

# The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2022

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

*Serving children and families since 1922*

## Marsh Foundation to Celebrate Alumni and 100 Years

The Marsh is extremely excited to celebrate 100 years with our alumni and community. The event committee for the 100 year celebration is hard at work to ensure it is a weekend to remember.

The Alumni Reunion and 100 Year Celebration of The Marsh Foundation will be held on September 16 and 17, 2022. The weekend will be spent honoring our alumni at our final reunion while also celebrating the century we have spent helping children and families. We hope everyone will mark their calendars and plan to join us for a fun-filled weekend.

Friday will be open only to alumni and their guest. The evening will feature time to socialize, we will serve dinner and then hold a meeting in the Bagley Auditorium with our executives.

On Saturday, September 18, the fun will begin at 10 a.m. The day's activities are open to alumni and their families as well as the community. We will have food trucks on site including: Gibson's BBQ, Venedocia Lions Club, Potato Tornado and Cabin Fever Coffee.

There will be activities for the kids such as inflatables and corn hole. There will also be entertainment and plenty of



**The final Marsh Foundation alumni reunion will be held on Sept. 16 and 17 along with a 100 Year Celebration.**

exciting activities throughout the day.

Our group homes on campus will also be open for tours during the afternoon. This is one of the highlights for alumni to visit their childhood homes.

Saturday evening will be a special celebration. We will hold a concert in the Bagley Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets to see Denver and the Mile High Orchestra be available soon, so watch for more information!

The evening and weekend will conclude with a fireworks show at 10 p.m. on Saturday night. We hope this will serve as a wonderful thank you to the

alumni and community for their continued support over the past 100 years.

Please share with your family and friends and plan to attend this family friendly celebration.

The Marsh was established in 1922 George and Hilinda Marsh and their daughter Katie. The family gave most of their substantial estate for the purpose of helping needy children and families. The Marsh endowment, has provided resources for building a stately campus, assembling dedicated professionals, underwriting a successful program and expanding services to meet the changing needs of children and families.



### 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 ...

Spring is in the air on The Marsh Foundation Campus. The temperature rising, birds are singing and summer maintenance planning has begun. The spring and summer of 2022 maintenance schedule will be no different.

Painting, grounds maintenance, grass mowing and continual repairs will fill the Maintenance Department schedule. The maintenance staff includes Mr. Lyle Ulrey, Eric Price, Randy Patterson, Dan Tinnel, Bill Wiechart and Logan Gross. I am very proud of how The Marsh campus is cared for by these gentlemen. The Marsh maintenance staff have provided a safe and beautiful campus for our students.

With the increase in HR responsibilities and continual changes to our financial reporting. Ms. Karen Smith and Ms. Sarah Miller continue to keep the Business Office professional, and in compliance with all of their responsibilities. BRSW, CPA's, auditors for The Marsh Foundation, recently provided the highest of compliments to the record keeping and work by the Business Office and these two professionals.

The custodial staff of Katrina Rupert and Nicki Bowers provide a clean, safe, and healthy environment for our students.

This custodial staff is



**Jeff Grothouse**

responsible for the new gymnasium facility, locker rooms, cafeteria, weight room, administration building, school offices, and the newly acquired Foster Care building on Westwood Drive.

The Marsh kitchen staff of Kayla Parsons, Crystal Flores and Paula Dawson provides breakfast, lunch and dinner six days a week. The seventh day meals are provided to the group homes for staff to cook with youth. Students and staff have provided numerous compliments to the meal program being served. The kitchen staff have been a pleasure to work with and provide outstanding meals for all our special occasions.

Since the 1960s, The Marsh Foundation has gathered former alumni and employees who have studied and served this campus every five years. The

Marsh Foundation opened the campus and celebrated with the alumni for years. The upcoming reunion will have a community feel which is a change to this event. The Marsh Foundation will gather everyone together one more time to celebrate the one hundred years of The Marsh Foundation in late summer of 2022. The facts behind this decision to celebrate in 2022, as we know them from reading The Marsh Foundation history, are the following: George H. Marsh wrote his Last Will and Testament and signed it on his Wedding Anniversary date, November 26, 1919. George H. Marsh passed away on August 13, 1920. Following the passing of George H. Marsh, the original Trustees began the process of planning the group homes and administration building. The Marsh Foundation Home and School was established in 1922. Dr. R.R. Reeder, Marsh Home and School's First Director, was hired in 1922. Dr. Reeder designed the first program for the incoming students. The group homes and administration buildings were erected, and children enrolled into the newly designed program. The Marsh Foundation Home and School was dedicated in 1924. The dedication service was held in the school's auditorium and Governor of Ohio, A. Victor

Donahey, was the dedication's speaker. The Marsh Foundation will hold its final reunion in 2022. The Marsh Foundation will make this reunion a special celebration of the first one hundred years of serving children and families. So, please mark your calendars for September 16 & September 17, 2022.

The Marsh Foundation has the design of a three-piece wheel. All three pieces working together to allow the wheel to turn and be useful and productive. The three pieces to the wheel are Ms. Kim Mullins, Child & Family Services, Mr. Robbie Breese, Marsh School Principal and Jeffrey M. Grothouse, Executive Secretary & Treasurer. Each piece has an especially important task just as important as the other pieces. Without any piece, the wheel would not roll effectively. This Executive Staff works very effectively and professionally to provide the needed services to the youth and staff of The Marsh Foundation.

You too could become a particularly important piece to the service of our children. If you wish to give to the youth of our campus by cash donation, charitable bequests, gifts from an estate or trust please contact the business office for more details. The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. Our youth do appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

*Jeff Grothouse*  
Executive Secretary  
& Treasurer

A commitment to excellence





### Clymer Chat

This school year has been going very well for the youth on campus. Several fun activities were planned by the student council for the holidays. There was a full spirit week and a fun dodge ball tournament in the gym.

A spirit week is also planned for spring break and will include things like hat day, sunglasses and sandals day, and pajama day. The youth especially enjoy these themed days because the staff always joins in the fun.

The boys had a lot of fun this winter transforming their dining room into a dynamic underwater oasis. With the help of family teacher Emery Rogers, they used just construction paper and tape to cover all the walls with lifelike fish. It was a very artistic project. Pictures are on page 4.



### 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. The boys are looking forward to using the new fire pit and sand volleyball court as well. The boys are looking forward to all of the fun activities spring and summer will have in store.



### Vance Voice

The boys at Vance Hall have been having a great winter and especially enjoyed the snow storms this year. They were excited to receive their Christmas gifts from Project Believe and had a great holiday season full of fun activities.

Now, 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.

The older boys have had the opportunity to use the newly renovated IDL kitchen on campus. The space gives them the chance to practice life skills of meal prep that they will be able to take with them when they leave The Marsh program.

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

## Project Believe Continues to Bring Christmas Joy to The Marsh



Pictured are Project Believe volunteers and Marsh staff ready to unload the boxes of gifts for Marsh youth.

Over the past several years it has become a Christmas tradition for Project Believe to visit The Marsh Foundation campus. This year was no different. 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](http://www.projectbelieve.net). Or, you can contact Rafferty directly at [tammierafferty@outlook.com](mailto:tammierafferty@outlook.com).

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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 2022 - May 2022

- March 14 - 18 - The Marsh Foundation School will not be in session for spring break.
- April 9 - Parent teacher conferences
- April 14 - Staff In-Service, early dismissal
- April 15 - No school for Good Friday. The Business and Administration offices will also be closed.
- May 20 - Last day of school.
- May 23 - Teacher work day.
- May 30 - The Business and Administration offices will be closed for Memorial 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).