

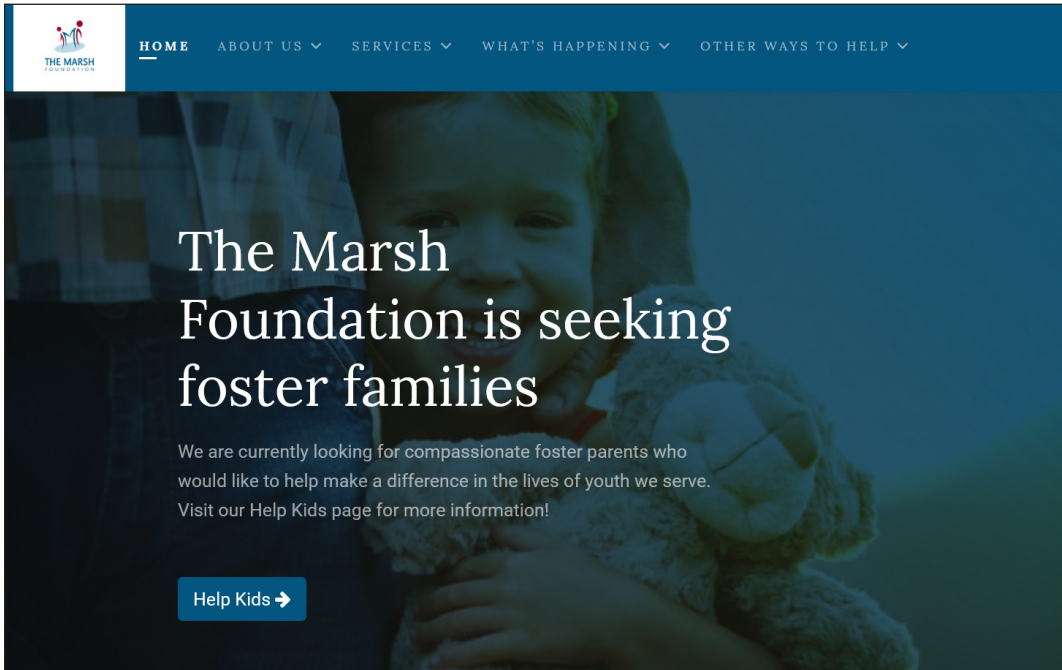
# The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2020

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

*Serving children and families since 1922*

## Marsh Foundation Launches New, User-Friendly Website



The Marsh Foundation has launched a new website that is more user-friendly. Please visit at [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org).

The Marsh Foundation has relaunched their website with an emphasis on making it more user-friendly for constituents and referral sources. According to Kim Mullins, the executive director of Child & Family Services, it is important to have an organized, attractive website for families, caseworkers and others to use.

“We’ve redesigned our website in an effort to make the referral process easier for our clients,”

Mullins said. “We want those referring children for services, or inquiring about foster care opportunities, to have an easy clear path to do so,” she added. The website, designed and hosted by Microtronix ESolutions, launched this week.

In addition to information about services, foster parenting and events, the site also has an employment page where job openings are listed and historical videos about the organization

and its roots. “While there is a lot of focus on our current offerings, we also wanted to ensure we honor our founders, George and Hilinda Marsh, with information on the site about our history,” Mullins added. The site can be found at [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org). Please visit for more information about services, alumni, becoming a foster parent, staff and resources.

### 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

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

## From the Executive's desk ...

The 2019-20 school year has been a busy one at The Marsh Foundation School. One of our major focuses this year has been transition. This initiative was started by Mrs. Mandy Looser, who oversees our Special Education program. Mrs. Looser writes transition goals in each of our student's Individualized Education Plans in an effort to prepare our students for their next step. Some of our students may be transitioning back to a regular school, while others go into college or the workforce. Regardless, we want to make sure that we set realistic goals to best prepare each student for their next step in life.

In the midst of planning to strengthen our student transitions, we received an opportunity to partner with Northwest State Community College and Ohio Means Jobs for workforce training. Eight of our students participated in a 12 week "Certified Production Technician Training." The purpose of this training was to learn core competencies of manufacturing production at the front line (entry level through front-line supervisor), including: Safety, Quality Practice & Measurement, Manufacturing Processes & Production,



and Maintenance Awareness. Two of our students earned a full Production Technician Certificate. The training was followed by a field trip to Cool Machines where students were able to tour the factory and ask questions.

One of the main messages that we are trying to push through this transition initiative is that students do not need to go straight into college to be successful. I feel that this common misconception sets students, like a lot of ours, up for failure. We are trying to get our students to realize that there are many businesses out there that are looking for quality individuals to fill good paying jobs that they can train right out of high school and give them guidance for further education, if that education is needed to grow within that

*"Regardless, we want to make sure that we set realistic goals to best prepare each student for their next step in life."*

*- Robbie Breese  
Director of Education*

company. We feel that this pathway is more realistic for most of our students than sending them straight to college without a practical understanding of what their major entails.

Outside of Cool Machines, the school went on two other field trips earlier this year. One was to the bowling alley for some friendly competition, pizza, and a lot of fun. The other field trip was to the Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Wapak, Ohio. Mrs. Val Dunn led pre-field trip activities in her Social Studies classroom centered around the history of Neil Armstrong. On the trip, our students were able to learn more about space travel, participate in interactive activities, and try space food. Upon returning to school, Ms. Lauren Calvert led an

activity where students created parachutes for an egg drop.

Under the direction of Mrs. Karla Hoying, our students just finished up an art workshop where they created silver jewelry. Mrs. Hoying is certified as a Precious Metal Clay instructor and had the assistance of Jeannie Wenrick, who also specializes in art silver. The students created their own designs out of silver clay. Silver clay is a very fine, powdery silver mixed with an organic substance to create a clay-like texture. Once the pieces are created, they are dried and put in a kiln and fired at 1500 degrees. The organic substance will "burn out" in the kiln leaving the finished product being 99.9% silver. The students thoroughly enjoyed this all day workshop and were very proud of their final products.

Finally, we are approaching the end of the school year. Our students are preparing for our annual Wizard of Oz production, under the leadership of Mr. Tom Mayes. The play will be followed by an awards and graduation ceremony. We anticipate that we will have several graduates this Spring and are excited to celebrate this special time with them.

*Robbie Breese*  
Director of Education, School  
Principal

A commitment to excellence

# 2019 Annual Report

Did you receive a copy of the 2019 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@marshfoundation.org](mailto:kgross@marshfoundation.org) to request a copy.

## You're Invited: Please Join Us May 21

This year's Spring Celebration and Graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 21 in The Bagley 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 on campus at 10 a.m.



## Marsh Foundation Now Hiring

### Family Teacher

Since 1922 it has been the vision of The Marsh Foundation to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families. These are challenging times for our youth who want to be successful but don't know how. Can you help? Teamwork is helpful in our multi-staffed group homes while providing a family-style atmosphere. Is this full-time job up your alley? Our youth struggle with varying mental health diagnoses and behavioral issues. Do you want to be the "instrument of enduring and ever-increasing benefit to mankind?" (George Marsh, 1919)? The Marsh Foundation is looking for YOU! Not you, but you know someone who would be a great fit? Share! Patience, flexibility and strong organizational skills needed. HS diploma or equivalent needed. Must be 21 years old. Education and experience commensurate with pay. Send cover letter and resume to [mtuttle@marshfoundation.org](mailto:mtuttle@marshfoundation.org).

### Overnight Family Teacher

Love kids? Want to work with young people and help make a difference in their world? Needing full time? Overnights from 10p-8a? The Marsh Foundation has been looking for YOU! You must be computer savvy, be able to handle medications, and deal with sometimes non-compliant teenage behaviors (real talk). This is an awake overnight position with other responsibilities that we can talk to you about. Paid training! This is a chance to impact the life of youth who are struggling in making the right decisions. Be that positive role model our young people crave! This isn't you, but you know someone who would be a great fit? Share! Patience, flexibility and strong organizational skills needed. HS diploma or equivalent needed. Must be 21 years old. Send cover letter and resume to: [mtuttle@marshfoundation.org](mailto:mtuttle@marshfoundation.org).

### Kitchen Supervisor

Follows proper procedures for food preparation, cooking, food holding, food leftovers, food rotation, dating and all other food safety procedures. Training of Kitchen Staff. Plans monthly breakfast, lunch and dinner menus. Prepares daily food items according to the monthly menu for The Marsh Foundation employees, school staff, teachers and students. Orders necessary food, paper and necessities for the weekly menu from food distributors. Tracks inventory. Collects and verifies kitchen invoices and billings for payment by the Business Office. Cleans, deodorizes and disinfects the kitchen, kitchen equipment, plates, silverware and kitchen utensils to meet and exceed the standards of The Van Wert County Board of Health. Prepares for Health Department inspections. Maintains order and cleanliness in the commissary, freezers and refrigerators and all other areas related to the kitchen. Completes paperwork for State of Ohio breakfast and lunch school reimbursement program.

1. Must have knowledge and experience with proper food preparation and food handling.
2. May be required to attend and pass a ServSafe Training Class.
3. Must have good communication skills with teachers, students and entire The Marsh Foundation Staff.
4. Ability to work unsupervised.
5. Must enjoy creating a clean and safe environment, be detailed oriented and able to work efficiently with minimal supervision.

Send cover letter and resume to:  
[jgrothouse@marshfoundation.org](mailto:jgrothouse@marshfoundation.org)

## Marsh Foster Youth Wins Notable Scholarship

The Marsh is very proud of one of our very own foster youth who recently won the Lima Exchange Club's A.C.E (accepting the challenge of excellence) award for the Lima area. The award recognizes area students who have overcome adversity in their lives. She attended a luncheon with nine other nominees where she was announced as the winner.

One of the biggest challenges she has overcome is catching up on her credits in order to graduate high school on time. This required dedication and additional online courses. Her future goals include becoming a case worker so that she can help other kids who may be struggling.

She received a plaque, certificate and a \$700 prize and is now eligible to compete for the district and national Exchange Club A.C.E. scholarships. Congratulations Laura!



Marsh foster youth Laura is pictured with Mrs. McAdams from Elida High School after winning the Lima area A.C.E. award from the Lima Exchange Club.



## Downtown Foster Care Office Participates in Chocolate Walk

In February, a week before Valentine's Day, downtown Van Wert was full of "chocolate walkers." The event, hosted by Main Street Van Wert, was a chocolate walk featuring many of the downtown businesses, including The Marsh Foster Care and Adoption Center.

The evening event gave each ticketed walker a special chocolate bag, a voucher to DeBrand's Fine Chocolates and

a map of the downtown stops. Walkers then strolled through downtown visiting each participating stop. There was also a horse drawn carriage featured this year.

When showing the bag at each stop, walkers would receive a chocolate treat. Nearly 20 businesses participated this year. The Marsh was thrilled to participate and saw many new faces walk through their doors.

## Need to Make a Referral?



**Residential/Group Home Referrals:** Call Kelly at 419.238.1695 ext. 360 or [kgross@marshfoundation.org](mailto:kgross@marshfoundation.org)

**Foster Care Referrals:** Call 419.238.1695 option 3, then option 1.

**After Hours/Emergency:** 419.605.8056 [fostercarereferrals@marshfoundation.org](mailto:fostercarereferrals@marshfoundation.org)

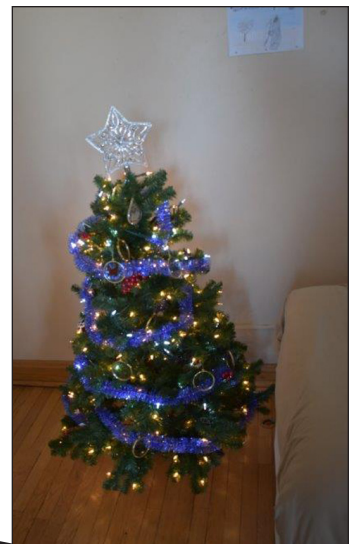
Thank You!

Thank you to those who made recent monetary donations!

- All Purpose Contracting, Inc.



Clockwise starting at top: The winter was somewhat mild, however we did receive some snow. The campus looks beautiful covered in a layer of fresh white snow. This year, a campus-wide decorating contest was held. Group homes were decorated and youth were encouraged to decorate common areas, their doors and rooms. As a part of the fun, a horse drawn carriage took staff and youth around campus to view the decorations. They were able to judge the decorations and vote on their favorites. Winners were announced at the Christmas luncheon. The school also hosted a Christmas clothes day. Everyone was encouraged to wear Christmas colors or their favorite ugly sweater. Some staff members are pictured in their fun and festive outfits.



## Project Believe Continues Generosity to The Marsh

Over the past several years it has become a Christmas tradition for Project Believe to visit The Marsh Foundation campus. For eight years in a row, the organization has helped to make the holiday a little brighter for our youth.

Project Believe, which originated in 2007, has grown from serving 10 kids its first year to impacting hundreds of youth with their outreach. This year, they had record numbers of volunteers and wrapped thousands of gifts at their annual wrap party in record time.

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. Residential staff at The Marsh graciously accepted all of the gifts before they were stashed away in anticipation for Christmas morning.

According to Megan Tuttle, director of residential services, The Marsh relies on donations such as these to increase opportunities for youth. Donations free up financial resources for other, needed items and experiences. "Most importantly, donations like this let our kids know that there are others out there that care about them and their wellbeing," she said.

Marsh youth were also the grateful recipients of cards this Valentine's Day. 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).



Project Believe again made the visit to The Marsh Foundation to deliver Christmas presents for our youth living on campus. The organization focuses on delivering Christmas to kids who are not living at home during the holidays. They also made sure that Marsh youth received Valentine's cards in February.



### New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff members:

- Madisyn Deitemeyer - Family Teacher
- Rick Eberle - Family Teacher
- Kayla Gibson - Overnight Family Teacher



## Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently at capacity, with 10 girls residing in the program. The girls living at Clymer have kept busy over the winter months but are looking forward to warmer weather and getting outside more. They've already been spotted taking bike rides around campus.

The girls really enjoyed the Christmas decorating contest. Clymer Hall was decorated top to bottom. It was very festive and they provided a spread of snacks for those visiting to view their decorations.

The girls are enjoying participating in cooking lessons that have been hosted through the activities department. Learning new skills that they can use throughout life is a wonderful opportunity.

The final quarter of the school year is underway and rehearsals for the annual production of *The Wizard of Oz* have begun. As of today, the graduation and spring program are scheduled for May 21.



## 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 4-H and garden work beginning on campus. Many of the boys are looking forward to participating in the Marsh Grown garden program this spring and summer. They are also signing up for 4-H and choosing their projects for the year.

Spring time and warmer weather will also mean more time outdoors and visits to the pond for fishing. Even though it has been a somewhat mild winter, the boys are looking forward to all that spring and summer have to offer.

This includes 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 also currently full with 10 boys. The group home has kept busy throughout the winter months. One of their favorite activities was their outing to the Mad Ants basketball game in Ft. Wayne.

The Marsh was definitely in the Christmas spirit this year. Not only did the boys enjoy decorating Vance Hall and their rooms for the holiday, they also enjoyed Christmas clothes day. They got in to the spirit with fun outfits and ugly Christmas sweaters. It was especially fun for them to see all of their teachers and staff participating in the fun as well.

The end of the school year is nearing and that means they 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.



# Welcome Spring



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

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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

April 2020 - May 2020



- April 9 - Early school dismissal for staff in-service.
- Friday, April 10 - No school for Good Friday.
- Saturday, April 18 - Parent Teacher Conferences.
- The spring program and graduation will be held on Thursday, May 21 beginning at 10 a.m.
- May 21 - Last day of school.
- May 22 - Teacher work day.

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).