

# The Marsh Messenger

• Fall 2018

• [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)

*Serving children and families since 1922*

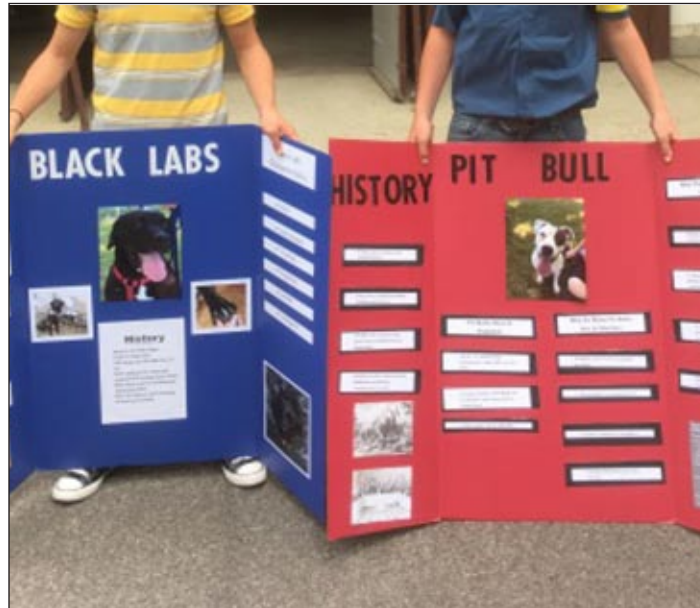
## Marsh Summer Packed Full of Fun

It was a busy summer for Marsh Foundation youth. Aside from summer school, regular counseling sessions and community service, activity after activity kept them busy and no one had the chance to be bored.

One activity which students were able to participate in this summer was the Marsh's 4-H group, named the Phoenix Foundation. A total of six students participated in this group, completing a variety of projects.

Three students participated in a project called 'beginning fishing.' For this project students learned about the basics of fish and how to be a responsible fisherman. In addition, students had the opportunity to gain additional information from guest speakers, and they also had the opportunity to plan and participate in their own fishing trip.

Two of our students participated in a project called 'all about dogs.' This project was designed to give students information about dogs and how to care for them. To help the students learn more about dogs, the Phoenix Foundation partnered with the Van Wert County Humane Society. Group leaders would bring dogs from the Humane Society back to Campus, and students would work with these dogs. This gave students a chance to learn valu-



**This summer, Marsh Foundation youth participated in a variety of activities; including the garden crew, 4-H and much more! Here, two youth are pictured with their State Fair qualifying 4-H projects.**

able skills, such as how to train dogs and how to care for them.

One student also did a self-determined project about saxophones. Having played saxophones since he was young, this student decided to take this passion and turn it into a 4-H project. For this project he used local libraries to research saxophones, communicated with a music professor from Ohio Northern University to learn more about saxophones, and visited a music store in Fort Wayne to see the different kinds of saxophones.

One of the most exciting things that happened with the Phoenix Foundation this year

is that four of our students qualified for judging at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus. To qualify for this honor, students had to participate in county judging in which they created a poster about their project, presented it to a judge, and answered questions about their project.

Students were scored based on their performance, and the top scorer in the county for each project qualified to move on to State Fair judging. The Phoenix Foundation is very proud of all of the hard work our students put in this year, and the many accomplishments

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**THE MARSH**  
FOUNDATION

## Please Share

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

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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

## From the Executive's desk ...

We have had a very successful start to the school year. On the first day of school we had a total of 34 students. We have 23 students from the group homes, seven day students from the community, one student receiving home instruction and four students in from our foster care division.

The beginning of the school year brings many unique challenges. One of our biggest challenges comes from starting the school with a new group of students, in which most are attending our school for the first time. Our school family teachers do a great job over the summer in prepping students for school. Behind the scenes, secretary Holly Myers works tirelessly retrieving student records and updating their information in our school records systems. Our teachers create lessons that accommodate grades 2-12, yet cover the standards that each student should be receiving within that complex curriculum.

Most impressive to me, is our student's ability to adapt to our unique school environment. We have a strong group of students to start the year and we are looking forward to a



**Mr. Robbie Breese**  
successful school year.

### New School Staff

Over the summer, we welcomed Claire Fleck to the school staff. Claire is now the school family teacher for Clymer Hall. She replaced MacKenzie Basil who is now the Program Manager at Vance Hall. Claire has been a family teacher for Marsh and Clymer Halls over the past year.

### Geodes

The Marsh students are studying geodes. Geodes are round rocks that are lined with crystals on the inside. Mrs. Karla Hoying started incorporating many hands-on activities involving geodes. The unit was kicked off by Mr. Rex Dolby, who came in to speak about geodes to each of the classes. Students will continue to study geodes in

Mrs. Mandy Looser's Science class and the unit will end with class trips to the Ohio Caverns.

### Credit Recovery

Our credit recovery program continues to be a major focus in the school. We continue to get new students that have fallen behind in their previous schools or placements. Over the summer, we had 12 students participate in our credit recovery program. These students had a combined 22 credits that we set out to recover. Of those 22 credits, our students successfully recovered 17. Mrs. Val Dunn oversees our summer credit recovery program and all teachers are involved during the regular school year. This is an accomplishment that we are extremely proud of and will continue the program into the school year.

### Important Dates

**Fall Festival Week: Oct. 28 - Nov. 2**

During Fall Festival Week, our students dress up following different themes all week at school. There are contests for best costumes and participation each day. On Wednesday evening, students and staff attend a party in the Rec Hall that includes a chili

cook-off, pumpkin carving showcase, dance and karaoke.

### Thanksgiving Luncheon: November 14

Staff and students enjoy a Thanksgiving feast in the cafeteria. Before the meal, some students will present "Thanksgiving Projects" in the auditorium. Projects will include a cover page, an acrostic, and an essay.

### Winter Talent Showcase/ Graduation: December 12

We have a couple students that are looking to graduate this December. The graduation ceremony will follow our annual student talent showcase in the auditorium. The talent showcase will include our students and/or staff singing, playing instruments or doing skits that have a winter theme. Following the graduation ceremony and talent show, there will be a Christmas and Graduation celebration meal in the cafeteria.

### Spring Program and Graduation: May 29

The program will consist of a piano recital followed by The Wizard of Oz. After the program, we will hold a graduation ceremony for our seniors.

*Mr. Robbie Breese*

Principal, Marsh Foundation School

A commitment to excellence

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentors Needed

The Marsh Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters are currently recruiting volunteers for their 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 the fall.



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. The 2018-19 program will begin October 18.

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](mailto: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 (l to r) is Project Believe board trustee Nicolette Winner, Ben Marsee, Marsh Hall's program manager and Marcus Boatman, Marsh group home consultant.**

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

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.

This year, Nicolette Winner, one of the organization's board trustees, visited the campus to present the backpacks and supplies to Marsh Foundation staff and students.

Marsh staff were excited to accept the donation again this year. Ben Marsee, Marsh Hall program manager and Marcus Boatman, group home consultant, were both on hand to accept on behalf of everyone at

The Marsh Foundation.

Project Believe is already gearing up for the Christmas season. A complete list of the items they are gathering for the Christmas holiday can be found on their website, [www.project-believe.net](http://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](http://www.project-believe.net). Or, you can contact Rafferty directly at

*Welcome Autumn!*



## Marsh Foundation Featured by Secretary of State in Ohio Business Profile

There are hundreds of thousands of businesses that call Ohio home. Small and large, our state hosts a wide range of restaurateurs, farmers, manufacturers and service providers. As the place where business begins in Ohio, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted launched Ohio Business Profile to highlight some of the great work being done in the Buckeye State.

Each month a handful of local companies tied together by a common theme are selected to be featured on their website.

In August, Husted selected various nonprofit organizations from across Ohio to be featured and The Marsh Foundation was lucky enough to be on that list.

According to his website, there are more than 67,000 active nonprofit organizations in the state. And, those organizations employ 450,000 people. That is a significant part of the Ohio economy.

All of the non-profits in Ohio have missions that are important and support causes that people are passionate about. All of these organizations are making a difference and improving the lives of those in their communities, state and nation. The Marsh is grateful that Husted selected our mission to feature and draw attention to.

**From the Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted's website:**

### **The Marsh Foundation**

Provides services in a variety of settings including group homes, family foster care, intensive treatment programs, adoption and independent living. Their mission is to inspire hope, teach and care for children and families.

### **What do you like about doing business in Ohio?**

The Marsh is proud to offer quality services to youth and families in need. We are proud to work with youth and families from Van Wert County and around the state of Ohio. Our staff is dedicated and goes above and beyond to ensure the success of our youth.

### **Description of business:**

The Marsh Foundation's mission is to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families. The agency is supported by a foundation established by a Van Wert family and has a long successful history reaching back to 1922.

The Marsh Foundation is a not-for-profit children's services agency that provides services in a variety of settings. Services include group homes, family foster care (ages 0-17), an intensive treatment program, adoption and independent living. Located in Van Wert, Ohio, the organization's group homes are licensed for up to 30 children ages 7 – 17, offers an on-campus school for grades

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they have made.

Youth were also busy this summer with the Marsh Grown Garden Program. As part of the Marsh Foundation's Independent Living Program, the Activities department again ran their Garden Program.

This program is designed to give students a chance to obtain a job on campus, as well as teach them about obtaining employment and give them experience they can take with them into the workforce.

This program helps students by requiring them to participate in an interview prior to beginning the program.

Once they are hired for the job, the students then work in the garden on campus. This garden produces a variety of different fruits and vegetables, and the students are involved in almost every step of the growing process. Students plant different plants, pull weeds in

the garden, trim plants, water the garden, and eventually pick the produce once it has grown.

After this produce is picked, the students are then involved in taking it to a local farmer's market and selling it. Throughout this process students learn many important job and life skills, such as gardening skills, landscaping, running a business, and how to handle money.

This summer's garden crew has been one of the best in recent memory. All of them have very professional attitudes, and have shown a very impressive willingness to work. The Activity Department really wants to say how proud of them we are for their work this summer, and to thank them for all of their help.



Clockwise starting at top: Marsh Foundation consultant Elizabeth Truxell took this picture of The Marsh Homestead on a beautiful summer day. Two Marsh youth completed a 4-H project over the summer learning about dogs and how to care for them. This gave them a chance to work with the Van Wert Humane Society. Another student completed a project on saxophones. Over the summer, a new shed was installed at the pond. This gives the youth more storage space for fishing gear, canoes and more. This year's Big Brothers Big Sisters golf outing featured a competitive Marsh Foundation team.





## Summer Equestrian Program Concludes with Show

The youth at The Marsh Foundation recently concluded their summer equestrian program with a show for staff, trustees, families and guests. The program, which began in May, gave the youth opportunities to ride at least four times per week.

For the program, The Marsh leases horses from The University of Findlay and hires on-campus riding instructors, Stephanie Hall Abigail Neville, Alicia Rist, Katie Singer and Meagan Schaefer

In addition to riding instruction, the youth also learn how to care for and demonstrate respect for the horses.

The program culminated with a horse show. Each youth had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills for the audience. Ribbons were given to the top placers in the various categories. All youth also received a participation gift from the instructors.



Dozens of spectators came out to support youth participating in the annual horse show in August. They were able to showcase some of the skills they have learned this summer and compete for ribbons.

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2 – 12 and provides a variety of clinical services to group home residents, foster care children and community members.

If you would like to view the feature on The Marsh Foundation, you can find it at: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/secretary-husted-office/office-initiatives/ohio-business-profile/august-2018/>. You can also browse and view different nonprofit features from August. If you view the archives, you can see business profiles on many other wonderful Ohio businesses. There is also a link to suggest other businesses to be featured.

The Secretary of State's Facebook page is also a great resource. You can visit <https://www.facebook.com/ohiososhusted> for a variety of information on Ohio businesses, voting and other important state issues.

## Foster Parents Needed!

*You can make a difference in the lives of children!*



*Serving children and families since 1922*

## *Foster Care Division Continues to Recruit, Grow*

The Marsh Foundation continues to invest in the growth of their foster care division. Since the opening of their downtown office, efforts have continued to recruit much needed foster families.

Recently, Nicholas and Jenna Bishop received their foster care license. This brings the total number of Marsh foster families to 20, with another 7 currently in training.

The Marsh Foundation's Foster Care Program provides services to children from birth to age 18 throughout Ohio. Our trained foster parents provide care for youth of all ages who are in need of a safe placement.

The foster care division also offers adoption services. This simplifies the process if foster parents decide they are interested in adopting children. This year, The Marsh has facilitated three adoptions. Currently, there are 28 foster children in Marsh care.

Unfortunately, the need in Ohio is great and more foster families are needed. Parents can be married couples or single individuals. They receive 40+ hours of intensive training before having youth placed in their home. Substantial reimbursement is also available to those who qualify. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact The Marsh Foundation today at 419.238.1695 ext. 360.



### **Clymer Chat**

There are currently no openings at Clymer Hall. The girls had a fun and busy summer and now are adjusting to the back-to-school schedule and routine.

The girls at Clymer enjoyed many activities over the summer. Things like going to the pool and riding bikes kept them busy during their free time. During the day, they participated in a summer school program which included library and technology time. School time was followed by group counseling each day.

A favorite summer activity is the horse program and this year was no different. The girls enjoyed riding daily and learning a lot about the care of the horses.

The girls are looking forward to a busy and successful school year. One of the first things the school is participating in this fall is the United Way Food Drive. Throughout September, the group homes will work to collect needed non-perishable food items for local pantries. The home that collects the most items will win a pizza party. The friendly competition involves youth and staff for a great local cause. Students will collect items until Sept. 28 at 8 a.m.



### **Marsh Matters**

Marsh Hall currently has one opening in its intensive treatment program. The boys have had a successful summer and are looking forward to the school year.

Several of the boys at Marsh Hall had 4-H projects this summer. This year, The Marsh again had their own club. Projects included fishing, dogs and saxophones. Each youth had to create a poster and participate in judging. This summer, four of the participating youth qualified to take their projects to the State Fair in Columbus. This was a great accomplishment.

The Marsh boys were also involved with the placement of a new shed at the pond this summer. The boys worked hard to move in fishing gear and organize the new space. Purchasing this shed was part of a larger plan to add improvements to the pond area to improve the appeal of this area and allow it to be used more by students. Future improvements may include creating a beach area in the pond, building a beach volleyball court, and setting up a Frisbee golf course.

It was a productive summer and the Marsh boys are now transitioning to a busy and productive school year.



### **Vance Voice**

Vance Hall has one opening for a boy 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 4-H as well as the gardening program.

The Marsh Grown garden program is designed to give students a chance to obtain a job on campus, as well as teach them about obtaining employment and give them experience they can take with them into the workforce.

The comprehensive program gives students resume and interview experience. Then, once they are hired as a part of the crew they spend a lot of time working in the garden on campus. This oftentimes means getting up early before summer school sessions.

The students are involved in almost every step of the growing process. After the produce is picked, the students take and sell it at the farmer's market. The entire process is extremely beneficial and teaches a lot of important job and life skills that the youth can take with them.

Like the other youth on campus, the boys at Vance are looking forward to the upcoming school year.

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## Did You Know? We offer adoption services!

The Marsh Foundation has the ability to license homes with a dual foster care and adoption license. This means that families that may be interested adopting their foster children in the future can simplify the process with The Marsh Foundation.



This allows The Marsh to provide additional support to families. Families that think they may be interested in adoption can complete the necessary steps up front, with very little additional work. Many families that are interested in becoming foster families are interested in accepting young children that may be available for adoption in the future.

If you are interested in more information, contact The Marsh foster care department at 419.238.1695.

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

## Calendar of Events

October - December 2018

- Marsh Foundation representatives will attend the Public Children Services Association of Ohio's annual conference Sept. 19-21 and the Ohio Children's Alliance's Fall Conference October 23-24.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences for The Marsh School are Saturday, Nov. 10.
- The Marsh Foundation School will not be in session Nov. 21-23 or Dec. 24 - Jan. 4 for Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.



For more information about any event, visit [www.marshfoundation.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.marshfoundation.org).