

# The Marsh Messenger

• Summer 2012 • [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)

Serving children and families since 1922

## Spring Celebration Wraps Up School Year

The Marsh Foundation School held its annual spring celebration on Friday, May 25. The day included piano recitals, a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, an awards program and a luncheon. In addition, two students were honored for receiving their high school diploma; one from Lincolnview Local Schools and another from Spencerville.

Many of the youth's friends and families, as well as community members joined in the celebration. More than 30 students were honored for their accomplishments throughout the school year.

Everyone in attendance got a special treat when they visited the basement for the luncheon celebration. The hallway was decorated in an under the sea adventure, complete with paintings, balloon octopuses and even an over-sized scuba diver.

The youth had completed the underwater paintings in art class. The octopuses and scuba diver were a production of a special balloon workshop conducted by Tammy Corzine, owner of Celebrations in Delphos. Corzine visited The Marsh School the week prior to the spring celebration and spent class time with each youth. She taught them how to inflate, shape and create creatures out of balloons.

In addition, each of the three classes worked to create



**A youth receives his high school diploma and is congratulated by Marsh Foundation Trustees (l to r) Bob Gamble, Gary Corcoran and Gerald Thatcher.**



**Left: A youth performs during the piano recital. Right: Tammy Corzine, owner of Celebrations, demonstrates to a class as they work on building an over-sized scuba diver out of balloons.**

part of the large scuba diver. It was a fun, and interactive experience. Marsh School art teacher, Karla Hoying, was excited to expose her students to yet another type of art. "The



students learn about painting, drawing, glass and many types of art, but I thought this would be something a little different," she said.



**THE MARSH**  
FOUNDATION

## Please Share

Please share The Marsh Messenger with others in your family or office who would like to read it. Thank you!

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## Leadership

- **The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees:**
  - Gary Corcoran
  - Robert Gamble
  - Gerald Thatcher
- **The Marsh Foundation Executive Team:**
  - Kim Mullins
  - Roger Salisbury
  - Jeff Grothouse

The Marsh Foundation  
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## From the Trustee's desk ...

### Continuing a Legacy

The Marsh Foundation is all about helping people. George and Hilinda Marsh both exemplified that during their lives and in the legacies they left. Hilinda was very active in Christian ministry outreach. Articles written about her life reveal a loving, compassionate person who served her Lord by helping others.

George used resources to build the local YWCA and helped fund other local projects beneficial to people. His will directed the Board of Trustees to use the trust funds to establish a home and school for the benefit of orphans and other children. Part of the conclusion in his will states "I invite others who may feel so disposed, by gift, bequest or devise or in such other manner as the donors may deem appropriate, to make said Foundation the beneficiary thereof, always provided that neither the name, purpose, scope or character of the Foundation thereby be changed."

The Trustees are appointed by the Judges of the Court of Appeals of the judicial district of Ohio, of which Van Wert County is a part. We, as Trustees, are charged with maintaining the purpose and integrity of The Marsh Foundation. This challenge is in our thoughts as we discuss the current and future activities



Gerald Thatcher

of the Marsh.

### Progress

In recent years our homes have been completely remodeled and upgraded, our greenhouse has been replaced with a more efficient one, a new sign reflecting our service to children and families has been erected and our campus grounds beautified. All of these provide a well maintained attractive facility for the children placed in our care.

Facilities are important but what happens in those facilities is more important. We have upgraded our programs by adding an activities coordinator. This has provided for some to experience gardening, sell their produce, raise rabbits, participate in 4-H, take field trips to various places, help in soup kitchens and participate in other activities. Some youth

*"I see them not as they are now, but what they can become."*

*— Marsh Foundation Family Teacher*

have been able to have a small job on campus after going through an interview process. Others who are advanced in our program obtain part time jobs off campus. All of these are used to supplement the clinical portion of our program in rehabilitating the young person to be better prepared to live in our society.

### Our People

An organization is only as good as the people involved. We are proud of our management team and our employees. They are professional in their area of responsibility, dedicated, have love and a real desire to help the youth. When I hear of many of the challenges they face on a daily basis, I often ask "How do they do it day after day". The answer is that we have employees who genuinely

care. One of our employees made a comment to me one time when I was talking to him about his daily involvement "I see them not as they are now, but what they can become". I think that sums up what drives our people. The reward is seeing the young people make progress and knowing you have been part of that changed life. The Marsh Foundation is all about helping people.

We invite you to visit our Campus. See in person how we implement our mission statement "to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families". Contact Dawn Berryman, marketing and public relations specialist, for information. She can be reached at 419.238.1695 ext. 233.

*Gerald Thatcher*

Chair

The Marsh Foundation  
Board of Trustees

*We have recently published our organization's first-ever annual report. This letter was written as an introduction to that report. If you would like a copy, and have not received one, please contact Dawn Berryman at the above number. Thank you!*

# A commitment to excellence

## Living the Legacy Raised Donations & Awareness

The First United Methodist Senior Choir recently capped off a month-long program on The Marsh campus entitled; Homeless and Hungry: Becoming Part of the Solution. The Living the Legacy concert was a celebration of the continuation of the Marsh family legacy today.

The Choir performed a variety of gospel and well-known songs for nearly an hour. The choir is composed of 42 volunteer and professionally trained singers. It has been under the direction of Paul Hoverman for the past 19 years. The accompanists are Gloria Wendel on organ and Annette Hoverman on piano. The choir was also accompanied by drums and a bass player for the performance.

The choir has a rich tradition of excellence in music. Under L.W. Schaufelberger, the choir traveled and sang in Eng-



**The First United Methodist Senior Choir recently performed a variety of gospel and well-known songs in The Marsh auditorium. The performance was part of the Living the Legacy event.**

land. In 2001, under Hoverman, the choir traveled to New York City and sang at St. John the Divine Cathedral under Dr. Simon Carrington, founder of the King's Singers. In the past, the choir has made several recordings and has commissioned

numerous choral anthems which have been published and are sung around the world.

Admission to the concert was free, with the donation of non-perishable food items. All items collected were then donated to Van Wert area food

banks. As part of the day's events, tours of The Marsh Homestead were also open to the public. Tours were given by Ron Bagley, former Marsh Foundation director, and nearly 50 people participated.

## *May was National Foster Care Month*

One of the most meaningful things you can do in life to help a child is to become a foster parent. However, it is a decision that requires a large commitment.

The Marsh Foundation in Van Wert offers a continuum of care that includes a Foster Care Program. The majority of foster kids are placed in homes as a step-down in their treatment plan from the Group Homes on campus.

The Marsh believes that all children have the right to love, protection and to be cared for by a by a committed family. Many of the children served have suffered abuse and/or neglect and The Marsh seeks out potential foster parents who can meet the needs of these chil-



**May was National Foster Care Month. The Marsh Foundation would like to say thank you to all foster parents, past, present and future. Your commitment is invaluable!**

dren.

All foster parents go through extensive training before a child is placed and are required to

undergo continuing training to maintain their license. Foster parents can be married couples or single individuals.

Consultants are assigned to each foster parent and are available 24 hours, seven days a week. They help create the youth's treatment plan, offer support and are available in crisis situations. Foster parents are substantially reimbursed for costs associated with caring for a foster child.

Currently there are six foster families in The Marsh network but there is a great need for more. In order to become a foster parent there is a lengthy application and assessment process required. If you are interested in learning more, contact The Marsh Foundation at 419.238.1695. Or, visit [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org).



### Clymer Chat

Currently, there are nine girls residing in Clymer Hall with just one opening.

The girls are excited for the summer activities and are working hard at summer school. They are busy planning outings and other activities for the summer months.

Prior to the spring celebration, the girls enjoyed learning more about making characters out of balloons and participated in making the decorations for the celebration day.

This summer the girls are very excited about the walking

program. They are walking and tracking their miles around campus in an effort to stay fit. It is a great opportunity for the girls to exercise and spend time with each other and staff.



### Marsh Matters

The boys at Marsh Hall are also very excited about the summer ahead. There is currently one opening in the house with nine boys in the program.

Some boys from Marsh Hall are members of the Independent Living Group and are busy working on the garden crew for

the summer. They'll be growing a variety of produce and flowers to sell at the Van Wert Farmer's Market. It is a great learning experience for the youth.

The boys are enjoying the horse program which is underway for the summer. They enjoy riding nightly and learning about caring for the animals. The horses are loaned to The Marsh from the University of Findlay's equestrian program and are housed on campus for the summer months.

They boys have also been seen outside frequently playing kickball and football.



### Vance Voice

A couple of boys have recently successfully completed the program at Vance Hall and moved on to foster care. This has left two current openings at Vance Hall.

The boys are energized for the summer and have been outside playing, riding bikes and throwing the football. They are also looking forward to fun outings and activities this summer.

The boys will be in summer school in the mornings until the middle of July. After that, they will have more time for activities and outings.

Some boys from Vance Hall are involved with the 4-H program under the direction of activities coordinator Sherry Grone. They will be working hard this summer to get projects ready to show at the Van Wert County Fair.

## Understanding the Outcomes Data Project

The Marsh Foundation is one of several agencies in the state participating in the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies' (OACCA) Outcomes Data Project (ODP). The project measures a variety of criteria upon a youth's intake, discharge and six months after discharge from The Marsh program.

Each month, The Marsh receives nine total reports about data obtained from our, and other agencies. This allows us to compare our performance among our own programs, in our different group homes and in Foster Care. It also allows us

to compare our results to the aggregate data from around the state.

The project measures vari-

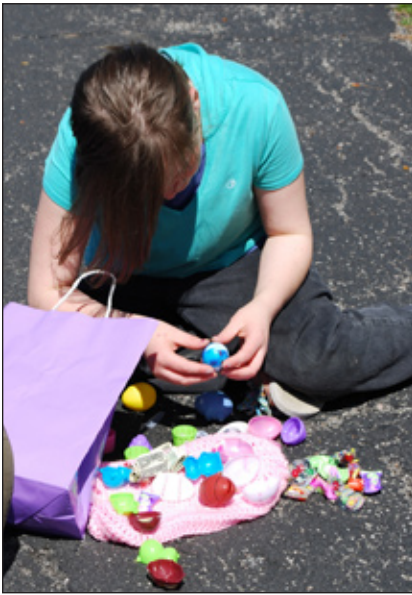
ables such as effectiveness of placements, changes in problem severity, restrictiveness of living, educational areas, nature of dis-

charge, duration of placement and whether or not the youth had a planned discharge.

The Marsh Foundation has been participating in the ODP since January of 2007. Since then, our numbers have fared very well to the aggregate data.

To the left is the most recent data regarding effectiveness of placement. Each of our three group home programs are meeting expectations well above the aggregate data from the other participating Ohio agencies. For more information on OACCA and the ODP, you can visit [www.oacca.org](http://www.oacca.org).

	The Marsh Foundation	Other Ohio Facilities
<b>Marsh Foundation</b>		
Did not meet expectations	31.36%	50.07%
Met expectations	68.64%	49.93%
<b>Clymer Hall</b>		
Did not meet expectations	34.09%	50.07%
Met expectations	65.91%	49.93%
<b>Marsh Hall</b>		
Did not meet expectations	26.32%	50.07%
Met expectations	73.68%	49.93%
<b>Vance Hall</b>		
Did not meet expectations	33.33%	50.07%
Met expectations	66.67%	49.93%



Clockwise starting at top left: A youth sorts through her goodies from the Easter egg hunt. Staff from the Van Wert Sheriff Department recently visited campus to present self-defense techniques to the girls from Clymer Hall and other female staff. Ron Bagley gave tours of the historic Homestead to many individuals during the Living the Legacy celebration this spring. Several youth thank the Henderson and Linser family after the Easter egg hunt. An oversized scuba diver was created by the youth out of balloons and used as decoration during the spring celebration. An auditorium chair is now inscribed in memory of Shirley Haight Linser in honor of the generosity of her family.



## Marsh Grown Garden Program Teaches Youth Valuable Skills

The Marsh Foundation Independent Living Group morphs into the garden crew for the summer and they are extremely busy already! Under the direction of Sherry Grone, activities coordinator, the youth are already working full-time in the garden.

The Marsh Grown program uses gardening as a tool to teach youth at The Marsh valuable skills for future employment. The group consists of youth ages 15-and-a-half and older. They grow vegetables and flowers that are then sold for income.

With the lack of rain, watering has become a large chore for the garden crew. They are up early in the morning ensuring that the garden is being watered adequately, among other things.

A large part of the garden crew is learning job skills for when they seek employment off-campus. They learn about the time commitment, selling to the public, managing money, working with coworkers and much more. They also learn the importance of good nutrition and how to grow healthy foods.

In the fall, as the group starts to harvest, they will take their produce to the farmer's market in Van Wert. The income they generate will be their own for their hours of hard work.

## Marsh Foundation Compliance Specialist Maintains Agency Licensing

LeAnn Patterson has worked for The Marsh Foundation in different capacities for the past 18 years. Currently, her title is compliance specialist. In addition to supervising the administrative assistants in Child and Family Services, she works diligently to ensure that The Marsh meets all licensing standards and requirements.

The Marsh holds a variety of certifications and credentials from a variety of organizations such as the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) and the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Patterson has a long list of responsibilities, but her job can be very rewarding. Last month CARF was on campus for the on site survey they perform every three years. By all accounts the visit went very well, and The Marsh is hopeful that a letter continuing accreditation for another three years will arrive soon. It's times like this when Patterson feels most successful. "It is great when we receive as few recommendations as possible," she said. "It really shows that all of our hard work has paid off."

Each of the organizations that Patterson works with has their own list of standards, their own time lines and their own measurements of success.



**LeAnn Patterson serves as the compliance specialist for The Marsh Foundation.**

The job can become stressful at times, especially when dealing with something as critical as Medicaid.

The Marsh bills clients for outpatient clinical services through Medicaid and the system in which they bill is changing this summer. "The stress comes from the fear of

doing something wrong," said Patterson. "We want to make sure we are following all of the procedures correctly."

Although all of the entities that Patterson works with are separate with their own stipulations, they are also tied together in various ways. ODJFS is

*Continued on page 7 ...*

## New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation recently hired new staff members:

- Jesse Rode ~ Family Teacher
- Kendra Selhorst ~ Family Teacher
- Sharon Long ~ Family Teacher
- Elspeth Neville ~ Family Teacher
- Ashley Rogers ~ Family Teacher

## An Easter Tradition ... *Service at The Marsh Foundation*

For the second straight year, a family now living in Charlotte, NC has returned to Van Wert on Easter weekend to give back to an organization that helped their own family many years ago.

In the 1940s Shirley Haight came to live at The Marsh Foundation. Now, her daughters Cindy Henderson and Lori Linser and her grandson Ian Henderson are making an Easter tradition out of visiting The Marsh. In 2011 and 2012, the family provided an Easter egg hunt and baskets for the youth in The Marsh residential programs.

Although Haight passed away in 1988, Cindy Henderson never forgot how much The Marsh had meant to her mother. The idea to return came to her last year when her son was looking for a spring service project for school and has since evolved into tradition that they hope to continue.

"Easter was always a very special time for mom and for our family," she said. "We hope to be able to continue this tradition for many years into the future." Even with his busy baseball schedule and other activities, Ian planned an extravagant Easter egg hunt for the youth on campus as well as provided baskets for everyone that included candy, gift cards and other treats.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the youth on campus. It especially meant a lot that Ian and his family were here to participate as well.

Seventeen-year-old Ian has done several service projects as



part of his private education, but he said he really enjoys visiting The Marsh. "I've had a lot of fun while visiting," he said. "It's fun to meet the kids and hang out."

On Friday night, the family had the opportunity to have dinner with the youth at Marsh Hall and enjoy some recreational time afterwards. These types of interactions are very positive experiences for the youth on The Marsh campus. It gives them an excellent opportunity to practice social skills that they are working to improve.

Prior to Saturday afternoon's Easter egg hunt, The Marsh presented the family with an auditorium seat inscribed in honor of their mother and grandmother. The inscription reads, "In loving memory of Shirley Haight Linser." The gesture was just a small token of appreciation for the kindness and generosity offered to The Marsh Foundation youth by Cindy, Lori, Ian and their entire family.

2012 was the second Easter that Shirley Haight Linser's family visited The Marsh and provided an Easter egg hunt for youth. In recognition of their service, an auditorium chair was inscribed in her memory. Above, the family sits in that seat. Below, Ian Henderson, helps one of the youth on campus inventory his collection following the hunt.



*Continued from page 6 ....*

probably the most crucial license, without it The Marsh couldn't house youth or serve foster children. ODMH requires that facilities be accredited through CARE. And, if The Marsh wasn't able to accept Medicaid payments, the clinical division would cease to exist.

Because of the varying requirements that Patterson is constantly ensuring The Marsh meets, many other tasks result. For instance, she is the head of the campus health and safety committee because so many of the agencies have many safety requirements. She also writes and revises a lot of policies for the organization to help meet licensing standards. She also assists with ongoing training for employees about these processes and things like HIPPA and corporate compliance.

Overall, Patterson said she enjoys her job and is pleased with the work she does. "I feel very positive after an on site visit like last month's from CARE," she said. "It was stressful preparing for it, but it is a real pat on the back when they reinforce the work you are doing and recommend only minimal improvements."

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## Summer is in Full Swing!

The Marsh School has begun the summer school schedule and summer is in full swing on campus. Summer school runs from 8 a.m. - noon, Monday through Thursday. The summer session will conclude on July 12. In addition, the summer horse program has also started. Youth will be riding daily from now until the week of August 17. The annual horse show will be held on Friday, August 10 at 10 a.m. If it rains, the show will be moved to August 13. Staff and youth will once again enjoy an outing to a Tin Caps summer baseball game. The date is August 18. The Marsh School will be back in session for the 2012 - 2013 school year on August 21.

### “Like” The Marsh on Facebook!

The Marsh Foundation's official Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation). In addition to a variety of photographs from the past and recent events, the Facebook page features updates on current activities and various things happening at The Marsh Foundation and in the community! Please stop by, like our page and tell your friends!



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

## Calendar of Events

### Summer 2012

- On June 21, in the auditorium, there will be a statewide training from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Nationally known author and social worker Heather T. Forbes will be presenting “Why Tokens Aren’t Working: Helping Children with Difficult Behaviors.” The training is free and CEUs are being provided.
- All Marsh Foundation staff will have the opportunity to participate in a communication and morale building training this summer. The FISH program will be presented by the Van Wert Chamber of Commerce on June 27, July 25 and August 22.



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).