

The Marsh Messenger

• Fall 2016

• www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Marsh Foundation Unveils Historical Documentary



THE MARSH
FOUNDATION

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Leadership

- **The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees:**
Gary Clay
Gary Corcoran
Robert Gamble
- **The Marsh Foundation Executive Team:**
Robbie Breese
Jeff Grothouse
Kim Mullins



The Marsh Foundation's newest video, "The Marsh Homestead: The Historical Tour" is now available online via our website. It is available for download purchase or on DVD by contacting Dawn Berryman at 419.238.1695 ext. 233. A public viewing will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m., followed by an open house at The Homestead.

In an ongoing effort to preserve the history and the legacy of The Marsh Foundation, a historical documentary has been created. Within the 35 minute long video, Marsh Historian Ron Bagley, walks the viewer through the historic Homestead where the Marsh family once lived. While doing so, he shares many insights into their life and their desire to help others.

The untold story is one of great interest and significance to the history of Van Wert. It highlights many of the family's philanthropic endeavors, includ-

ing the Van Wert YWCA and the original Van Wert County Hospital. The contributions that the Marsh family made to the Van Wert community are numerous and still thriving today.

The couple, George and Hilinda, had only one daughter, Katie. When she passed away the remaining amount of their massive estate was given to The Marsh Foundation to help further the mission of helping children and families.

When George wrote his last will and testament in 1919, he had amazing foresight into the

needs of children. The Marsh Foundation is still following that will and testament today.

The community is invited to a public showing of the historical video on Sunday, October 16 at 2 p.m. in The Marsh Auditorium. Following the presentation, Bagley will be available in the Homestead for in-person tours. Videos are also available for rent and/or purchase online via our website. DVD copies are available for purchase by contacting Dawn Berryman at 419.238.1695 ext, 233 or at dberryman@marshfoundation.org.

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

From the Executive's desk ...

The summer of 2016 can be defined as warm and dry on the campus of The Marsh Foundation. Dust was the meal of the day during horse riding instruction for the students. A total of 34 Marsh Foundation students attended class and riding instruction with the horses this summer. The training ended with a horse show attended by staff, family and county representatives. The horse program is always an enjoyable experience and highlight for our students.

The Marsh Foundation Trustees, Directors and Public Relations have recently met with Ohio Senator Cliff Hite, State Representative Tony Burkley, Republican Candidate Craig Riedel and United States Congressman Bob Latta. Each legislator from our Van Wert District was treated to a presentation of The Marsh's residential programs, Marsh School and tour of the Marsh facilities. We appreciated each legislator listening to The Marsh Foundation's concerns.

Upgrades to Wi-Fi technology in the Administration Building was a project that took place this summer. Google Chrome Books, staff laptops and staff cell phones all use the



Jeffrey M. Grothouse

technology of today. The Administration Building design adds to the difficulty in upgrading technology with the two foot walls, steel and concrete framing.

The long-term capital improvement projects for the campus include the construction of a gymnasium for our kids to enjoy physical exercise activities, a new school and additional residential space to assist additional children.

Currently, the investment portfolio of George H. Marsh provides approximately 28 percent of the income. The leases, farm ground and other farm incomes provide approximately 12 percent of the income. The Residential Services, Clinical and Foster Care incomes from State,

County and Local governmental assistance and Medicaid provides the other 60 percent of income needed to provide the children with quality, professional and safe care.

The breakdown of expense percentages by division are approximately Business Office 20 percent, School 8 percent and Residential Services, Clinical and Foster Care 72 percent.

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 years to come.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank all The Marsh Foundation Trustees, Staff, Employees and Teachers for their professionalism and dedication to the Mission of George H. Marsh.

Jeffrey M. Grothouse
Executive Secretary & Treasurer
The Marsh Foundation

2016 - 2017 Marsh Foundation School Calendar

- Friday, Oct. 28**
Staff In-Service - No School
- Saturday, Nov. 12**
Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Wed. - Fri., Nov. 23-25**
Thanksgiving Vacation
- Wed. - Mon., Dec. 21 - Jan. 2**
Christmas Vacation
- Tuesday, Jan. 3**
Classes Resume
- Monday, Jan. 16**
MLK Day - No School
- Friday, Feb 17**
Staff In-Service - No School
- Monday, Feb. 20**
President's Day - No School
- Mon. - Fri. March 20 - 24**
Spring Break - No School
- Friday, April 14**
Good Friday - No School
- Monday, April 17**
Easter Break - No School
- Saturday, April 22**
Parent- Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, May 23**
Last Day for Students
- Wednesday, May 24**
Faculty Work Day

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentors Needed

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 looking forward to spending some time with a special friend a couple of times a month beginning in late October.

Without enough volunteers some of these youth may not be able to participate in the program. You could be that special person!

In the Supper Club program, the Bigs and Littles get together on the first and third Thursdays of the month for supper and an activity.

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 Sherry Grone at 419-605-2512 or sgrone@marshfoundation.org.

It doesn't take a lot to make a BIG difference in a life of a youth at The Marsh Foundation. A past youth summed it up when he said, "It is really cool how you guys do this for us. It is really appreciated. It's a lot of fun."



Project Believe Donates Back Packs and School Supplies to Marsh Students



School is off to a successful start at The Marsh Foundation thanks in part to Project Believe. They generously donated backpacks and school supplies for all of our students. Pictured is school Principal Robbie Breese with Jeannie Boesenberg (left) and Tammie Rafferty (right) from Project Believe.

For the third year in a row, Project Believe was able to visit campus and bring along a donation of backpacks and school supplies for the 36 group home students. Project Believe is no stranger to The Marsh Foundation; the non-profit has also donated Christmas presents and Valentines for the past four years.

This past year, they also implemented a program to give our graduates baskets of items that they will need as they head out into the world and into their own apartments.

The organization, which originated in 2009, has continued to grow and expand. Tammie Rafferty, the group's founder, was inspired to help others by her own daughter's circumstances.

Rafferty visited the campus

to present the backpacks and supplies to Mr. Robbie Breese, Marsh Foundation School Principal, and students. She was joined by longtime Project Believe volunteer, Jeannie Boesenberg.

The organization is already gearing up for the Christmas season. A complete list of the items they are gathering for the Christ-

mas holiday can be found on their website, www.project-believe.net.

Project Believe serves other facilities and could use your donation. You can learn more about Project Believe by visiting their website at www.project-believe.net. Or, you can contact Rafferty directly at projectbelieve@live.com.

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff member:

- Christine Hernandez ~ Family Teacher
- Debra Collins ~ Family Teacher
- Nick Channell ~ Family Teacher
- Lauren Calvert ~ Family Teacher
- Mauricia Gruber ~ Family Teacher

Marsh Foundation Leadership Hosts Legislators



In recent months, The Marsh Foundation has hosted several legislators. Top left; State Representative Tony Burkley visited last spring. This summer, Ohio Senator Cliff Hite (top right), Republican Candidate Craig Riedel and his wife Danette (bottom left) and United States Congressman Bob Latta (bottom right), all visited The Marsh campus. It was a pleasure for Directors and Trustees to speak with the legislators about our campus, our services, our legacy in Van Wert and our needs moving forward. Each lawmaker was supportive and attentive to the unique needs of our organization.





Clockwise starting at top: Staff, youth and families enjoyed a night out at the ballpark in August when we attended a Tin-Caps baseball game in Ft. Wayne. Summer activities included the ropes course and climbing wall at Camp Clay as well as many 4H projects. The IDL youth worked hard all summer in the garden and at the local farmer's market. Family teachers (l to r) Tammy Heffner, Michele Bird and Tonya Branson attended the Fostering Pathways to Success conference this summer with IDL youth. They are pictured with Erie County Caseworker Jennifer Bundschuh (far right). School is back in session and that means fog delays. Our campus is beautiful no matter the weather!

THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF DOING IT

RIGHT

By extending supports for foster youth through age 21, we will all see the benefits through:



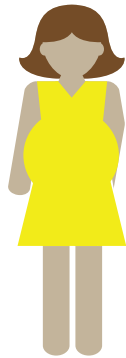
MORE

young people completing high school, vocational training, and college



MORE

people employed



FEWER

unplanned pregnancies



MORE

young people connected to caring families, helpful adults, and support networks



FEWER

incarcerations



LOWER

healthcare costs

#ohioreadyset21



Ohio Fostering Connections
Supporting Ohio Foster Youth Through Age 21
OhioFosteringConnections.org

Source: Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative



Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently full with 10 girls. The girls had a fun and busy summer and now are adjusting to the back-to-school schedule and routine.

After graduating last spring, one Clymer Hall youth used the summer months to pursue her STNA license. She recently completed the course and passed the test to become a licensed STNA.

The girls at Clymer enjoyed many activities over the summer. Many were involved in 4H, the garden crew and the horse program. They also enjoyed a fun day at the YMCA's Camp Clay on the ropes course and climbing wall.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall is currently accepting referrals for one opening. The boys have had a successful summer and are looking forward to the school year. One youth recently completed the program and was able to successfully step down into the independent living program at Senior Hall.

Several of the boys at Marsh Hall had 4H projects this summer. They included photography, skateboarding and cooking. One youth stated that he chose the cooking project because it was a skill that he would need after graduation. All of the 4H club members were able to educate themselves on topics they were previously unfamiliar with.



Senior Stuff

The Senior Hall program continues to flourish and benefit the youth it serves. The house is currently full with five boys. Over the summer, two youth were able to successfully graduate the program. The boys at Senior kept busy over the summer with off-campus jobs. Some of them also worked on the garden crew through the independent living program on-campus.

The boys at Senior Hall have taken on a leadership role on campus. Other youth look up to them and they are working hard to set a good example for the other youth as they advance through the program.



Vance Voice

Vance Hall has had a handful of boys discharged this summer and currently has a couple of openings for boys ages 10-17 in need of group home placement. Those wanting to make a referral should call Kelly Gross at 419.238.1695 ext. 360.

The boys at Vance Hall had a good summer, with some of them participating in 4H. They also all enjoyed the horse program and looked forward to the frequent riding. One youth at Vance Hall has advanced enough and was able to obtain an off-campus job this summer.

The boys are looking forward to the school year and again working with the new technology in the classroom.

Summer Full of 4H Projects and Fun

This summer, the on-campus 4-H club was under the direction of activities assistant Michele Bird. She worked to expand the offerings and build on the already established program. They held weekly meetings, voted on officers and established citizenship activities.

There were 13 youth in the club that participated in projects such as; photography, cooking, clothing, skateboards, athletics, archery and horses. Each youth established a mentor or field

trip experience to help them complete their project.

After working diligently on their projects, the youth participated in judging in July. All did well. One youth was chosen as an alternate for the state fair based on his project involving athletics and basketball. His project's poster board is pictured at right. The youth also gave a presentation to the trustees and showed off their pride in their work.



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P.O. Box 150
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Have You Liked Us Yet?

Did you know that The Marsh has it's own Facebook page? Have you liked us yet? You can stay atop of current happenings, get updates about events, or connect with friends you used to live with.



Most importantly, you can learn more about the upcoming reunion and connect with others who may be attending. As the event draws closer, we will be posting updates, agendas and reminders.

Please, visit our page at www.facebook.com/Marsh-Foundation and give us a 'like.' Then, encourage your friends to do the same!

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

Calendar of Events

October - December 2016

- Marsh Foundation representatives will attend the Public Children Services Association of Ohio's annual conference on Sept. 21-23.
- A public showing of the new historical Marsh documentary will be held Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences for The Marsh School are Saturday, Nov. 12.
- The Marsh Grown garden crew will once again host their poinsettia sale this holiday season. Stay tuned for details.
- The Marsh Foundation School will not be in session Nov.



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.