

The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2021

• www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Marsh Foundation Family Grieves Former Director & Historian

Those in Van Wert County are likely no stranger to Mr. Ron Bagley. He was active in his church, Trinity United Methodist. He served on the Van Wert YMCA Board of Directors as president for many years. He was a teacher and a member of Gideons International. His contributions to Van Wert were many. However, The Marsh Foundation was extremely proud to call him teacher, principal, director, historian, and friend. His passing is an enormous loss for The Marsh Foundation and those who loved him.

In 1962, at the age of 25, Bagley was hired as a teacher at The Marsh Foundation. His love for the home and school quickly grew, as did his responsibilities. He was named principal and continued to teach. In June of 1972, he was named director, a position he would hold until the summer of 1991. During the nearly 30 years that he spent at The Marsh, he made an immeasurable impact on the children the organization served.

His love and dedication were definitely felt by those on campus. In fact, at the 2015 Alumni Reunion, The Marsh Alumni Association honored him with a special clock and plaque. This was in recognition and thanks

for his generous and selfless influence in their lives at a time when they needed it most.

According to Jeff Grothouse, Marsh Executive Secretary and Treasurer, Bagley had a deep love for his wife Linda, his family, his faith, his students, and The Marsh Foundation. "These loves were obvious when you spent time with him. Mr. Bagley took the time to listen, sympathize, relate, care, and teach lessons," he said.

Following his retirement, Bagley returned to The Marsh as the official historian. Hours of research and reading, in addition to his time spent working on campus, made him an undeniable expert on The Marsh family, their contributions and Foundation. As historian, he gave countless tours, spoke at numerous events, narrated The Marsh historical documentaries and worked to educate current staff on the legacy of George and Hilinda Marsh.

Grothouse acknowledged that Bagley had the skill of a great storyteller. "I could connect with Ron and learn something new each time we spoke," he said. "The Marsh Foundation has lost an ambassador to Marsh history, and I have lost a dear



Ron Bagley was employed by The Marsh Foundation from 1962 to 1991 as a teacher, principal and director. Most recently, he served as the organization's official historian.

friend whom I have the utmost respect and love for."

In recognition of his continued dedication to the organization, The Marsh Foundation Trustees voted in December of 2018 to rename the auditorium building the Bagley Auditorium. This was a significant moment for both Bagley and his family, but also for the organization which owed so much to him.

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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
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From the Executive's desk ...

The Marsh Foundation has served children, youth and families for more than 100 years. Within this time frame the fundamental facets of helping those in need have remained intact. As you may know, the State has determined that group homes will either need to close or transition into Qualified Residential Treatment Programs. We, as an agency, value the work that we are able to do with children, youth, and their families. We also value the relationships that we have made over the years with multiple county agencies across the state. Due to our ongoing desire to provide quality treatment for children, families and the county agencies that represent them, The Marsh Foundation has decided to begin the process of transitioning into a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).

As a result of this transition process, a natural reevaluation of current programming, treatment modalities, rate and admission criteria had to be surveyed. After much evaluation and consideration, we as an agency, have determined that our admission requirements will be modified to comprise of an all-male campus effective



Kelly Gross

July 1, 2021. This decision was not made in haste and encompassed multiple facets of consideration regarding the youth, families and consumers that we serve.

With the impending need to change from licensed group homes to QRTP, we have implemented several treatment options to be available for the youth. A comprehensive Day Treatment program has commenced and proved to effectively engage even the toughest of youth. Along with this new consortium of group home therapies, and the addition of another full-time therapist, our clinical department has undergone all the necessary training to implement Trauma ocused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with their individual clients.



Kim Mullins

In addition, to TF-CBT, our therapists are also certified and trained in the Neurosequential Model, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Narrative Therapy and many more. We have found that being equipped with multiple clinical modalities allows for an individual analysis of the comprehensive treatment needs that each of our youth and families deserve.

In addition to an updated clinical approach, and the change to an all-male campus, we have decided to implement at 24-hour on call medical professional staff. With all of these changes, we, as an agency, had to reevaluate our current programming rates since they have remained unchanged since 2014. With a more comprehensive

treatment program to include a strong emphasis on familial engagement and reunification as well as increasing the level of care to QRTP, we feel that an overall rate increase would be necessary. The commencement of the rate increase will be effective July 1, 2021.

As we continue to undergo these significant, but necessary programming changes, we want to make it known how much we value the inter-agency relationships and collaborations that we have developed and had the privilege to be involve in throughout the years. While our milieu will be slightly different, our mission remains unscathed. We vow to continue the work that our proprietor bestowed upon us and as a collective agency of treatment providers, we will continue our pursuit to inspire hope, to teach and to provide the best care for children, youth and families.

If you have any clarifying questions, concerns or treatment inquiries, please feel free to contact me directly.

Kelly Gross

Residential and Clinical Specialist

Kim Mullins

Executive Director,
Child and Family Services

A commitment to excellence

Foster Care Opens New Office

The Marsh Foundation Foster Care and Adoption division has officially opened a second office in Wapakoneta, Ohio. The small incubation office is located within The Chamber of Commerce at 30 E. Auglaize Street. With the continuous expansion and recruitment of new foster families in the surrounding areas, the additional office will make it easier to connect with families south of Van Wert.

Those interested in learning more about fostering, can contact our Foster Care Supervisor, Melissa Snyder (msnyder@marshfoundation.org), or at 419.238.1695 ext. 307. Information is also available on our website at www.marshfoundation.org/services/foster-care.

2020 Annual Report

Did you receive a copy of the 2020 Annual Report released recently by The Marsh Foundation? If you did not, you may 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 to request a copy. It can also be found on our website, www.marshfoundation.org.

Marsh Foundation Appreciates Essential Workers, A.K.A. Heroes

In order for everything to run smoothly at The Marsh Foundation, there must be staff on hand around the clock. The children placed in The Marsh's care rely on the family teachers and other residential staff to be there all day, every day. It can be a daunting task to ensure all shifts are covered during the holiday season of a normal year. During a global pandemic, this becomes even more challenging, and even more critical.

"Much like healthcare workers, our staff have stepped up to the challenge and been here every day to care for the children that need them," said Elizabeth Truxell, residential consultant. "Not only is this recognized by those in administration, but also our referral sources and families," she said. "Thank you doesn't seem like enough. We are blessed to have our own heroes right here on campus."

Not only are staff present, and shifts are covered, but they have also done much more. "During the pandemic, the staff have gone above and beyond to keep our youth safe," Truxell continued. "They use all safety precautions during family visits, work extra hours as needed and are cognizant of their actions and where they go outside of work." This dedication has not gone unnoticed and is appreciated immensely.



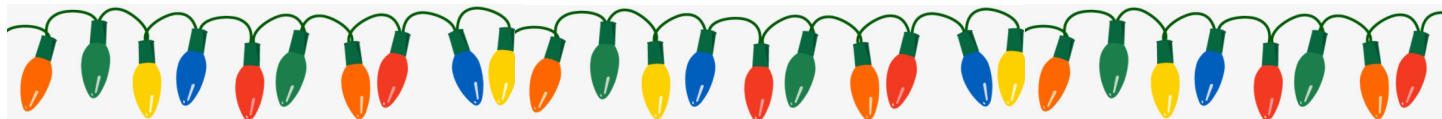
The Marsh Foundation has its own group of essential worker heroes.

Ron Bagley, continued from page 1

Ron is survived by his wife Linda S. (Kirchenbauer) Bagley and his four children; Jeff (Kristy) Bagley of Van Wert, Jon (Joy) Bagley of Van Wert, Julie (Quinn) White of Upland, Indiana and Mark (Rachelle) Bagley of Van Wert.; his 10 grandchildren, Caleb Bagley, Abigail Bagley, Katie (Chip) Marchland, Aaron (Becca) Bagley, Jacob

Bagley, Haley (Josh) Gimre, Keanan White, Connor White, Drew Bagley, and Maria Bagley; two great-grandchildren, Kyla Bagley and Miles Bagley; one brother, James D. (Sara) Bagley of Sarasota, Florida; three sisters, J. Coleen (Ray) Etzler of Van Wert, Diane (Larry) Webb of Van Wert, and Janell (P. Leslie) Boroff of Sun City Center, Florida.

The Marsh Foundation Foster Care and 4-H Exchange Club Partner



2020 was not an ordinary year. This meant that businesses and non-profit organizations alike have had to get creative in how they provide services and products. This is true for The Marsh Foundation Foster Care and Adoption Center in Van Wert. “We have really had to rethink how we reach out to our agency’s foster families and the kids in their care. Our goal has always been to provide a lot of support in the home, but with the pandemic, we weren’t able to be in the homes,” said Melissa Snyder, foster care director. “We have had to provide support through virtual services and use this as a way to continue to stay involved.”

The foster care program has always had an annual Christmas party for foster families and all the children in their home, whether foster or biological. “In the past, we have always had a big Christmas party with food, games and gifts for the kids. These parties had a lot of face-to-face interaction and we realized early on, this was not going to work” Snyder said. “The foster care staff came together to figure out a way to still celebrate while keeping everyone healthy and support local holiday activities,” she said. “We came up with this idea to come together with the 4-H Exchange Club Holiday light Show to provide a holiday experience for our foster families.” The 4-H Exchange Club has been providing a holiday light show at the Van Wert Fairgrounds for the past 13 years.

“In 2007, we started with 13 displays and 500 vehicles driving through,” said Jay Gamble, Exchange Club advisor. “2020’s show had 110 plus displays and over 3500 vehicles to come enjoy the lights,” he said. According to Gamble, all the exhibits have holiday themes and are supplied by local businesses, individuals, churches and clubs. The 4-H Exchange group is made up of youth, ages 13-18 from all areas of the county. “The light show is a way for the group to raise funds to support the cost to host other youth or travel to other states during the summer months. This allows the youth to build friendships and experience other areas,” Gamble added. The club and The Marsh were excited to come together to provide this holiday experience, which is socially distant, safe and family friendly.

“We felt it was very important to align with local businesses and partner with an organization that shares our vision to support youth,” said Beth Dye, Marsh foster care clinician. “It always impacts me to see that most of our kids in foster care have no support system in the community and counties where they come

from. I was born and raised in Van Wert County, so there was no shortage of caring adults involved in my life; like coaches, teachers, extended family, neighbors, church leaders and even 4-H advisors. Most of our foster kids have no one that is taking an interest in them or checking in on them. This is mostly because they move around a lot, aren’t regularly in school, or aren’t involved in the community,” she said. Caring adults are important because they can fill in the gaps and come alongside children when they are having problems at home. The Marsh believes that all children have the right to love, protection and to be cared for by a committed family. This is something that some biological families are just not able to provide.

The Marsh Foundation recruits and trains foster parents to provide homes to youth from counties all over Ohio. The foster care staff then work hard to ensure that the foster parents have the support needed to make these placements successful for the youth.

The 4-H Exchange Club and The Marsh Foster Care Program selected a date for the foster families to visit the light show. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the socially distanced outing. The Marsh Foundation and 4-H both care and support kids and families and want to serve as a model to everyone that they can help youth by guiding lights of love and support. Snyder said, “It’s all about unity, not just between the 4-H Exchange Club and The Marsh Foundation, but between all agencies. The more we come together, the more children we can reach and serve.”

Need to Make a Referral?



Residential/Group Home Referrals: Call Kelly at 419.238.1695 ext. 360 or kgross@marshfoundation.org

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

After Hours/Emergency: 419.605.8056
fostercare referrals@marshfoundation.org



Clockwise starting top left:
 In December 2018, it was announced that the auditorium on The Marsh campus would be renamed the Ron Bagley Auditorium in his honor. At the 2015 Alumni Reunion, the alumni association honored Ron for his service as director. Ron spent 30 years of his career at The Marsh. During his time as historian, Ron gave many tours of this historic



Marsh Foundation Homestead. As official Historian, Ron served as the historic expert for The Marsh Foundation historical documentaries and narrator of the virtual historic Homestead tour. He and his wife Linda, were present at the ground breaking for the new fitness and dining facility in May, 2019. They are pictured here with alumni Clara Smith and her husband Fred. In the 1960s, Ron came to The Marsh as a teacher, later to become principal and eventually director.



The Marsh Foundation Mourns Longtime Colleague

The Marsh Foundation has lost a long-time colleague and therapist, Steve Morrison who passed away in November 2020. Morrison had served as a therapist at The Marsh for more than 20 years before his retirement in 2017.

According to executive director of Child and Family Services, Kim Mullins, he was a cherished and respected member of The Marsh treatment team. "He was a mentor and friend to many workers, particularly those who were attempting to emulate his fine work with so many difficult youths," she said.



Steve Morrison

Prior to his career in social work, Morrison was an ordained priest from 1976 to 1989. During that time, he had

the pleasure of meeting Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta when he invited her to speak in Fort Wayne. He left the priesthood to focus on helping troubled teens and served as a counselor in Northeastern Indiana and Northwestern Ohio for many years.

"Steve had a God-given talent of being able to reach the most oppositional, resistant youths. His calm, confident demeanor was something to be admired by those he mentored. He was respected and sought after by not only clients, but organizations throughout western Ohio and Northeast-

ern Indiana," said Mullins. He made a dramatic impact on the lives of those he worked with and his contributions to the programming at The Marsh were numerous.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving companion, Carol Staszewski; her children Jim (Angela) Staszewski, Steve (Beth) Staszewski, and Rob (Trisha) Staszewski; grandchildren, Lindsey, Paige, Samantha, Jon and Olivia, his brothers Scott (Jana) Morrison and Stewart (Susan) Morrison, sister Susan (Dick) Hendrickson; and longtime friends Rose Scranton and Susan Milana.

Project Believe Continues to Bring Christmas Joy to The Marsh Foundation

Over the past several years it has become a Christmas tradition for Project Believe to visit The Marsh Foundation campus. Although things looked a little different this year, Project Believe did not let that stop their holiday spirit! Through the amazing generosity of donors, the organization once again came through and donated a huge box of Christmas presents for every child on The Marsh Foundation campus!

The Marsh appreciates these donations immensely. Each year they bring big smiles and make a big impact on the kids that receive them. Project Believe, which originated in 2007, has grown from serving 10 kids its first year to impacting hundreds of youth with their outreach.

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

You can learn more about Project Believe by visiting their website at www.projectbelieve.net. Or, you can contact Rafferty directly at tammierafferty@outlook.com.

Right: Pictured are Project Believe volunteers and Marsh staff. They also made sure that Marsh youth received Valentine's cards in February.





Clymer Chat

This school year has started off much different than those in the past, however the youth at The Marsh have made the most of the 'new normal'.

With the transition to a QRTP, Clymer Hall is preparing for some big changes. The home will no longer house girls and will become a home for boys as of July 1. Currently, the girls are working hard to complete their treatment programs. Several have already been successfully discharged in the past couple of months.

With the arrival of spring and some nicer weather, the girls have been taking advantage and spending more time outdoors.

Some of the girls participating in the IDL program on campus have enjoyed using the new, dedicated kitchen facility for the group. The space gives the group an opportunity to work on cooking and other practical life skills that they will need in the future. The addition of the new fitness and dining facility has expanded a lot of other programming possibilities on campus.



Marsh Matters

The arrival of spring has been met with much excitement from the boys at Marsh Hall. They have been spotted frequently outside, shooting hoops and taking walks.

Springtime means that the IDL garden work will soon begin. Many of the boys are looking forward to participating in the Marsh Grown garden program this spring and summer. This will culminate with a farmer's market on campus, which is a great teaching opportunity for all.

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.

As the school year comes to a close, the boys are looking forward to more free time and the additional activities that take place in the summer, such as the horse program. They will undoubtedly be kept busy.



Vance Voice

The boys at Vance Hall have been doing a great job navigating the different rules and restrictions in place due to the pandemic. Even though they have been presented with a variety of new obstacles they have worked hard to rise to the challenge.

Despite the differences this year, The Marsh was able to get into the Christmas spirit by decorating and wearing their ugly Christmas sweaters along with staff and teachers.

They have kept busy throughout the winter and especially enjoyed the couple large snows that were dumped on campus.

The end of the school year is nearing and the boys are looking forward to more time outdoors. They have been gearing up for summer and looking forward to evenings fishing at the pond or taking bike rides around campus.

If you are interested in making a referral, please contact Kelly Gross at 419.238.1695 ext. 360.



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 2021 - May 2021



- April 1 - Early school dismissal for staff in-service.
- Friday, April 2 - No school for Good Friday.
- Saturday, April 17 - Parent Teacher Conferences.
- May 21 - Last day of school.
- May 24 - Teacher work day.

For more information about any event, visit www.marshfoundation.org.

Attention Marsh Foundation Alumni

Are you an alumnus of The Marsh Foundation? Did you know that on our website, www.marshfoundation.org, we have a directory of alumni? To view the directory, or sign up yourself, visit the Alumni page online at www.marshfoundation.org.