

# The Marsh Messenger

• Summer 2013 • [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)

*Serving children and families since 1922*

## Marsh Foundation Youth Complete 26 Acts of Kindness

Since the December shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School, people across the nation have been sending donations and doing kind deeds in honor of those killed. On a national level, NBC has been specifically promoting doing 26 acts of kindness in honor of the 26 victims.

When discussing the tragedy with activities coordinator Sherry Grone, the youth at The Marsh Foundation felt like this was something they could do to make a small difference. So, from February through May, the youth will complete a total of 26 acts of kindness on campus and in the community.

"The youth on campus have been challenged to do two or three service projects each month," said Grone. "The kids have been very energetic and hopefully the projects are working to instill a sense of compassion and empathy."

There are three group homes on campus and each has worked together to choose monthly projects. Already, the youth have made a pie for the maintenance staff and delivered cookies to administrative staff. By the end of the school year, next month, all 26 acts will be complete.

The girls at Clymer Hall have adopted a soldier and are

sending him letters until he returns home from overseas. They also spent time at Wal-Mart gathering and cleaning up shopping carts in the parking lot. One weekend, some boys on campus made and entire meal

and took it to the firemen at the Van Wert Fire Department.

"I'm really proud of the projects they've chosen and the way that they are making a positive impact in our community," Grone added.

### Six Graduates Honored at Spring Celebration



The Marsh Foundation School held its annual spring celebration on Wednesday, May 22. The day included piano recitals, a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, an awards program and a luncheon. In addition, a total of six students were honored for receiving their high school diplomas. 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. Pictured is one youth being congratulated by Trustee Bob Gamble after receiving his academic awards.



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### 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



### Clymer Chat

Currently, there are ten girls at Clymer Hall, with all openings full. There were some recent successful program completions so the girls are working on getting to know the new girls who have moved in.

The girls are excited for summer and were very anxious for the horse program to begin. They've been spending time riding and learning to care for the

horses on campus.

Another favorite activity is swimming. The girls enjoy visiting area pools during the summer months. They've also been seen riding their bikes around campus frequently.



### Marsh Matters

The boys at Marsh Hall are ready for summer. The house is currently full, with ten boys. Like the other youth on campus

they have started summer school and the more relaxed schedule.'

The schedule has allowed for a few recent fun day trips. The week before summer school started, the boys visited the Indianapolis Children's Museum, the largest children's museum in the country. They had a fantastic time.

One afternoon they also traveled to Ft. Wayne and toured the DeBrand's Chocolate Factory. That is always one of the youth's favorite activities.



### Vance Voice

Vance Hall is also full, with ten boys. They have settled right into the summer schedule. The boys have been seen playing basketball and kickball outside a lot in recent weeks.

One favorite activity for Vance Hall is fishing at the pond. They visit the pond regularly and several of the boys have already been heard boasting about the big catfish that they caught.

The boys are also looking forward to their summer trip to the Toledo Zoo. The day trip will be one of the final activities before summer school concludes on July 11. The 2013 - 2014 school year will begin on August 21.

## Marsh Holds Spring Plant Sale and Historic Homestead Tours

The Marsh Foundation 'Marsh Grown' garden program held their annual spring plant sale in May in The Marsh Foundation greenhouse. All proceeds from the sale go to the campus youth garden program.

The group sold hanging baskets, annuals, tomato plants and other varieties of house plants.

The Marsh Grown youth garden program is dedicated to helping young people develop a sense of land stewardship and learn the importance of healthy food. Participants are taught valuable gardening skills throughout the season. In addition, the program serves as a catalyst for

youth to develop important job skills for future employment. Throughout the summer, the garden crew grows vegetables and sells them at the farmer's market for income.

Ron Bagley, former Marsh Director and current Marsh Foundation Historian, also gave public tours of the Marsh Family Homestead. Tours were open to anyone interested in learning more about the history of The Marsh Foundation and seeing the home where George, Hilinda and Katie lived. The home itself was completed in 1865 and has been a visual icon



Ron Bagley, former Marsh Director and current Historian, gave public tours of The Marsh Family Homestead.

in Van Wert ever since. The interior has been preserved to look much like it did when the

Marsh family occupied it in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

*A commitment to excellence*



*“Thank you for making a difference in my life!”*

The Marsh Foundation would like to thank all foster parents who give of themselves to make a difference in the lives of children.

### **May is National Foster Care Month and more Foster Parents are Needed!**

- Couples and single parents are eligible
- Complete, extensive training prior to child placement
- Licensing through the Ohio Dept. of Human Services
- Supportive, 24-hour on-call consultation provided
- Substantial reimbursement for those who qualify



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**419.238.1695 Ext. 360 or [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)**

## *May was National Foster Care Month*

The Marsh Foundation 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. However, many direct referrals from the community are also received. We are looking for

potential foster parents that can give these children a home and family.

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 seven foster families in The Marsh

network; and two more are undergoing the training process. There is still a 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 ext. 360. Or, visit [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org).

## Marsh Staff Drop Pounds

Employees at The Marsh Foundation recently concluded a 14-week weight loss competition on campus. More than 205 pounds were lost by 14 participating staff members.

Each year, The Marsh Foundation staff undergo a health assessment provided by the organization's insurance carrier. The informational assessment provides statistics about employee weight, cholesterol, sugar and other health risks. As with most segments of society, being overweight is a common problem.

In an effort to encourage healthier, more active lifestyles, staff and trustees developed a weight loss competition. All staff were invited to participate and those who did were charged an entry fee and small fees if they gained weight at the weekly weigh-ins. Money collected was matched by The Marsh Trustees as an incentive.

Two monetary prizes were given to the top participants. Katrina Rupert won first place for losing 16 percent of her body weight. Joy Gordon won second place for her loss of 15.22 percent. Rupert won 70 percent of the money collected and Gordon won the other 30 percent.

Losing weight can be very difficult, especially when you're doing it alone. This program provided a challenge including friendly competition but also accountability and motivation by reward.

## Youth Complete Spring Break Service Projects

For the past several years, the youth at The Marsh Foundation have completed service projects during their spring break that revolve around the theme of the homeless and the hungry. This year they did the same.

Three groups visited the Lima Rescue Mission and the West Ohio Food Bank for tours and to help out. Youth packed nearly 200 boxes of food for area seniors. Two other groups served two separate meals at the Lima Rescue Mission to more than 70 men.

Activities coordinator Sherry Grone tied these projects with lessons and discussions about the statistics surrounding homelessness and hunger. In addition, some smaller service projects were completed like stuffing eggs for the Van Wert Parks Department Easter egg hunt and serving the weekly bread and bowl meal at the First United Methodist Church in Van Wert.

George, Hilinda and Katie Marsh left a strong legacy by being compassionate and helping the less fortunate in the Van Wert community. Hilinda, especially, left behind writings that were very spiritual in nature. In her funeral memorial it was quoted, "Many were the days when she went about in her well-provisioned carriage, helping the sick and needy, in the very joy of her Master who went about doing good. In the



**Marsh Foundation youth and staff pack senior food boxes at the West Ohio Food Bank.**

church [she was] a humble and conscientious follower of the Christ; a leader for years in the Ladies' Society of the church. Our sense of loss is deep; we shall ever hold her services in

grateful remembrance." The Marsh Foundation continues to build on and carry out that legacy and this is the inspiration behind these service projects.

## An Easter Tradition Continues for Third Straight Year

Over the Easter weekend, a family now living in Charlotte, NC returned to Van Wert 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. For the third straight year, her daughters and grandson returned to campus to give back.

Cindy and Ian Henderson, Lori Linser and Cathy and Don Anderson were all at The Marsh Foundation on Easter Sunday to enjoy a meal and provide Easter baskets and an egg hunt for the youth.

Although Haight passed away in 1988, Henderson never forgot how much The Marsh had meant to her. The generosity started three years ago as Ian's spring service project for school. This year, he is a senior but the family insists they will be back again next year. "We get so much more out of this than you all do," shared Cindy Henderson.

In addition to the meal and hiding Easter eggs, the family also enjoyed a tour of Clymer Hall while they were on campus. Clymer is where Haight lived when she was here in the 40s.

It was a memorable day



**Top: Ian and his aunt Lori read thank you notes made for them by the youth. Center: A youth counts and opens her eggs following the Easter egg hunt. Bottom: Staff members Dawn Berryman, Kathleen Davis and Kim Mullins pose with Ian at the end of the day.**

and enjoyed tremendously by Marsh Foundation youth. In years past, the family's visit has been on Saturday. This year, they were able to be on campus on Easter Sunday and enjoy the holiday meal and fellowship with all the youth on campus.



## New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation recently hired new staff members:

- Miranda Samsal ~ Family Teacher
- Jackie Sherburn ~ Family Teacher
- Julie Hess ~ Family Teacher
- Amber Tickle ~ Family Teacher
- Megan Tucker ~ Family Teacher

The Marsh Foundation  
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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 12. The annual horse show will be held on Friday, August 9 at 10 a.m. If it rains, the show will be moved to August 13. The Marsh School will be back in session for the 2013 - 2014 school year on Wednesday, August 21. Have a great summer!

## "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

- Summer School - June 3 - July 12, 8 a.m. - noon, Monday through Thursday
- Summer horse riding for youth - June 3 - August 12, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday
- The Business and Child and Family Services Offices on campus will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday
- Summer horse show, open to the public, Friday, August 9 at 10 a.m. Rain date is August 13
- First day of school - Wednesday, August 21



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).