

The Marsh Messenger

• Fall 2012

• www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Deputy Director of ODJFS Visits The Marsh Foundation Campus

This summer, Jennifer Justice, the deputy director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) visited The Marsh Foundation in Van Wert.

She made the trip along with Mark Mecum, the executive director of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) in an effort to further familiarize themselves with the private agencies that are serving children in the state of Ohio.

"We were thrilled to have Jennifer and Mark on campus," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh.

"It was a great opportunity

to talk about the services The Marsh Foundation provides and to discuss the challenges facing many of the children and families we serve. They also gave us the chance to ask questions and learn more about activities happening on the state level."

The visit included a tour of campus and a conversation over lunch about how private and public agencies can work together more closely and better meet the needs of children and families.

According to Mullins, The Marsh, which is licensed through ODJFS, continually works to stay abreast of state policies and happenings. "This

was a great way for Jennifer and ODJFS to broaden the lines of communication and reach out to agencies in different parts of the state," she said.

The Marsh is also a member of OACCA. The association's mission is to promote and strengthen a fully integrated, private/public network of high quality services for Ohio's children, youth, and their families through advocacy, education and support of member agencies. The Marsh regularly takes advantage of OACCA conferences and training opportunities. For more information on their programs and services, visit www.oacca.org.

Jennifer Justice, the Deputy Director of ODJFS, and Mark Mecum, the executive director of OACCA, toured The Marsh Foundation campus this summer. They were able to meet several staff and youth.



THE MARSH
FOUNDATION

Please Share

Please share The Marsh Messenger with others in your family or office who would like to read it. Thank you!

Inside

- Letter from the Executives **Page 2**
- The Marsh Hosts Nationally Known Speaker **Page 3**
- House Happenings **Page 4**
- Photo Book **Page 5**
- Marsh Receives Three-Year CARF Accreditation **Page 6**
- Calendar of Events **Page 8**

Leadership

- **The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees:**
 - Gary Corcoran
 - Robert Gamble
 - Gerald Thatcher
- **The Marsh Foundation Executive Team:**
 - Kim Mullins
 - Roger Salisbury
 - Jeff Grothouse

The Marsh Foundation
1229 Lincoln Highway P.O. Box 150
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

From the Trustee's desk ...

The summer of 2012 was a very memorable one in regards to weather. It will go down in the record books as the hottest July in history. It was also dry and the combination of hot temperatures kept the campus mowers out of business for much of the summer.

Unfortunately, we were not exempt from the damage from the wind storm of June 30. It caused destruction here too, bringing down many branches, limbs and large trees on our beautiful historic campus.

The maintenance staff did an outstanding job working together to remove 45 pickup truck loads and 53 dump truck loads of branches and tree debris from the main campus under less than desirable conditions. Temperatures reached 100 plus degrees during the removal of debris.

There have been many updates and campus improvements completed within the past several months.

The installation of a new Marsh Foundation sign, located in the south lawn, along with moving the flag pole next to the building was completed in the spring of 2012. The beautiful granite sign will be a lasting tribute to the campus.

Other improvements include the much needed painting of the Harter Building and Flat Lands Supply



Jeff Grothouse

Buildings. This was a definite improvement to the landscaping of the campus.

The south and north roads and parking areas of The Marsh Campus have recently been repaved with new asphalt. This was a project we just could not put off any longer. This fall, the final sealer and line painting will be completed. It is a welcome beautification and update to the campus.

The kitchen staff is working diligently to update the school menus to adhere to the new rules for school lunches issued by the USDA. This has been a smooth transition due to all their preparation and dedication to the children of The Marsh.

The Business Office continues to provide the support for the campus. Such as paying the bills, payroll, maintenance issues, food preparation and cleanliness. The professional

"With the endowment of George H. Marsh, and the vision of the trustees, directors and staff, this mission will be accomplished for many, many years to come."

staff has and will continue to provide the needed services to our Marsh children and staff.

According to the visions and the mission of The Marsh Foundation which is to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families, this campus must employ quality compassionate staff, continue to care for the campus grounds and seek out ways to help children and families. With the endowment of George H. Marsh and the vision of the trustees, directors and staff, this mission will be accomplished for many, many years to come.

Jeffrey M. Grothouse
Executive Secretary & Treasurer
The Marsh Foundation

BBBS Looking for Mentors

The Marsh Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters need volunteers to be a 'Big' for the Supper Club Program. There are several youth from The Marsh Foundation looking forward to spending some time with a special friend a couple of times a month from November until May. Without enough volunteers, some youth may not be able to participate in the program.

The program begins in November. The Supper Club Program consists of the 'Bigs' and 'Littles' get together on the first and third Thursdays of the month for supper and an activity. Some of the things planned include a Christmas party and feast, all group birthday party, restaurant trips, service projects, making meals, match art project and a lot of other fun activities.

The volunteers also visit their 'Little' at the youth's group home once a month on a weekend day of their choosing for a couple of hours.

To participate in this program or for more information, please contact BBBS at 419.394.2990 or via e-mail: office@bbbsma.com. You may also contact Sherry Grone, activities coordinator at The Marsh Foundation, at 419.605.2512 or sgrone@marshfoundation.org.

A commitment to excellence

The Marsh Hosts Nationally Known Speaker

The Marsh Foundation recently hosted Heather T. Forbes LCSW, a nationally known speaker and author, for a day long training entitled “Why Tokens Aren’t Working: Helping Children with Difficult Behaviors.” The seminar was a collaborative effort between Mercer County DJFS and the Western Ohio Regional Training Center through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. The training was provided as a free educational opportunity for parents and professionals and social work and counselor CEU hours were offered.

Forbes presents a method of working with children affected by trauma that is love based. “We often underestimate the impact of trauma on a child’s development,” Forbes said. “When children experience trauma, their internal survival mechanisms can become activated, dedicating all the body’s resources to remain alert in “survival mode.” They perceive the world as threatening. This state of fear and stress is often demonstrated through difficult, severe, and socially inappropriate behaviors,” she said.

The event focused on understanding the child’s point of view and included a lot of video



Heather Forbes, a nationally known author and speaker, presented at The Marsh Foundation in June. She spoke on “Why Tokens Aren’t Working: Helping Children with Difficult Behaviors.”

clips, role-play and lectures to help understand how to work with these children. “Traditional behavioral techniques and therapies are not only ineffective for these children, but often escalate the intensity of the behaviors and drive them further away from parental relationships and from participating in treatment,” Forbes said.

Forbes’ “Beyond Conse-

quences” approach is detailed in her three top selling books. “We want to give parents, teachers, and professionals the tools to help children not only change their behaviors, but to move them onto a path of deep healing,” she said.

Forbes has a master’s degree of social work from the University of Central Florida. She has authored “Dare to Love:

The Art of Merging Science and Love into Parenting Children with Difficult Behaviors” and “Beyond Consequences, Logic and Control: A Love-based Approach to Helping Attachment-Challenged Children with Severe Behaviors” Volumes 1 and 2, among others.

To learn more about her and her approach, visit www.beyondconsequences.com.

Marsh Youth do Well at 2012 Van Wert County Fair



The Marsh youth had an excellent year at the county fair. A total of nine youth participated in 4-H projects. Two of those were independent projects and the other seven youth were showing rabbits.

One of the independent projects earned first place science project out of all the

entered projects. The youth had his own small garden plot this summer and did his project surrounding that.

All of the youth who showed rabbits did an outstanding job. The entire group worked very hard to decorate their own booth inside the junior fair building. It looked

great and displayed all of the youth’s projects.

In addition, the Marsh IDL garden crew entered a squash in the vegetable judging. The squash is pictured at the left. It won best vegetable in show from the entire fair. The IDL group was very proud, as it should be.



Clymer Chat

Currently, Clymer Hall is full with ten girls. They have concluded a fun summer and have been hard at work getting back into the school routine.

Several of the girls participated in rabbit projects through 4-H this summer. They learned about caring for the animals and took turns feeding and watering them. They were also able to show their animals at the Van Wert County Fair this month.

In addition to showing rabbits, three girls at Clymer Hall have been very involved in the Independent Living Garden

Program. The Marsh Grown garden crew spent the summer working in the garden, raising produce and selling it at the local farmer's market for an income. Although it involved a lot of early mornings and hard work, the girls said they enjoyed and found it a valuable experience.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall is currently at capacity with all ten beds full. A couple openings are anticipated soon as the boys work hard toward completing the program and moving on.

The Marsh Hall boys spent a lot of the summer outside

riding bikes and playing sports. They also enjoyed several outings and day trips throughout the summer.

School is back in full swing and the boys are getting ready for a special art workshop this fall as well as state OGT testing in October.

After the wind storm that affected this area in June, several boys from Marsh Hall were very helpful with the clean up. Many youth around campus spent time picking up branches and limbs that had been blown down during the storm.



Vance Voice

There are currently ten boys at Vance Hall and no openings. One youth is nearing graduation which will create an opening later this fall as he completes the program.

One Vance Hall youth received special recognition for his 4-H project this year at the county fair. His gardening project won first place science project out of all entries. He earned a large trophy and was very proud of his efforts.

The boys at Vance Hall spent a lot of time at the pool this summer swimming and enjoying the sunshine. They have since returned to school and are easing back into the schedule. They are enjoying music and guitar classes and are also working on special projects in their other classes as well.

Clinical Stakeholder Annual Satisfaction Survey Report Compiled

Each year, The Marsh Foundation conducts a survey of its stakeholders about the clinical (counseling) services that clients are receiving. Results from the 2012 fiscal year survey were recently compiled. These surveys are conducted to measure performance improvement and gather input. All active clients and their treatment team members are surveyed. The rating scale is 5 - 1, with 5 being very satisfied and one being very dissatisfied.

All average ratings from all audiences surveyed were above 4.2. A total of 56 client satisfac-

tion surveys were sent and 43 were returned for a 77 percent return rate. When asked, overall, how satisfied clients were with the services being received from The Marsh, the average rating was 4.51.

Parents were also surveyed. A total of 36 parent satisfaction surveys were sent and 18 were completed for a 50% return rate. When asked, overall, how satisfied parents were with the services their child has received from The Marsh, the average rating was 4.42.

A total of 69 treatment team

member surveys were sent to case workers, CASA workers, probation officers, etc. 47 of those were returned for a 68 percent return rate. When asked, overall, how satisfied they were with the clinical services at The Marsh, the average rating was 4.49.

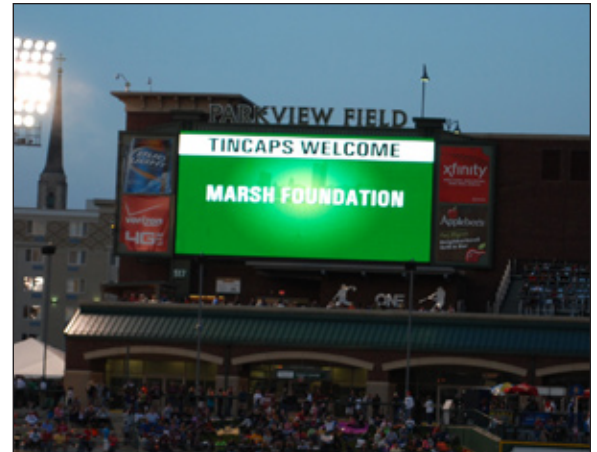
One treatment team member stated, "It's been exactly two years since I met my client. I've seen many positive changes and growth, and I credit how Marsh has adapted their program to meet his needs."

Thank You!

- Thank you to an anonymous donor who recently provided chicken dinners to all of the group homes! The dinners were purchased from the Family Health Care fundraiser for all of our youth.
- Thank you to Diana Glass for all of her years of service to The Marsh. She recently celebrated her retirement.
- Thank you to the Van Wert Chamber of Commerce. This summer, they facilitated a three-part communication and workplace relationship building training for our staff.



Clockwise starting at top: Photographer XX recently took an updated photo of The Marsh administration building. The picture highlights the newly constructed sign and landscaping. The Marsh youth and staff enjoyed a summer outing to a Fort Wayne Tincaps baseball game. The evening included a catered meal and fireworks. This summer's horse program was again successful. The show to conclude the season was initially postponed because of rain. However, the youth were able to perform and several earned awards for their hard work. In addition, many residents of the Van Wert Manor were able to attend and support the youth. Monthly, the youth visit the Manor to visit and play bingo.



Marsh School Calendar 2012 - 2013

Monday, Aug. 20

Faculty In-Service

Tuesday, Aug. 21

First Day for Students

Tuesday, Aug. 28

Staff In-Service (early dismissal)

Monday, Sept. 3

Labor Day - No School

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Staff In-Service No School

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Staff In-Service (2-hr delay)

Saturday, Nov. 3

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wed. - Fri., Nov. 21-23

Thanksgiving Vacation

Mon. - Tues., Dec. 24 - Jan. 1

Christmas Vacation

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Classes Resume

Monday, January 21

MLK Day - No School

Monday, Feb. 18

President's Day - No School

Mon. - Mon. March 25 - April 1

Spring Break - No School

Tuesday, April 2

Classes Resume

Saturday, April 27

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, May 23

Last Day for Students

Friday, May 24

Faculty Work Day

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day

First Nine Weeks

Aug. 24 - Oct. 23

Second Nine Weeks

Oct. 26 - Jan. 8

Third Nine Weeks

Jan. 11 - March 19

Fourth Nine Weeks

March 22 - May 28

The Marsh Foundation Awarded Three-Year CARF Accreditation

CARF International recently announced that The Marsh Foundation has been reaccruited for a period of three years for its Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents); Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults); and Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents) programs. The latest accreditation is the third consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to The Marsh Foundation.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

Some of The Marsh's strengths, as noted by CARF, are:

- "The leadership of The Marsh Foundation demonstrates a dedicated commitment to developing, maintaining, and expanding quality behavioral health services as it pursues its mission that addresses the needs of the community served."
- "The organization provides a safe, therapeutic, and welcoming environment that is conducive to quality treatment and recovery programming."



cive to quality treatment and recovery programming."

- "Program staff members are committed, highly flexible, and child focused."

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation

process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARE, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure the quality of their programs and services.

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation recently hired new staff members:

- Jim Tabler ~ Family Teacher
- Amina Frazier ~ Family Teacher
- Vanessa Menke ~ Family Teacher
- Danielle Duncan ~ Overnight Family Teacher
- Jessica Baughman ~ Family Teacher
- Valerie Parsell ~ Family Teacher

Experienced Staff Take on New Positions and Roles

The Marsh Foundation has recently promoted two experienced family teachers. Rob Davis has taken the position of CPST and Kelly Gross is the new coordinator of admissions and training.

Davis has been employed at The Marsh for more than eight years. He's held the positions of family teacher, school family teacher and has also provided home-based services for some youth in the community.

Now, as community psychiatric support treatment worker, he is putting his experience working with the youth to work in a slightly different way. Family teachers spend their time, day to day, working on improving behaviors and

As a CPST, he's taking that to the next level and working on helping the youth build social skills and working their overall treatment goals. In this role, he is able to meet with youth one-on-one as well as in the group setting. He's also responsible for coordinating the monthly treatment team meetings for his clients.

"I'm excited to help youth in a new way," Davis said. "I'm thrilled to still be working with the youth but in a new way and in a different setting. I'm really looking forward to the one-on-one interaction and helping the youth complete their treatment goals," he added.

Davis holds a BA in psychology from Ohio State, and served as an ABA therapist for five-and-a-half years providing home based services and teaching at an academy before

coming to The Marsh. He is originally from Van Wert and he and his wife Chris have a son Will, eight, and a daughter Lily who is six.

Kelly Gross has also been with The Marsh Foundation for eight years. She spent all of those years working inside the group homes with the youth as a family teacher.

Her new position as coordinator of admissions and training is allowing her to use that experience and knowledge of the youth The Marsh serves to further staff training opportunities and streamline the referral and intake process.

Gross' new responsibilities include coordinating all training for the Child and Family Services division at The Marsh. She is also the initial point of entry for all foster care and group home referrals. She handles coordination of the application process, assessments and the intake appointments for new youth.

"I love helping kids and I love that The Marsh is able to help find homes for those who don't have them," she said. "I'm excited to put a new twist on my skills and use them to help the kids in a different way," Gross added.

Originally from St. Mary's, Ohio, Gross studied psychology at the University of Toledo. She lives in Van Wert with her husband Dane and their two daughters, Katie, three and Lauren, seven months. She loves animals and has been riding four-wheelers since she was two.



Rob Davis has been promoted to CPST worker and Kelly Gross is The Marsh's new coordinator of admissions and training.

Garden Luncheon Served

The Independent Living garden crew finished the summer on a strong note. They prepared and served an impressive meal to staff and trustees. The meal used things grown in their garden and other locally obtained produce and food products. The youth learned the value of growing their own food and the health benefits to using food products found close to home.



Delicious fresh melon and custard was served for dessert.

The Marsh Foundation
1229 Lincoln Highway
P.O. Box 150
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Address Correction Requested
Return postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Van Wert OH
Permit No. 74

Volunteers Needed!

There are often opportunities for volunteer at The Marsh Foundation! Our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters provides a wonderful mentoring program for our youth. If you're interested in spending a little extra time with one of the kids on our campus, volunteer for our Supper Club!

Or, do you have a specific skill to share? Our activities coordinator is planning a life learning series. Do you have a skill or hobby you could teach? Things such as knitting, crochet, woodworking and other art forms would all be great. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Sherry Grone at 419.238.1695 ext. 270.

"Like" The Marsh on Facebook!

The Marsh Foundation's official Facebook page is www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation. In addition to a variety of photographs from the past and recent events, the Facebook page features updates on current activities and various things happening at The Marsh Foundation and in the community! Please stop by, like our page and tell your friends!



The mission of The Marsh Foundation is to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families.

Calendar of Events

Fall 2012

- The first nine weeks at The Marsh School ends Oct. 19
- The Marsh Foundation will be represented at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio's annual conference in Columbus on Oct. 24 and 25.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences for The Marsh School are Saturday, Nov. 3.
- The Marsh Grown garden crew will once again host their poinsettia sale this November.
- The Marsh Foundation School will not be in session Nov. 21 - 23 or Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 for Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.



For more information about any event, visit www.marshfoundation.org.

Attention Marsh Foundation Alumni

Are you an alumnus of The Marsh Foundation? Did you know that on our website, www.marshfoundation.org, we have a directory of alumni? To view the directory, or sign up yourself, visit the Alumni page online at www.marshfoundation.org.