed audience of friends, family, and loved ones. The students dazzled the audience with such spectacles as lip-synced renditions of "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga, "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne, "Happy" by Pharrell Williams, and much more! Great job, everyone!



Going off the rails on a crazy train! **Josiah Smith**, **Will Norris**, **Jayden Steible**, **Isea Vargas**, and **Zack Dovel** performing the hit song by Ozzy Osbourne

HEATHER KNOBLE: A "HERO FOR CHILDREN"

A special congratulations goes out to Early Intervention Supervisor **Heather Knoble**, who was recently selected as this year's recipient of Blessing House's "Heroes for Children" Award! Heather was selected from a pool of 23 nominees who were selected for their work in helping make a difference in the lives of children. The award was presented on Friday, April 12th, with a celebratory luncheon at LCCC's Spitzer Conference Center with friends and families of the nominees. Congratulations, Heather!



A hero with her proud family: **Steve Knoble**, **Heather Knoble**, **Jim Knoble**, and **Diane Knoble**



SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARD BANQUET



Siblings and Special Olympics athletes **Dylan and Kayla Stearns**

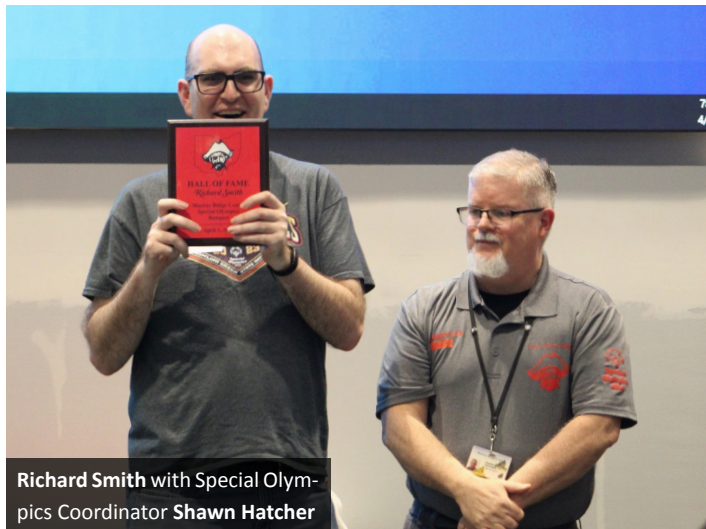
Congrats to all Special Olympians!
Enjoy these highlights!

Honoring Our 2023-2024 Special Olympics Athletes

The 2024 Special Olympics Awards Banquet was held this past April 1st! Nearly 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.



Superintendent **Amber Fisher** with **Charles Johnson**



Richard Smith with Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher**

Hall of Fame Inductee

Richard Smith was inducted into the Murray Ridge Special Olympics Hall of Fame for his swimming, from which he "retired" this past February at the 2024 Winter Games. He was a swimmer with Murray Ridge for nearly 20 years!



Katie Weaver with **Ryan Brown**

In addition to congratulatory addresses from Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** and Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, **Jeremy Foster** delivered a moving invocation. Next, after a keynote address by **Tim Murray**, special recognition was given to the most recent Hall of Fame inductee, **Richard Smith**; and the 2023's State Champions, the 4x100 Relay Team, the Modified Volleyball Team, and the Soccer 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**; **Nordson Corporation**; **Amherst Athletic Association**; **Rebman Recreation, Inc.**; and **Shoreway Sports & Graphics**.



Best Dressed!

Although not an official Special Olympics category, Shawn Hatcher declared **Dustin Mitchell** "Best Dressed" at the banquet. We can see why!



Keynote Speaker Tim Murray

Tim Murray is the reigning and 2-time Fittest Man on Earth for the short stature division of the CrossFit Games and he is currently working towards winning number 3! Tim spoke about his training regimen, his competitive career, and how his grandfather helped bring Special Olympics to Northern Kentucky over the course of the 1970s and 80s.



Shawn Hatcher behind three of the four members of the Gold Medal winning 4X100M relay team: **Ajonie' Glinsey**, **Alicia Lawrence**, and **Sarah Ward**. Not pictured: **Elizha Suggs**.

State Champions!

In 2023, the 4X100M Relay Team, the Modified Volleyball Team, and the Soccer Team all won State Championships. Congratulations, everyone!



Modified Volleyball Team, left to right: Coach **Leroy Keen**, **Ryan Brown**, **Robert Assanikis**, **Shari Reitenbach**, **Tony Harris Jr.**, **Ryan Busher**, and **Hector Lonzano**



Shawn Hatcher and Coach **Scott Gezzer** behind the 2024 State Championship winning Soccer Team, left to right: **Tim Dammeyer**, **Ryan Eliason**, **Sean Ware**, **Megan Craig**, **Diana Clement**, **Andrew Westover**, **Katie Weaver**, **Jeremy Foster**, **Dorian Chaffin**, **Nathan Gezzer**. Not pictured: Coach **Russ Moyer**

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS IS BACK!

LIVE PRO WRESTLING **MEGA**
WRESTLING
MAY 4TH, 2024 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: JOHNSON'S TRADING POST (JAMIE'S FLEA MARKET, SOUTH AMHERST, OH)

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

SPECIAL PRICES FOR MURRAY RIDGE CENTER AFFILIATES

Please note that the flyer includes public ticket pricing/purchasing options only. Tickets are also available for purchase at both Murray Ridge Opportunity & Vocational Centers (OVCs). The ticket price is \$10 for individuals eligible for services from Murray Ridge Center (the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities) and their caregivers/affiliates, if purchased in advance at one of the OVCs. (Tickets purchased on the day of the show will be \$20.00 for everyone.)

Murray Ridge affiliates may visit the front desk of either OVC between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM (Monday -Friday) to purchase tickets:

Oberlin OVC: 285 Artino Street, Oberlin

Lorain OVC: 4360 Oberlin Ave., Lorain

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on March 25, 2024

Superintendent Fisher explained anticipated revenues and variable expenses of the agency's school year 2023/2024 Preschool Program, and gave a historical overview of subsidies and charges for Murray Ridge Preschool Program participants with special needs; the Board established rate structures for parents of typically developing children and school districts that place students in the Murray Ridge Preschool Program for the 2024/2025 school year. The Board unanimously approved minor revisions to its policies on Early Intervention and Early Intervention Referral to the Help Me Grow (HMG) Program. Dr. Fisher discussed upcoming events, including the twelfth annual Breaking Down Barriers wrestling event, a fundraiser for the Friends of Murray Ridge, to be held on Saturday May, 04, 2024.



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

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professional (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.

Licensed Practical Nurse

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

Provider Compliance and Resource Specialist

This is a full time position within our Service and Support Administration Department.

Intervention Specialist

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.

Custodial Service PT

This is a part time position in our Maintenance Department.

Service & Support Administrator

This is a full time position in our Services and Support Administration Department.

Adult Program Instructor

This is a full time position in our Adult Services Department, likely assigned to Supported Employment.

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
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Elyria, OH 44035

Photo of the Month: James Hertzell had fun feeding the animals at Wild Hooves Animal Rescue in Vermillion!

Contact Us

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