

# The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2019

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

Serving children and families since 1922

## Marsh Family Loses Dedicated and Loved Longtime Employee to Cancer

In 1996, Kathleen Davis first became employed by The Marsh Foundation as a family teacher. With previous experience working with troubled youth, she came to Van Wert with the desire to make a difference in the lives of even more children. She quickly excelled and developed into a skilled and compassionate worker.

It is impossible to count the number of children that Davis impacted during her time at The Marsh. It is in the hundreds, if not thousands.

In October of 2016, she was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a terminal type of brain cancer. Given just weeks to live, she defied odds and fought for more time with her family and at the job she treasured.

According to her supervisor and friend, Kim Mullins, her strength was always quickly identifying underlining issues with the children she served. She was often able to defuse a potentially explosive situation with ease and confidence.

In 1997, she became the program manager at Marsh Hall and was one of the first to manage a multi-staff group home on campus. According to Mullins, Davis was known as one of the most caring and supportive supervisors ever. She continued at Marsh Hall until she took the position of director at The Pregnancy Life Center (PLC) in 2003, but she continued to work part-time as a group counselor and consultant to group homes.



**Kathleen Margaret (Burrow) Davis; December 20, 1967 - January 18, 2019.**

In 2006, she left her job at the PLC and accepted the position of director of residential services at The Marsh. “She was compassionate, caring, supportive and creative in both her role as a leader and adviser,” said Mullins.

It is clear that she devoted her life to caring for others, continually striving to raise the children of the world, along with her own.

Robbie Breese, principal at The Marsh School fondly remembers his weekly meetings with Davis and the opportunity he had to learn from her vast knowledge and experience. “I am sure that many other people like myself were privileged to be able to spend time and learn from Kathleen; and I truly believe that Kathleen will continue

to serve children and families through those of us who have learned from her,” he said.

Davis is survived by her husband, Thad, children and their spouses, Samuel (Amber) Hormell, Elizabeth (Matt) Saam, Rebecca (Chris) Howell, Thad Davis II, and Rachel Davis.

Those who attended her celebration of life service were not only family, friends and co-workers, but also individuals that she served during her years at The Marsh. Now grown adults, these once struggling youth were clearly impacted by Kathleen’s love and dedication. She will be greatly missed, but the contributions she made at The Marsh, and throughout her career, will have a lasting impact on many for years to come.



**THE MARSH  
FOUNDATION**

### Please Share

Please pass The Marsh Messenger along to others in your office or family who would 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

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

## From the Executive's desk ...

Living in the Midwest, we expect these long cold wet winter days; but this year brought an excessive amount of cold and ice. School delays and excessive ice on our sidewalks and drives was the normal this winter. But yes, spring is on its way to The Marsh Foundation Campus. The trees will begin to bloom; flowers begin to show their color, grass growing so fast it will be difficult for the staff to keep up. Soon it will be warm and kids out of school. With this new season - begins the 2019 year with much to look forward to.

The horses will soon be arriving. The Marsh Foundation provides horse riding instruction for every child on campus during the summer months. This is an awesome program for our children; teaching them how to ride and care for the horses. The horse show will end the summer program and provide the children an opportunity to showcase what they have learned.

On Friday November 30, 2018, before a packed Willow Bend County Club Christmas party crowd, I had the pleasure to announce, by unanimous Trustee approval, The Marsh Auditorium will be re-named the "Bagley Auditorium" in honor of Ron and Linda Bagley. Mr. Ron Bagley employed first as



Jeff Grothouse

*"The Marsh School graduation, June of 2019, will formally dedicate the 'Bagley Auditorium'."*  
- Jeff Grothouse

a teacher, then director of the School until retirement in 1981, completed 29 years of employment with The Marsh Foundation. Mr. Bagley continues to volunteer as The Marsh Historian. Mr. Bagley has earned the deserved respect of the current Trustees and Directors along with the appreciation from his former Marsh Alumni Students. The Marsh School graduation, May of 2019, will formally dedicate the 'Bagley Auditorium'.

The long-term capital improvement project that I discussed in the Spring of 2018

for the campus included the construction of a gymnasium for our kids to enjoy physical exercise activities. The Marsh Trustees and Directors have been working with a local contractor and architect to make this become a reality. The new 15,000 square foot building will include a new gymnasium with basketball, volleyball and pickle ball courts and seating for 200 guests in the pull-out bleachers. There will also be locker rooms, restrooms, a gym teacher office, kitchen, commissary and a beautiful new dining room. The construction will begin early this spring with a completion date in early 2020.

A question I am always asked: How much does the endowment contribute to the functions of The Marsh Foundation Campus? The Marsh Foundation is divided into three separate divisions working to achieve the same goal, "Taking Care of Children & Families." The residential staff obviously care for the day-to-day needs, home, transportation, food, time and praise, nurturing or discipline of the children. The school staff provide the students their educational needs. The business office provides the support for the campus. Currently the investment portfolio of George H. Marsh provides approximately 23 percent of the income. The leases, farm ground

and other farm incomes provide approximately 15 percent of the income. The Residential Services, Clinical and Foster Care incomes from State, County, Local governmental assistance and Medicaid provides the other 62 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 12 percent, school 15 percent and Residential Services, Clinical & Foster Care 73 percent.

The mission of The Marsh Foundation is to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families. To complete this mission; The Marsh must employ quality compassionate staff, continue to care for and improve the campus grounds and continuously seek out ways to help children and families.

With the endowment of George H. and Hilinda Marsh and the vision of the Trustees, Directors and staff, this mission will be accomplished for many 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.

*Jeff Grothouse*  
The Marsh Foundation Executive  
Secretary and Treasurer

# A commitment to excellence

# Project Believe Makes Special Christmas and Valentine's Day Deliveries to Marsh

For the seventh straight year, Project Believe has helped to make Christmas a little brighter for youth at The Marsh Foundation. The organization, which originated in 2007, has grown from serving just 10 kids at Christmas to serving multiple large facilities multiple times per year.

Tammie Rafferty, the group's founder, was inspired to help others by her own daughter's circumstances. Their mission is to enrich the lives of youth and their caregivers in residential treatment centers. They provide gifts at Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and back-to-school time at various facilities.

Christmas gifts include things like pajamas, blankets, books, board games, art sets and

journals. Each group home also received a bag of items to share among the house. Executive director of Child & Family Services, Kim Mullins, graciously accepted all of the gifts on behalf of the staff before they were stashed away in anticipation for Christmas morning.

Project Believe doesn't only focus on Christmas, they are active throughout the year. Each youth on campus received a bag of Valentine's cards and candy last month from the organization as well.

You can learn more about Project Believe by visiting their website at [www.projectbelieve.net](http://www.projectbelieve.net). Or, you can contact Rafferty directly at [tammierafferty@outlook.com](mailto:tammierafferty@outlook.com).



Marsh Foundation staff help Project Believe volunteers unload their Christmas delivery.

## Marsh Independent Living Group Participates in 'Chopped Challenge'



The Independent Living students on campus have been participating in various cooking classes over the past several months. They had the opportunity to showcase some of their cooking skills and creativity during a recent 'chopped challenge.'

The First Presbyterian Church in Van Wert once again volunteered their facilities and kitchen for the event. There were three rounds of the competition: appetizer, main dish, and dessert. Youth were put into teams of two and given a mystery box containing four ingredients for each round. The

ingredients weren't items that you would typically prepare or serve together.

Each course was timed at 30 minutes in which they had to create and prepare a dish using all four of the ingredients. They also had access to a pantry with various other ingredients if they needed or chose to use them.

Teams were judged on presentation, creativity, and taste as they chose a winner for each course. Judges were Kim Mullins, executive director of Child & Family Services, Christy

*continued on page 4 ...*

**At left:** Some of the dishes created by the IDL students during their recent 'chopped challenge' and judge Christy Thees. They were tasked with creating delicious dishes with unique items that aren't usually prepared together. Judges then chose their favorites based on presentation, creativity and taste.

## Megan Tuttle Returns to Marsh as Director of Residential Services

Megan Tuttle, LISW-S, has joined The Marsh Foundation as the new director of residential services. No stranger to The Marsh, Tuttle first worked on campus as a family teacher, then program manager of Clymer Hall.

“We are thrilled to have Megan rejoin our staff at The Marsh Foundation” said Kim Mullins, executive director, Marsh Foundation Child and Family Services. “She brings with her great skill and a real knowledge about the children and families we serve.”

Tuttle holds a master’s degree in Social Work from The Ohio State University. For the past six years, she’s worked as a therapist at Westwood Behavioral Health. She’s also a certified trauma specialist. Tuttle said she is passionate about helping children and is glad to be returning to The Marsh.

“I look forward to living out the mission, to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families,” Tuttle said. “Each piece of this mission is such an integral part into shaping these children and giving their hopes and dreams back to them.”

Tuttle said it is so rewarding for her to work with children and witness them improve their lives. “I love working with youth



**Megan Tuttle, LISW-S**

when they feel life cannot get better and they are just stuck, then you teach and care for them, then a light bulb comes on and they get that their life can be better, and they get to be a part of making it better. This light bulb moment, this spark is such a special time and it’s a privilege to get to walk alongside a youth and experience this with them.”

It is Tuttle’s hope, she said, to contribute to the exceptional services The Marsh offers to the youth they serve. “It is one of my desires to continue to strive for excellence with every youth that we are able to serve,” she said.

Tuttle lives in Van Wert with her husband Matt and their two children.

## New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff member:

- Megan Tuttle - Director, Residential Services

## Now Hiring: Summer Activity Facilitator

The Marsh Foundation is hiring a seasonal full time position in the activity department from May through August of 2018. The successful candidate should be at least 21 years of age to work unsupervised with youth; have at least a high school diploma. Experience working with troubled youth and youth development is preferred. Candidates having or seeking experience in recreational/ horticultural therapy setting are encouraged to apply. A standard background check and fingerprinting will be required along with a valid driver’s license. First aid/CPR training a plus but will be provided if not available during new employee training. Job demands organization, effective communication, and flexibility. Lifeguard certification is also preferred along with outdoor skills and programming such as climbing wall, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, sports, etc...



Physical demands include an ability to do manual task in the gardens & outdoor setting. The job involves a high energy and activity level with standing, walking, lifting and bending. Part of the job will require some driving to and from market sales and supply runs. There will be access to agency vehicles. Projected hours include: early mornings during the week and Saturdays. Work hours will be approximately 40 hours/week.

Position will be working alongside the direction of a seasoned coordinator to assist in planning and facilitation of the existing programs. Duties will include but not limited to greenhouse/garden maintenance and work including planting, weeding, harvesting and market sales; assist in motivating, supervising youth in their job responsibilities and developing job skills; transport youth to farmer’s market and supervise market operations & other activities; assist in maintaining garden market records, youth payroll, and media records.

## Chopped, continued from page 3

Thees, program manager at Clymer Hall and Megan Tuttle, director of residential services.

According to IDL coordinator, Christina Flinn, everyone did very well. “The competition was really phenomenal and the youth rose to the challenge,” she said.

First up was the appetizer competition. The mystery box contained turkey sausage, apples, pickles and pretzels.

For the main dish competition, the mystery box was filled

with raw chicken, mushrooms, nacho flavored chips and mango.

For the grand finale and dessert round, the teams were presented with fruit loops, cream cheese, frozen berries and a fresh jalapeño pepper.

Not only did the youth have the opportunity to utilize their kitchen and cooking skills, they also were challenged with working as a team within strict time constraints. The unique, tasty event was enjoyed by the judges and the contestants!



# Run to End Child Abuse



**Saturday, April 27**

The Marsh Foundation  
1229 Lincoln Highway

Van Wert



All Proceeds go to: **Van Wert Family & Children's First Council**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Help us raise awareness by joining us in your best

**BLUE** running gear to run (rain or shine) in our **Run to End Child Abuse**.

**#ohiowearsblue #runtoendchildabuse**

**Event Details:** The 1 Mile Kids Fun Run begins at 9:30 a.m. The 5K Race begins at 10 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the campus' Recreation Hall located off Stripe Road. The run will be held rain or shine.

## Run to End Child Abuse Registration Form

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

I am registering for the:  5K Run (\$20)  5K Run without a t-shirt (\$15)  1 Mile Fun Run (\$10)

*Please make checks payable to The Marsh Foundation.*

Registrations received before **April 12** are guaranteed a t-shirt. Please select your size.

Youth S  Youth M  Youth L  Adult S  Adult M  Adult L  Adult XL

**Waiver** (Read before signing): I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run in the Run to End Child Abuse unless medically able and properly trained. I also assume any and all risks associated with running or attending the race including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants or volunteers, the effects of the weather and the course conditions, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry fee, I hereby discharge The Marsh Foundation and any employees, assigns or anyone acting on their behalf, or anyone else associated in any way with the race, from any or all claims of liability for death, personal injury, or property damage of any kind of nature what so ever arising out of, or in the course of, my participation in this event. This waiver extends to all claims of every kind and nature what so ever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS WAIVER: (if under 18 a legal guardian must sign). PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE: I grant and convey to The Marsh Foundation all rights, title and interests in any and all photographs, images, video or audio recordings of me or my likeness or my voice, made in connection with my participation in this event Incomplete or unsigned forms will not be accepted.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Participants under 18 years of age require signature of parent or legal guardian.)*

*Send registration via email to [msnyder@marshfoundation.org](mailto:msnyder@marshfoundation.org) or Mail to 1229 Lincoln Hwy. Van Wert, OH 45891 attn: MSnyder*

## Foster Care Department Receives Donations

The Foster Care and Adoption division at The Marsh Foundation is fortunate to have received some recent generous donations.

Instead of exchanging gifts with friends and family this year, the Pannkuk family decided to put together a fundraiser for The Marsh Foundation instead. They encouraged individuals to donate cash and/or backpacks and items to fill the backpacks for foster children.

Jennifer and Jessica said they wanted to put together a fundraiser for an organization that was close to their heart. Jennifer said, "The Marsh Foundation is affecting the trajectory of kids' lives, in a positive way, every single day."

Some children come into care with only the clothes on their backs. The goal of the fundraiser was to be able to give these children something that is theirs and theirs alone. Bags were filled with items such as toys, books, hygiene items and clothing.

The Pannkuk children were so proud of their efforts and were there when their contributions were presented to the staff at The Marsh. More than \$2,700 was raised in cash donations in addition to the items collected. Everything was presented directly to The Marsh's foster care program. The bags will be given to youth coming into the program as needed.

Another recent donation was a weighted blanket donated by The Children's Lantern. The blanket was gifted to a current foster youth in The Marsh program and it was much appreciated. This particular donation was able to bring comfort to a struggling youth.



The Pannkuk family hosted a successful fundraiser over the holiday season. They were able to collect money and backpacks full of items for current and incoming foster youth. In addition, a foster youth also received a weighted blanket donated to the agency's foster program.



## Run to End Child Abuse Scheduled for April 27 on Marsh Campus

In an effort to raise awareness and funds to fight child abuse, The Marsh Foundation is teaming up with the Family and Children First Council of Van Wert County to host a 'Run to End Child Abuse.' All proceeds of this event will be donated to the Van Wert FCFC to help end child abuse in Van Wert County.

"We see the after effects of child abuse daily in the youth that we serve and are pas-



sionate about helping to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services. "April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we are hoping we can raise some awareness and help combat this serious issue."

The event will feature a 5K walk/run as well as a one mile fun run for kids. It will be held on Saturday, April 27 on The Marsh

Foundation's beautiful campus in Van Wert. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.; with the fun run beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the 5K at 10 a.m. Registration will be held at the Recreation Hall on the northeast side of campus.

For registration forms and information, see page 5 of this newsletter, or The Marsh website or Facebook page. Questions regarding the event can be directed toward Melissa Snyder, foster care supervisor, at 419.238.1695 ext. 307.



## Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently at capacity, with 10 girls residing in the program. The girls living at Clymer Hall have kept busy over the winter months but are looking forward to warmer weather.

Several of the girls have participated in the cooking classes with the Independent Living program and have really enjoyed it. They especially enjoyed the recent 'chopped challenge' competition.

Some girls have had the opportunity to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Supper Club program held on campus. The program is a great support to the youth on campus who lack family involvement.

The final quarter of the school year has begun and so have rehearsals for the annual production of the Wizard of Oz. Many of the girls have roles this year.



## Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall houses the JSO program on campus. There are currently no openings and the house is full with 10 boys.

Springtime means 4H and garden work starting up. Many of the boys are looking forward to participating on the Marsh Grown garden crew this spring and summer. They are also signing up for 4H and deciding on projects for the year.

As the school year draws to a close, the boys are looking forward to more time outside and the upcoming horse program that runs through the summer months. Each day the boys will have the opportunity to ride and work with the horses on campus.

The horses are leased from the University of Findlay and provide a fantastic learning opportunity for the kids at The Marsh throughout the summer months.



## Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently full with 10 boys. The group home has kept busy throughout the winter. One of their favorite activities was an outing to a Mad Ants basketball game in Fort Wayne.

The winter has been a unique one with a lot of weather cancellations. The school year has been extended and The Marsh School will now be in session until June 5. That will also be the day of the annual spring program and graduation.

The end of the school year means that the boys have been busy practicing for the spring production of The Wizard of Oz and auditioning for parts. They have also been gearing up for summer and looking forward to evenings fishing at the pond or taking bike rides around campus.

## 2018 Annual Report

Did you receive a copy of the 2018 Annual Report released last month by The Marsh Foundation? If you did not, please contact our office to request one. Our annual report contains program as well as fiscal information. Call Kelly Gross at 419.238.1695 ext. 360 or send an e-mail to her at [kgross@marsh-foundation.org](mailto:kgross@marsh-foundation.org).

## You're Invited: Please Join Us June 5

This year's Spring Celebration and Graduation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 5 in The Marsh Auditorium. Please plan to join us. There will be piano recitals, the annual production of The Wizard of Oz, and graduates will be recognized. A luncheon will follow. All are welcome. The festivities will begin at 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you!



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

**Address Return Service Requested**



## 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](http://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

March ~ June 2019

- March 18 - 22 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 5, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.
- Saturday, April 13 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- April 19 - 22 - No School (Good Friday and Easter Break).
- April 27 - Run to End Child Abuse one mile fun run and 5k, 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, May 11 - Spring plant sale (preorders available)
- Monday, May 27 - No School, Memorial Day
- June 5, 10 a.m. - Spring celebration and graduation ceremony held in The Marsh Auditorium
- June 5 - Last day of school



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/alumni](http://www.marshfoundation.org/alumni). This ensures that you receive all mailings from The Marsh.