

# The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2015

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

Serving children and families since 1922

## Planning for the 2015 Marsh Foundation Alumni Reunion is Underway!

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 & 2



Plans are beginning to form for the upcoming Marsh Alumni Reunion. The reunion, which is held once every five years, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2, 2015. It will be held on The Marsh campus in Van Wert and will offer alumni the opportunity to reconnect with their friends and family at The Marsh Foundation.

We hope that you and your family will plan to join us for a fun-filled weekend.

On Saturday evening, we will offer a meal and fellowship under the big tent. This will be a great opportunity to visit with friends and reconnect with those you haven't seen recently.

If you need overnight accommodations, you can visit <http://visitvanwert.org/accom.html> for a list of available hotels in the area.

Sunday will be a busy day, full of opportunities to experi-



ence The Marsh Foundation. We will begin with a luncheon under the big tent. Be sure to visit the registration tent for historical information, nametags and other goodies.

The afternoon will feature an alumni meeting in the auditorium as well as presentations from Marsh Executive Staff and Trustees. A group photo will also be taken.

Following the meeting, the entire campus will be opened up for open house tours. You will

be able to tour all of the group homes, as well as the Homestead, Greenhouse and other campus highlights.

We sincerely hope that you plan to join us for this great weekend. There will be historical items on display throughout the weekend as well as interactive presentations and activities! Visit our Facebook page and follow our event to stay up-to-date on planning details! [www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation)



**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 ...

I write this letter in the hopes all of you will mark your calendars for August 1 and 2. It is time again to celebrate the Marsh Alumni on the campus of The Marsh Foundation. Already the wheels are in motion for a Saturday evening of dinner and fellowship along with a Sunday of lunch, tours, education, memorabilia and history. You and your families are welcome to enjoy this beautiful campus and all we have to offer the students of The Marsh Foundation.

The past and current year's maintenance projects include the following: The installation of a generator to power the entire campus, along with burying of the overhead power, cable and telephone lines. These overhead lines are being buried to provide a safe uninterrupted electrical service to the campus and security for our students.

The maintenance staff will be repainting the metal roofs of the barns, quonset and maintenance building on campus. The installation of security doors on the Administration Building will require employees to use a key fob for entry and visitors to request entry into the building. This security is for the safety of our students during the school hours and employees through the year.

A repair of the yards and planting of grass on the campus grounds will begin when the



Jeff Grothouse

*"Currently, the investment portfolio of George H. Marsh provides approximately 28 percent of The Marsh Foundation's income."*

*— Jeff Grothouse*

ground is fit to work. We are each year planting trees to continue the beautiful green campus of The Marsh Foundation. The north and west sidewalks, on campus, have been replaced along with benches installed to sit and reflect on the days memories.

The maintenance and warehouse staffs are always proactively keeping The Marsh campus in top condition for our clients.

The Marsh Foundation recently passed on purchasing the Campus of Starr Commonwealth located five miles east of the current Marsh campus. It is a beautiful site with many buildings, swimming pool and gymnasium. It was determined, if we ever come to a decision to expand The Marsh services and campus, we can build on our own site.

The Marsh Foundation Trustees have added to The Marsh farms, Stanfield Farm (135 acres surrounding the Starr Commonwealth Campus) and Rager Farm (75 acres north of the Marsh Home Farm next to SR. 224). This brings the total Marsh farms to 2,680 acres of Crop Acres. In 2014, the farm income amounted to \$709,686 or \$287 per acre. The farm income is approximately 13 percent of the Marsh Foundation annual income. Currently, the Marsh home and school farm makes up approximately 1,104 acres of The Marsh farm land assets.

The dream and wish list long-term capital improvement project for the Campus includes the construction of a new school wing attached to the Administration Building along with a gymnasium for our kids to enjoy physical exercise activities.

A question I am always asked is: How much does the endowment contribute to the functions of The Marsh Foundation

campus? The Marsh Foundation is divided into three separate divisions contributing to achieve the same goal ... to care for children and 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. Such as paying the bills, payroll, maintenance issues, food preparation and cleanliness. These three separate divisions provide their own budgets to follow for The Marsh fiscal year ending in June. Once the individual budgets are approved, the entire budget comes together to form The Marsh Foundation Income & Expense Budget.

Currently, the investment portfolio of George H. Marsh provides approximately 28 percent of the income. The commercial property leases and farm incomes provide approximately 16 percent of the income. The Residential Services, Clinical & Foster Care incomes from State, County and Local governmental assistance and Medicaid provides the other 56 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 13 percent, School 13 percent and Residential Services, Clinical & Foster Care 74 percent.

**Continued on page 3.**

# A commitment to excellence

## Vance Hall Staff Planned Interactive Military Demonstration for Youth

Recently, family teacher David Beck planned an interactive and educational afternoon for the boys at Vance Hall. He brought in a room-full of memorabilia and items from his time in the military.

There were a wide variety of items that he brought. They included pictures, uniforms, medals and many other things.

The boys were encouraged to look and ask questions. They learned a lot about the Army and what is expected of United States soldiers. They were able to form a new respect for members of the military, their families and their sacrifices.

Vance Hall is consistently challenged with coming up with new and unique ideas to engage



**Family teacher Dave Beck displayed his military memorabilia for the boys at Vance Hall.**

and challenge its youth. Recently, they've been implementing special evening programs such as this one to do just that. Program manager Matt Tuttle says his

hope is that the boys will be able to expand interest in subjects that they otherwise might not have been exposed to.

## Senior Hall Staff Building Strong Program

The staff at Senior Hall have been working very hard to build a great Independent Living program. According to consultant Elizabeth Pleasnick, they have been assessing the independent living skills that are needed by the boys in their care and also working with them daily on self-determination skills.

"Starting from the ground up they have come a long way in a short time, making improvements by reassessing their needs to make the program run more smoothly," said Pleasnick. "They continue to build a strong team unit and have received support from all on campus. We all look forward to continuing to see the strengths build and the program being a successful component for youth that are about the transition into the community."



**Senior Hall support staff; Julie Hartsock, Emery Rogers and program manager Julie Hess (right).**

Continued from page 2

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 and Hilinda Marsh and the vision of the Trustees, directors and staff, this mission will be accomplished for many more years to come.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of The Marsh Foundation Trustees, staff, employees and teachers for their professionalism and dedication to the mission of George H. Marsh.

*Jeff Grothouse*  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
The Marsh Foundation

**You're Invited:**  
Please Join Us  
May 22



This year's Spring Celebration and Graduation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 22 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.

## Project Believe Continues to Donate to Youth at The Marsh Foundation

For the third year in a row, Project Believe has helped to make Christmas a little brighter for youth at The Marsh Foundation. The organization, which originated five years ago, has continued to grow and now delivers hundreds of presents to children in Ohio.

Tammie Rafferty, the group's founder, was inspired to help others by her own daughter's circumstances a few years ago. Then, gifts were wrapped and sorted in her living room. This year, more than 100 volunteers gathered at a local school gymnasium to sort and wrap.

Recently, warehouse space has been donated to the organization, which according to Rafferty will make their operation run much smoother.

Gifts include things like pajamas, slippers, blankets, socks, gloves, books and other goodies. Each group home also received a bag of items like games and puzzles to share among the house.

Shortly before Christmas, Senior Hall reopened and accepted new youth into its program. The home had no Christmas tree or decorations. After this was relayed to the Project Believe team, they stepped up in a big way.

In addition to presents for the boys in the home, they also brought a tree, lights and other decorations. The staff at Senior Hall were brought to tears by the generosity.

"Donations like this mean a lot to our kids," said Dawn Berryman, marketing and public relations specialist. "We continue

to be impressed with the way Project Believe steps up and follows through at holiday time."

Not long after the Christmas holiday had passed, the organization again reached out to donate Valentine boxes for each youth on campus.

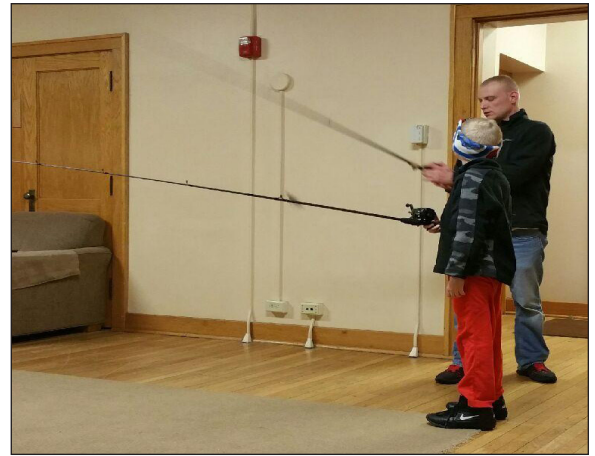
Project Believe staged many box decorating events in and around Tipp City to encourage others to donate and get in on the fun. The result was hundreds of beautifully decorated Valentine boxes that they then delivered to The Marsh and other facilities.

"Although simple, the Valentine boxes were a huge symbol of love for our youth. They included candy and cards as well as a hand-knitted heart," continued Berryman.

You may remember that Project Believe donated backpacks and school supplies last September as well. Their organization is growing and they are looking for more ways to utilize their resources and involve more volunteers. 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 [projectbelieve@live.com](mailto:projectbelieve@live.com).

**Top, Senior Hall Staff Julie Hartsock and Julie Hess (from left) are pictured with Project Believe board member Minda Springer and director Tammie Rafferty and their Christmas decoration donations. Below, Project Believe board member Cheri Dinsmore and her husband Rich deliver Valentine boxes to the youth at The Marsh.**





Clockwise starting above: The Marsh Grown Garden Program had another successful poinsettia sale this past December. The Marsh School's leadership council organized an ugly Christmas sweater day on campus. Pictured is librarian Joy Caldwell sporting her creation. The boys are itching for spring weather. At Vance Hall, they've been practicing their cast indoors. A new program called Grounded has come to The Marsh campus thanks to area youth ministers. The youth program is held the last Sunday evening of the month in the auditorium and features music, fellowship, games and more. The youth enjoyed the winter weather when they could. They spent time hiking and sledding outdoors on different occasions. Music teacher Tom Mayes and executive secretary/treasurer Jeff Grothouse created their own version of 'thank you notes,' similar to Jimmy Fallon's late night skit, at the annual Christmas party.



## Day-Long Oil Painting Workshop Offered to Youth

Recently, the students at The Marsh Foundation had the opportunity to participate in an art workshop. The day-long oil painting class was conducted by a local artist and walked the students through creating their own masterpiece.

Each class was able to create something different. Clymer Hall created a tiger. Vance Hall painted a waterfall landscape. And, Marsh Hall's finished product was a night-time beach scene.

Overall, the youth said they enjoyed the experience and were proud of the work that they created.

They've also had the opportunity recently to create pencil self portraits in art class. Art instructor Karla Hoying asked them to make a silly or unique face that they photographed and then used as a guide for their drawing. They turned our wonderful and the youth enjoyed the fun form of self-expression.



## Independent Living Group an Important Part of Program

The Marsh Foundation clinical program includes an independent living group for youth ages 16 and over. This group focuses on issues and skills that will be important to youth once they emancipate.

This month, for instance, the group has focused on housing and what it takes to budget for an apartment.

Depending on the months' focus, the group's leader, CPST worker Christina Flinn, sends

out information to Marsh staff about what they can do to aid in the month's lessons.

This particular month, the youth have searched online for apartments and talked with landlords about costs, pets, etc. Most importantly, they've worked on budgeting and considering utilities, rent, insurance, deposits, furniture, transportation and the like.

The goal of the group is

to expose youth to as many circumstances and possibilities as they can to give them a realistic view of their future and what will be needed to sustain themselves.

The group provides the

youth with a manual that can be used outside of the group with others to enhance skills and conversations even further.

The Marsh is committed to helping youth prepare for adulthood as much as possible.

## New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff member:

- Jay Watts - Family Teacher



## Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently full with 10 girls.

Clymer Hall has been enjoying some interactive, educational activities lately related to other cultures and traditions.

The girls celebrated Hanukkah and made sure each night they lit the candle on the Menorah. They learned a brief history of the holiday, did random acts of kindness and prepared foods traditionally eaten by those celebrating Hanukkah.

They then celebrated Mardi Gras with face painting, traditional treats, and games during their Family Night. The girls helped make King Cake beignets (French donuts), and enjoyed French lemonade and Polish paczki. To further their celebration, they were invited to Temple Beth-Shaare Zedek Synagogue in Lima to attend Purim aka "Jewish Mardi Gras."



## Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall is currently full with 10 boys in the program. They have anxiously been awaiting the arrival of spring and are ready to do more activities outdoors.

During the winter months the boys have had the opportunity to participate in several off-campus outings. They visited the Van Wert Fire Museum located at Central Mutual. They also traveled to Cincinnati to visit the city's Museum Center. They especially enjoyed the Mummies exhibit while they were there.

The boys are actively preparing for this spring's piano recital and production of *The Wizard of Oz*. They have been auditioning for parts in the play and have been practicing their piano pieces regularly.



## Senior Stuff

Senior Hall just recently transitioned into a group home for independent living aged boys. So far, the program is going very well. The home is a little different than others on campus, as it is only licensed for six beds. Currently, there are four boys living at Senior Hall, leaving two current openings.

The home is staffed by a full-time, live-in program manager, Julie Hess. She is supported by two other, full-time family teachers.

The staff have been busy working with the youth on skills such as job hunting, grocery shopping and budgeting, as well as cooking and cleaning skills.

Two of the boys are eligible to graduate with their high school diploma this May. The graduation ceremony will be held on May 22. All are welcome to attend!



## Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently accepting referrals for its two openings. It is rare that this program does not have a waiting list and we anticipate these two beds being filled in the very near future. If you'd like to make a referral, please contact Kelly Gross as soon as possible at 419.238.1695 ext. 360.

Several of the boys at Vance Hall are involved with Supper Club, the mentoring program that The Marsh offers in conjunction with Big Brothers Big Sisters. These gatherings keep the boys busy playing games, sharing meals and visiting local parks and points of interest.

Recently, boys from Vance Hall were excited to participate in the "Are You Smarter than a Marsh Student" as a part of our annual Black History Month celebration.

## 2014 Annual Report

Did you receive a copy of the 2014 Annual Report released last month by The Marsh Foundation? If you did not, please contact Dawn Berryman, marketing and public relations specialist, to request one. She can be reached at 419.238.1695 ext. 233 or [dberryman@marshfoundation.org](mailto:dberryman@marshfoundation.org).

## Summer Garden Assistant Needed

The Marsh is currently in search of a person to assist with the daily functions of the youth garden program this summer. The person will work alongside our activities coordinator in organizing and managing the summer garden program and youth involved. They will assist in greenhouse work of seed starting and plant growth maintenance, assist in outside garden work of planning, planting, weed management, harvesting, and marketing of garden produce for sales and assist in maintaining garden market records, youth payroll, and media records.

A high school diploma is required and experience in working with troubled youth and/

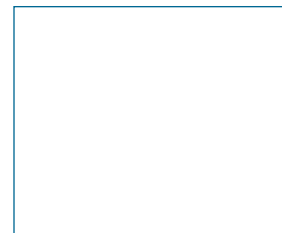
or youth development is preferred. The selected person must have knowledge and experience with gardening and plant production.

The position will be temporary, running from May/June through August/September, depending on the person's availability. The assistant needs to be at least 21 years of age and able to work unsupervised with youth. A standard background check and fingerprinting will be required, as well as a TB test. A valid driving license is required, as is first aid/CPR training.

Those interested should send a resume to [sgrone@marshfoundation.org](mailto:sgrone@marshfoundation.org) by April 15.

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

**Address Service Requested**



## Have You Liked Us Yet?

Did you know that The Marsh has its 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!



## Calendar of Events

*March ~ July 2015*

- March 23 - 27 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 10, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.
- April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt on campus courtesy of the Henderson family.
- May 9 - The spring plant sale will be held in the greenhouse from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and the Homestead will be open for tours.
- May 22, 10 a.m. - Spring celebration and graduation ceremony held in The Marsh Auditorium
- May 26 - The 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, including reunion information. Please share this with the alumni you know.

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