



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

April 2012

## Warm Hats, Warm Hearts Adult Services Group Gives Back to Lorain County

Helping People...For a Lifetime. This is the motto all Murray Ridge Center employees try to live by. We are here to serve our consumers - it's our mission.

But for a group of consumers at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC), helping people for a lifetime became *their* mission. Giving back to Lorain County, responding to those in need, and fostering a caring, loving, and nurturing community found focus in the **Warm Hats, Warm Hearts club**.



Kista Atkins uses a donated loom and donated yarn to create a newborn baby hat.

Warm Hats, Warm Hearts was the brain-child of Penni Schuster and Josh Rosecrans, two staff members at the EOVC. When weaving looms, and later, yarn, were donated to Murray Ridge, Penni immediately

began crafting ideas on how to use them, and perhaps how they could be used to help others.

Starting in January 2012, Penni gathered twelve consumers interested in the craft of weaving and put them to work, teaching them how to use the looms and yarn to create warm winter hats. As their collection of finished products grew, the Warm Hats club made a commitment: create as many hats over the next year as possible, and donate them to homeless shelters in Lorain County.

As the consumers' interest in helping others grew, so did their desire to expand that charity. If they were going to make hats for adults, why not for babies, too? Adult Services purchased additional looms and the group began weaving hats for newborn babies;

these they will donate to local hospitals. And why stop at hats? Soon, scarves were being created for donation as well.

This type of dedication and generosity is truly a reflection of the remarkable individuals

who attend our Opportunity and Vocational Centers. It really does take a warm and generous heart to turn a donation from one good deed into gifts for hundreds. Penni Schuster says, "We are learning that, although these are donations being made to Murray Ridge Center consumers, the consumers can use them to pay it forward...to help somebody else in need. Not just help themselves."

And the consumers agree; they have found that an act of giving creates an energy that leads to more giving. Their philanthropic efforts have united them in charity; a cause so familiar to them, so reflective of what we oftentimes see being directed toward the developmentally disabled community, and so typical of how others may view Murray Ridge Center.

Participants in Warm Hats, Warm Hearts are now the ones lending a hand. They are the ones creating a cycle of giving that begins at Murray Ridge Center and ends with a warmer community.

"It feels good knowing their head is warm when it is cold outside." - *Christy Burkley*

"I like making hats for people that need it." - *Rochelle Allison*

"Some people don't have money, so we are making the effort to help people who really need it." - *Dawn Nelson*

"It makes me very happy to give someone a hat cause I know they need it. They don't have a lot." - *Kista Atkins*

## Murray Ridge School Presents "Circle of Life on the Ridge"

Join Murray Ridge School for its production of "Circle of Life on the Ridge." This musical, written by teacher Gary Hawke with musical numbers composed and performed by teacher Nevan Eilbeck, takes place in the grassland ecosystem found somewhere in Central to South Africa.

Circle of Life on the Ridge will include a student choir and drum core.

**Where:** Murray Ridge School  
**When:** April 27, 2012 at 10:15 a.m. in the school gym



All are welcome to come and watch lions, giraffes, zebras, and elephants sing and dance in this fun and lively production!

## April is Autism Awareness Month



Join Murray Ridge Center as we observe April as National Autism Awareness Month. Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) affect 1 in every 88 births, and almost 1 in 70 boys. Autism affects individuals differently and to varying degrees, but the National Autism Society estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans are living with some effects of ASDs.

Autism is treatable, and early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes. Visit [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org) for more information, or to learn about programs and services offered by Murray Ridge School, contact Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, or Supervisors Joan Peterson or Lenora Oeftering at 329-3760.

## Murray Ridge Center Volunteer Appreciation Reception



The annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria.

Look for your invitation in the mail or contact Jennifer Judkins at 329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org) to RSVP.

Refreshments will be served and the Volunteer of the Year award will be presented.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Wear Blue to Work Day!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, designed to help the community reflect on how we can better prevent child maltreatment and provide successful interventions when it does occur.

To support this cause, Murray Ridge School and Early Intervention has asked that the entire agency participate in **Wear Blue To Work Day on Wednesday, April 11, 2012**. This event is jointly sponsored by Lorain County Children Services and the Lorain County Children and Families Council.

Thank you in advance for wearing blue and making a difference in the life of a child. Child abuse is preventable and this event will raise awareness and helps demonstrate Murray Ridge Center's support for the families and children of Lorain County.

# Autism 24/7

## A Free Mini-Conference for Parents, Teachers, Physicians, and Anyone Interested in Learning More About Autism

Join Murray Ridge Center and professionals from around the state to learn more about Autism at Murray Ridge School.

Choose three 30-minute sessions from our team of Autism experts, including the State Support Team Region 2 Autism Coordinator Jennifer Heim.

**When:** April 19, 2012  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Murray Ridge School  
9750 Murray Ridge Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Session topics will include:

- Assistive technology
- Adapted equipment
- Transition to adulthood
- Simple and complex communication systems
- and many more!

A certificate of completion is available to attendees.

*We Need Your Help!*

Representatives from the **Lorain County Metro Parks** will be on-hand to answer questions and take suggestions on the outdoor play area at the new Mercy Recreation and Health Center in Amherst. Help the Metro Parks create a facility and play area useful and enjoyable for individuals with disabilities!



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Remember...April is National Autism Awareness Month

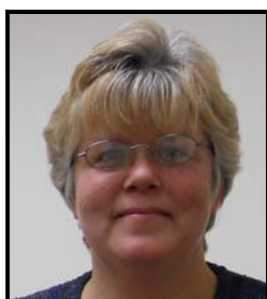
## New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Kristen Jenkins has been hired as a Home Instruction Teacher for Murray Ridge School. Kristen graduated from Ashland University and has been working as a substitute teacher since January. Kristen lives in Amherst with her husband, Daniel, and two children, Avery (14) and Ryan (19). Kristen enjoys spending time with her family, sports, and watching movies.

Christina Morris will be working as a part time group home aide at Liberty Lane. She graduated from Midview High School and worked for Midview Schools as an aide for handicapped children prior to working with Murray Ridge. She lives in Grafton with her fiancée Arthur and her son, Caleb. Christina enjoys shopping and cooking, and going for walks.



Tammy Heisler has been hired as a part-time group home aide at E. 9th Street. She graduated from Elyria High School and still lives in Elyria today with her husband, Chuck. Tammy has five children: Andrea, Stephanie, Heather, Matt, and Jasmine. She enjoys spending time with her family and baking.

Tammy Hrinda will be working for Murray Ridge Center as a part time group home aide at E. College. She is a graduate of Oberlin High School and attends Lorain County Community College. Tammy lives in New Russia Township where she enjoys visiting with friends, poetry, photography, volunteering, and working with animals.



## These Students Have Talent!

### Murray Ridge School presents first ever talent show

More than 60 students participated in the first ever Murray Ridge School Talent Show on March 29. Teacher Cheryl Bieri organized the program, practices, and tryouts. Teachers and/or aides of each group in the show were responsible for choosing their act and creating their routine, with many other staff members joining in for practices and the final performance. Congratulations to all our talented performers!



Chloe Breeding, Sierra Long, Evey Rodgers and Stephanie Jackson cheered in "Lady Dragons." Justin Cirilo (right) sings in "Oldies But Goodies" while dancers (below) James McElya, Logan Reid, Jimmy Woods and Zachary Grimmatt (front row) and Pat Churavy, Nancy Daniels, and Julie Kraker (back row) move to the music!



# Lorain County Commissioners Proclaim March as "DD Awareness Month"



Pictured (l-r): Commissioner Ted Kalo, Commissioner Lori Kokoski, Jamen Ross, Superintendent Amber Fisher, Commissioner Tom Williams, Barb Ramsey, and Ana Cruz.

Joining with other groups throughout our nation, the Lorain County Commissioners adopted a resolution on March 14, 2012, declaring the month of March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Lorain County.

Three consumers accompanied Superintendent Amber Fisher to share their stories and to thank the Commissioners for their support of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, more commonly known as Murray Ridge Center.

As noted by the Commissioners, the proclamation recognized the Lorain County Board Developmental Disabilities "in honor of the sizeable contribution made to the welfare of Lorain County children and adults with special needs."

During the meeting, Dr. Fisher highlighted the ser-

VICES that more than 2,000 Lorain county citizens with developmental disabilities receive from Murray Ridge Center.

For example, in 2011, The Early Intervention program served 682 children from birth to three years of age, and Murray Ridge School educated 159 students. Murray Ridge Center provided day services and/or work experience for 940 adults in one of the three Murray Ridge Opportunity/Vocational Centers, several community employment enclaves operated by the Murray Ridge Production Center, or in other locations throughout the community. Residential services were provided to 389 individuals, many of whom require this care due to deceased parents and/or elderly family caregivers. Also in 2011, the Family Support program assisted 677 Lorain County families with the care of a relative with developmental disabilities.

Since 1979, agencies across the country have formally recognized the abilities of persons with Developmental Disabilities (DD) every March. Throughout the month, efforts are made to help the public become more aware of people with developmental disabilities, the accomplishments and potentials of these individuals, and the programs and services available to them. Ohio proudly participates in this tradition and Lorain County's Murray Ridge Center is eager to support this effort.

Posters announcing DD Awareness Month were displayed in libraries, community buildings, and places of worship across Lorain County throughout the month of March.

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on March 30, 2012:

It was reported by Board member Dan White that the Board Award Committee has an Exceptional Service Award winner who will be honored at the next Board meeting. Superintendent Amber Fisher explained a proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding an agreement between Murray Ridge Center and the Lorain County Health Department to establish MRC as a Closed Point of Distribution (POD) in the event of an emergency. The Board unanimously approved the agreement. Dr. Fisher also presented information on the Murray Ridge School preschool program; the Board approved a motion to retain - for the 2012/2013 school year - current rates charged for preschool to school districts and parents of typically developing children, and to reduce rates charged to parents of typically developing children for transportation to preschool. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the second quarter of 2012. Two policy revisions, *Consumer Transportation* and *Drug Free Workplace*, and a new policy, *Social Media*, were approved. In other news, the Ohio School Council Cooperative Purchasing Waste and Recycling Services, which involves no cost to MRC, was reviewed and approved.

## Mega Championship Wrestling Presents "Breaking Down Barriers 2!"

Mega Championship Wrestling, a local entertainment company, will be presenting an event called "Breaking Down Barriers 2."

As in the past, proceeds from this event will go to the Friends of Murray Ridge, a non-profit charitable organization which supports the mission, community education and informational outreach of the Murray Ridge Center.



Although wrestling may not be for everyone, many of our consumers enjoy watching WWE wrestling and would be interested in attending this event.

**Date:** Saturday, April 14, 2012

**Time:** Doors open at 6:30pm  
Showtime 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Where:** Lorain County Community College, Ewing Field House

**Cost:** \$10.00/ticket in advance and at the door.

T-Shirts will be available at the door for \$15.00 (2XX plus sizes will cost more).  
There will be a concession stand open for you to purchase snacks.

### To purchase tickets in advance for \$10.00 each:

1. Fill in the section below and cut on the dotted line.
2. Return the completed form below with your money or check in an envelope addressed to one of the buildings below:

Darrylin Wargo at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (440) 774-7400

Jessica Kolb at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (440) 284-2720

Dianne Knoble at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (440) 282-2131

Beverly Monteleone at the Administration Building (440) 329-3734

Kelly Moe at Murray Ridge School (440) 329-3760

3. If you are sending a check make it out to: Mega Championship Wrestling  
OR

You can stop in at one of the sites listed to purchase tickets.

If you have any questions call the numbers above.

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NAME OF PERSON ORDERING TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS (at \$10.00 each): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT MONEY/CHECK ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



# April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	<b>Murray Ridge School Spring Break 4/9/11-4/13</b>					14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Activities & Events

- 4/5 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 4/6 - Agency Closed in Observance of Good Friday
- 4/9-4/13—Murray Ridge Preschool and School Closed for Spring Break
- 4/12 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 4/14 - Breaking Down Barriers II, Lorain County Community College, Time TBD
- 4/18 - Murray Ridge Center Volunteer Reception, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 4/18 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 4/19 - Autism 24/7 at Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 4/19 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting , 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 4/20 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 4/26 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 4/27 - LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 4/27 - Murray Ridge School Musical, "Circle of Life on the Ridge," 10:15 a.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria



## Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.05, Adults = \$3.25

April 16-20

May 7-11

April 2-6

April 23-27

April 9-13

April 30-May 4

**Monday-** Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

**Tuesday-** Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Wednesday-** Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Monday-** Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

**Tuesday-** Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

**Wednesday-** Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

**Monday-** Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

**Tuesday-** Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Wednesday-** Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 146  
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)



### **"Exceptional Service Award"**

Do you know someone whose work efforts within the confines of his/her position show remarkable dedication and have made significant contributions in meeting the needs of Murray Ridge consumers? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award!

If you are a consumer, parent, guardian, community member, or sibling or other relative, submit your nomination to Jenn Judkins, Manager of Community Education and Volunteers. Include an explanation of your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for selection at its discretion.

The Board will present this quarterly award to its recipient (s) at one of its regularly scheduled meetings, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit [www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org) and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.