

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

OCT 2024



Beshar Rassie working at Cutting Dynamics Inc.

Supported Employment Spotlight: Beshar Rassie

Beshar works at Cutting Dynamics Inc. in Avon Lake, having started at the former enclave there in September, 2003. He was recruited last year to work in a full time capacity, about which he says, "This is my dream job." He lives independently in Avon Lake, and outside of work, he likes to spend time with his family and exercise.

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.

Julie Knight working at Pizza Hut in Elyria



Supported Employment Spotlight: Julie Knight

Julie has worked at Pizza Hut in Elyria for the past several years, where she is a diligent, hard worker. Julie lives at home with her mom and has a boyfriend, James, with whom she enjoys spending time.



Sean Ware working at Kendal at Oberlin

Supported Employment Spotlight: Sean Ware

Sean works at two competitive employment sites: Kendal at Oberlin and Bill's Burgers and Swirls. He also attends our Oberlin Opportunity & Vocational Center, participates in Special Olympics, and enjoys traveling with his family. Of Sean, Vocational Placement Specialist Lisa Reed says "He is a great worker and is always willing to jump in and help."

EARLY INTERVENTION Special Events

Left to right: Dorothy Andrews and Kai Catanese with Developmental Specialist Amber Bowers



EI Visits Apple Hill's PumpkinLand

Early Intervention staff and families went to Apple Hill in Amherst on September 25th for a play date in PumpkinLand!

Cora Krakau smiling for the camera

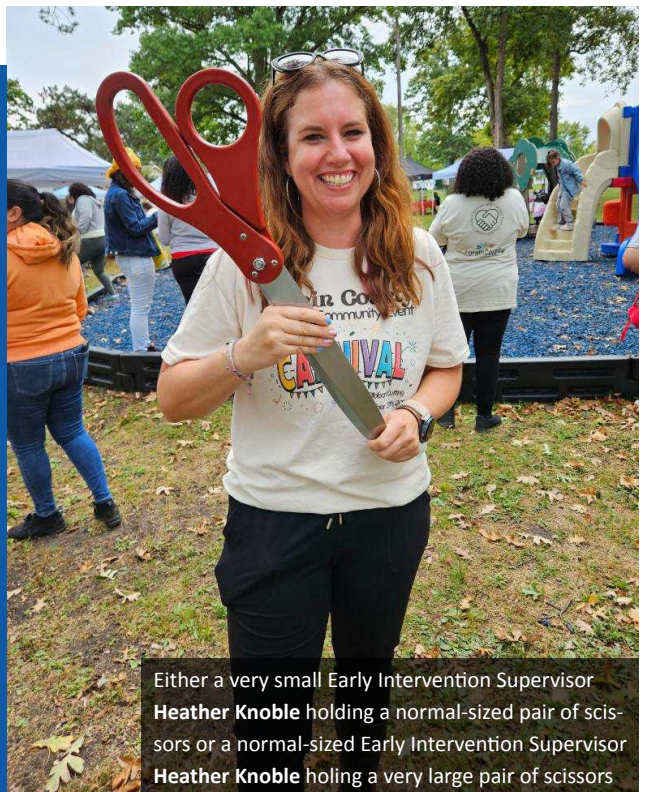


Lakeview Park South Ribbon Cutting Event

The Lorain County Children and Families First Council in partnership with Lorain City and in consultation with the Murray Ridge Early Intervention Department added an area to Lakeview Park South specifically designed for children of all abilities, ages 0-5.



Pictured above, left to right: Murray Ridge Early Intervention service recipient **Hendrix Booker** cutting the new park's ribbon with the support of (left to right) Lorain Mayor **Jack Bradley**, Hendrix's mother **Tianna Lusane**, Murray Ridge Early Intervention Supervisor **Heather Knoble**, Early Intervention Director at Neighborhood Alliance **Isaac Young**, Executive Director of the Lorain County Children and Families First Council **Chelsea Freeman-Yates** (along with her son **Bo**), Lorain City Public Property Manager **Lori Garcia**, Lorain City Parks and Recreation Superintendent **Eric Lahetta**, and Lorain City Recreation Coordinator **Mindy Stoyka**.



Either a very small Early Intervention Supervisor **Heather Knoble** holding a normal-sized pair of scissors or a normal-sized Early Intervention Supervisor **Heather Knoble** holding a very large pair of scissors

MURRAY RIDGE IS OUT AND ABOUT!



Michelle Miller on her first-ever fishing trip



DaeJon Hamlin at Wild Hooves Farm Animal Rescue & Petting Zoo in Vermilion

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!



Kara Zudell, Luis Massas, and Vito Faga visiting Cabela's in Avon



Melissa Glaze (seated), Adult Program Instructor Penni Shuster, and Fred Biller



Evan Geer, Activity Aide Eva Torres, Todd Novotny, and Jorge Rivera visiting a Little Free Library

WHAT'S NEW AT Murray Ridge School



Recently, students at Murray Ridge School enjoyed a fun visit from **Minnie the Therapy Goat!** The two-year-old pigmy goat is a certified therapy animal, and the students took turns visiting with and petting her. When it comes to therapy, Minnie is the G.O.A.T.! Pictured, left to right: Minnie's owner **Addi Beal**, Classroom Aide **Joe Croftcheck**, and **Mathew McKinney**



Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff** and barista extraordinaire **Ja'Quan Warren**



Brew it Smooth at the County Commissioners' Office

Our Murray Ridge School coffee shop and vocational program, the Brew It Smooth Café, was recently invited to set up and serve its drinks and snacks at the Lorain County Commissioners meeting! We at Murray Ridge are grateful and fortunate to have so much community support for our endeavors to bring work experience and job training to students at Murray Ridge School. School Aide **Mary Huff**, **Brady Bella**, Teacher **Taylor Blascak**, **Jenny Sislawski**, Personal Aide **Terri Mahon**, **Tyrese Whitfield**, **Ja'Quan Warren**, Teacher **Kristin Dickerhoff**, **Ja'Laysia Brown**, **Nick Green**, **Patrick Boey**, **Evey Rodgers**, and Personal Aide **Amy Marrero**.

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month



Did you know that according to the National Institutes of Health, each year about 6,000 babies born in the United States have Down syndrome - that's about one in every 700 babies born in this country. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. 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 live happy, long and productive lives, while making valuable contributions within their communities. This month, please join us in celebrating 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 Lissa Lopez, a Music Teacher at Murray Ridge School. Her nominators, Moira and Dan Erwine, wrote that "Lissa goes above and beyond her classroom walls to assist and support the individuals and families in achieving their goals," wrote Moira, "Murray Ridge is blessed to have Lissa Lopez on staff." Thank you, Lissa, for your dedication to those you serve!



Board Member **Rebecca Cornman**, Murray Ridge School Music Teacher **Lissa Lopez**, and Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

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.

2024 WOOLLYBEAR PARADE IN VERMILION

Murray Ridge Center was proud to once again take part in the annual Woollybear Festival Parade in Vermilion, Ohio! Our representatives came to the parade decked out in orange and brown, with a giant Woollybear decoration made by Program Specialist **Tammy Stanley** and Adult Program Instructor **Kevin Chutes** at our Oberlin Adult Opportunity & Vocational Center (OOVC). Thank you to everyone involved for making this a fun, inclusive event!



Pictured from left to right: **Christopher "John" Hall**, OOVC Secretary **Tina Tucker**, **Shari Reitenbach**, **Tiffany Harris**, OOVC Program Specialist **Tracey Lewis**, **Jeremy Foster**, **Alicia Lawrence**, **Brittany Tidd**, Developmental Specialist **Kathy Bevaque**, Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, **Charles Johnson Jr.**, Provider Compliance/Resource Specialist **Michelle Woodham**, Provider Compliance/Resource Specialist **Kim Phillips**, **Lisa Schultz**, and **Colin Ryan** in front

Dental Hygiene Clinic



*Lorain County
Community College*

FREE SPECIAL EVENT
For Murray Ridge
Clients

SERVICES TO INCLUDE:

- Cleaning, X-rays, and Dentist Exam
- Oral Health Instructions

All Services Provided by LCCC
Dental Hygiene Students
under faculty instruction

Saturday
11/2/24 @
9am

LIMITED APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
CALL TO SCHEDULE

CALL 440-366-4948

Boardroom Briefing

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

Board member Rebecca Cornman gave an update on the delivery of and selection of a nominee to receive a Quarterly Exceptional Service Award. In order to consolidate policy language pertinent to driving on Agency business, and to eliminate obsolete transportation-related policy provisions, the Board unanimously passed revisions to its policies on Ordering/Use of Supplies, Equipment and Vehicles, Investigation/Criminal Background Checks, and Verification of Driving Ability; and rescinded its policies on Locally-Funded Transportation and Non-Medical Transportation. The date/time of the next Organizational Meeting was set for January 27, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The Board appointed Board Member Ryan Egbertson as delegate and Superintendent Amber Fisher as alternate to the 2024 delegate assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities. The Board visit to the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center, to occur on October 22, 2024, was discussed.



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

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.

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.

Service & Support Administrator

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

School Aide

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

Intervention Specialist (Teacher)

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

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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Photo of the Month: Getting into the Halloween spirit at the Spirit Halloween Store! Pictured, left to right: Hector Ortiz, Thomas Wohlever, John Armstrong, James Wilson, Michael Telsoni, and Adult Program Instructor Penni Shuster

Contact Us

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