

# The Marsh Messenger

• Summer 2015 • [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)

Serving children and families since 1922

## The 2015 Marsh Foundation Alumni Reunion is Just Weeks Away!

Plans are in place for the upcoming Marsh Alumni Reunion! You should have received your personal invitation recently. If not, please contact The Marsh at 419.238.1695 ext. 233 immediately so we can make sure that you are included.

The reunion, which is held once every five years, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2, 2015. It will be held on The Marsh campus in Van Wert and will offer alumni the opportunity to reconnect with their friends and family at The Marsh Foundation.

We sincerely hope that you and your family will plan to join us for a fun-filled weekend.

On Saturday evening, we will offer a meal and fellowship under the big tent. This will be a great opportunity to visit with friends and reconnect with those you haven't seen recently.

If you need overnight accommodations, you can visit <http://visitvanwert.org/accom.html> for a list of available hotels in the area.

Sunday will be a busy day, full of opportunities to experience The Marsh Foundation. We will begin with a luncheon under the big tent. Be sure to visit the registration tent for historical information, nametags your complimentary t-shirt and other goodies.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend will be when the entire campus is opened up for

open house tours. You will be able to tour all of the group homes, as well as the Homestead, Greenhouse and other campus highlights.

The afternoon will also feature an alumni meeting in the auditorium as well as presentations from Marsh Executive Staff and Trustees. A group photo will also be taken.

We sincerely hope that you plan to join us for this great weekend. There will be historical items on display throughout the weekend as well as interactive presentations and activities! Visit our Facebook page and follow our event to stay up-to-date on planning details [www.facebook.com/Marsh-Foundation](http://www.facebook.com/Marsh-Foundation).



## THE MARSH FOUNDATION Alumni **2015** Reunion

### Important Dates!

- 2015 Alumni Reunion - Aug. 1 & 2
- RSVP postcards due by July 11



THE MARSH  
FOUNDATION

### Please Share

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

### Inside

- Letter from the Executives **Page 2**
- May was National Foster Care Month **Page 3**
- Buy a Brick Paver to Support The Marsh **Page 4**
- Photo Book **Page 5**
- Spring Celebration and Graduation Held **Page 6**
- House Happenings **Page 7**
- Calendar of Events **Page 8**

### 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 ...

Change is a constant, not only in our lives but in the life of an organization. All around us, technologies, processes, people, ideas and methods change, affecting the way we accomplish daily tasks and live our lives. Since 1922, The Marsh Foundation has steadily changed over time to address the needs of today's children and families.

Change has not been easy, however. The cost of providing for the basic needs of a child has skyrocketed over the years. The children we serve today come with educational, healthcare and general care needs. The Marsh Foundation endowment by itself would not be able to provide for all of these needs without spending down the endowment. In order to offset costs, we are able to utilize state funding to offer help to children and families.

Changes in the way we provide care here at The Marsh and other similar institutions occurred as a result of a progressive political movement, increasing costs, and a conscientious desire on the part of the public to better provide for children who were adjudicated



Kim Mullins, LPCC

*“Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”*

*—John F. Kennedy*

dependent and emotionally impaired.

The Marsh Foundation today is providing for children who may or may not have a family for which they may return. We still “raise” some of our children so that we may stop the damaging movement from foster home to foster home, better known as “foster care drift.” However, many of

our children and youth want to return to live with their family or an appropriate foster home. We want to make every effort to help them make their dreams come true.

The trustee's decision to make changes over the years came in response to their commitment to effectively provide for children who are in need, as outlined in the will of George H. Marsh.

Though many changes have occurred, The Marsh continues to use gardening and 4-H as means to help youths gain important skills for the future. The Marsh Foundation, since its inception, has always been interested in providing important, relevant learning opportunities for children and youth.

Changes are challenging but they provide us with an opportunity to creatively respond to the desire of George H. Marsh, as stated in his will, “I depart this life in the hope that the Foundation become an instrument of enduring and ever increasing benefit to mankind.”

*Kim Mullins, LPCC*  
Executive Director, Child & Family Services  
The Marsh Foundation

## 2015 - 2016 Marsh Foundation School Calendar

- Monday, Aug. 17**  
Faculty Work Day
- Tuesday, Aug. 18**  
Faculty In-Service
- Wednesday, Aug. 19**  
First Day for Students
- Tuesday, Sept. 1**  
Staff In-Service (Dismiss at 1:08 for students)
- Monday, Sept. 7**  
Labor Day (No School)
- Friday, Sept. 25**  
Staff In-Service (2 Hr Delay for students)
- Friday, Oct. 23**  
Staff In-Service - No School
- Saturday, Oct. 31**  
Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Wed. - Fri., Nov. 25-27**  
Thanksgiving Vacation
- Mon. - Fri., Dec. 21 - Jan. 4**  
Christmas Vacation
- Monday, Jan. 4**  
Classes Resume
- Monday, Jan. 18**  
MLK Day - No School
- Friday, Feb 12**  
Staff In-Service - No School
- Monday, Feb. 15**  
President's Day - No School
- Friday, March 25**  
Good Friday - No School
- Mon. - Fri. March 28 - April 1**  
Spring Break - No School
- Saturday, April 23**  
Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, May 24**  
Last Day for Students
- Wednesday, May 27**  
Faculty Work Day

A commitment to excellence

## May Honors National Foster Care Appreciation Month

One of the most meaningful things you can do in life to help a child is to become a foster parent. During May, The Marsh Foundation honored several families who have done just that. The annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner was graciously hosted by The First Church of God in Van Wert. May is nationally recognized as Foster Care Appreciation Month.

A total of ten families were recognized for their dedication to The Marsh foster care team. Some were recognized for their first year of service, while others have been with the program for more than seven.

“Our foster parents are much appreciated for their hard work and the care that they provide every day for our children,”

said Laura Beckett-Avery, foster care supervisor. “As our foster care division continues to grow, foster parents are badly needed to provide children in need with wonderful families.”

The Marsh Foundation in Van Wert offers a continuum of care that includes a Foster Care Program. Last year, more than 100 children were turned away from our program because of a lack of foster homes. The Marsh believes that all children have the right to love, protection and to be cared for by a committed family. If you have an interest in becoming a foster parent, please call 419.238.KIDS for more information or visit [www.marshfoundation.org/helpkids](http://www.marshfoundation.org/helpkids).

All foster parents go through extensive training



**Employees Kim Mullins, Christina Flinn and Annette Herrmann enjoy the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner.**

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.

## Marsh Youth Spend Spring Break Serving Others

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 serving others. This year, they continued their efforts.

Activities coordinator Sherry Grone coordinated the week’s projects. On two different days, boys from campus visited The Lima Rescue Mission where they volunteered their time to prepare and serve a meal. A group of girls spent time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. In addition, a group of independent living aged youth prepared and served the meal Friday evening at the Van Wert Bread & Bowl at First United Methodist.

According to Grone, the



**Staff and youth completed various service projects during this year’s spring break; including serving the weekly Bread & Bowl meal at First United Methodist Church.**

projects were in an effort to make the youth more aware of issues such as homelessness and hunger. Service is a strong component of The Marsh program

that works to instill a sense of stewardship in its youth.

George, Hilinda and Katie Marsh left a strong legacy by being compassionate and help-

ing 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 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.



# THE MARSH FOUNDATION

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

The Marsh Foundation is selling brick pavers to be placed in a Memorial Patio designed for The Marsh Students and Staff. Proceeds from the brick pavers are earmarked for the construction costs, upkeep and future improvements of the area.

Individuals and Businesses may purchase a regular size brick paver (4" x 8") for \$100. Double size brick pavers may be purchased for \$200. The brick pavers will be inscribed with the Donor's name or Business name. The brick pavers may also be purchased to honor or memorialize a loved one.

### Engraved Paver Layout

- Regular Brick Pavers (4" x 8") can hold 3 lines of text with a maximum of 12 characters per line.
- Double Brick Pavers (8" x 8") can hold 6 lines of text with a maximum of 12 characters per line.

**Each blank space counts as one character. Please type or print clearly. Fill in the first three lines if purchasing a regular brick paver. Fill in all six lines if purchasing a double brick paver.**


Buyer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form along with your check payable to "The Marsh Foundation" in the amount of \$100 for a Regular Brick Paver or \$200 for a Double Brick Paver to The Marsh Foundation, P.O. Box 150, Van Wert, Ohio 45891. Call Jeffrey M. Grothouse, Executive Secretary & Treasurer 419 238-1695 ext. 120.



Clockwise starting above: Field Day was recently held to mark the start of summer. Staff and youth participated in a variety of events and activities, including a 'beach relay.' Above is family teacher Naomi Robertson racing to the finish line. Chalk drawings were also done. One student did a great rendering of our logo! The end of the school year featured a field trip to the Ft. Wayne Children's Zoo. The youth had fun exploring. Here are two photos; one from the rainforest and one from the farm. Staff and youth participated in a fun hat day leading up to the Kentucky Derby. Pictured are many of the employees who donned their favorite 'derby' hat. Before the end of school, the seniors orchestrated a senior prank. With a little help from the director of residential services, the student's 'broke into' the school and left their 'Class of 2015' marks around the classrooms.



## Spring Celebration and Graduation Ceremony Held

The Marsh Foundation School held its annual spring celebration on Friday, May 22. The day included piano recitals, a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, a graduation ceremony and a luncheon. A total of 10 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 35 students were honored for their accomplishments throughout the school year. Following the festivities in the auditorium, everyone in attendance enjoyed a luncheon in the cafeteria.



### Generous Donors Make Easter Even More Special

Again this year, an egg hunt was the highlight of Easter Sunday on The Marsh Foundation Campus. It was all made possible by the Shirley Haight family, who sponsored the festivities for the fifth straight year. Haight's daughter, Cindy Henderson, went above and beyond again this year to make Easter even more special for youth currently residing at The Marsh Foundation.

In the 1940s, Shirley Haight came to live at The Marsh. Now, her daughters and grandson continue to give back to the campus at Easter time. The family provided eggs, baskets and gifts for all of the youth on campus. Although Haight passed away in 1988, her family has made a tradition out of donating. It was a memorable day and enjoyed tremendously by Marsh Foundation youth.



The Spring Celebration and Graduation Ceremony at The Marsh, honored 10 graduates that received their high school diploma. There was a musical production, piano recital, awards presentation as well as a luncheon.

### *New Staff Members*

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff member:

- Megan Scaer ~ Family Teacher
- Carrie Hammersley ~ Family Teacher
- Zachary Prater ~ Seasonal Family Teacher
- Julie Bonifas ~ Summer Activities Assistant



## Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently full with 10 girls. The summer is off to a great start and the girls are excited about the many activities planned.

Three girls at Clymer participated in the recent graduation ceremony and received their high school diplomas. Congratulations girls!

This year, the summer horse program has been moved to the mornings, allowing for more freedom to schedule afternoon outings. The girls are looking forward to visiting Camp Clay, the pool and other activities.

Several of the girls attended The Marsh's first prom and enjoyed getting all dressed up.



## Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall currently has one opening with nine beds full. At the end of the school year, one student graduated and three others transitioned home after completing the program. The boys are adjusting and having fun learning about their new house mates.

Marsh Hall is excited and looking forward to a fun-filled summer. In addition to starting the horse program, the boys have also been spending time fishing at the pond.

The Marsh boys especially enjoyed the end of the school year field trip to the Ft. Wayne Children's Zoo. The weather was perfect and they had a great time with their classmates.



## Senior Stuff

Senior Hall's relatively new program is going well. Two of the boys graduated this spring and are in the process of transitioning back to their home counties. There is currently one placement still available.

The boys at Senior have been keeping busy with their jobs in the community and working with the garden crew on campus.

Some of the boys had the opportunity to walk with The Marsh's float in the annual Peony Parade in Van Wert.

The boys are looking forward to a fun summer with several day trips and activities planned.



## Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently full with 10 boys. The group is finished the school year on a high-note and is excited to see summer arrive.

They boys did a great job and many of them had speaking parts in the recent production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Several boys from Vance are participating in the 4-H program this summer and will have various projects at the county fair later in August.

Kickball, swimming, fishing and bike riding have already begun as the boys are enjoying the nice weather outdoors. They also have started the horse program and are already learning a lot.

## Marsh Foundation Youth Enjoy First Annual Spring Formal

The youth of The Marsh Foundation had a new experience this year with the implementation of a Spring Formal. Thanks to the oversight of the director of residential services, Kathleen Davis, and a core committee of seniors led by principal Robbie Breese, the dream became a reality.

The spring formal was recently held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Van Wert. The evening featured music, a disk jockey, snacks and a promenade. "We wanted to give our kids the experience of attend-



ing a mainstream high school prom," Davis said. "Thanks to some generous donations, and a lot of individuals stepping up to help, I think we were able to

accomplish that."

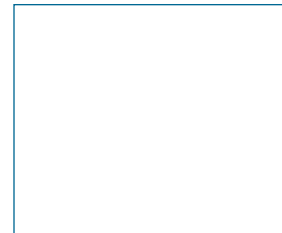
Fettig's Flowers in Van Wert donated a portion of the cost for boutonnières and corsages. Andy Gearhart, of

Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home, provided a limousine to transport youth to the dance. His daughters served as designated chauffeurs, opening the car doors for them to exit.

Van Wert High School graciously allowed The Marsh to use some of the prom decorations that they no longer needed. The theme for the evening was 'Hollywood' complete with decorations including their own red carpet and walk of fame. The chaperones dressed as paparazzi and spent the evening photographing the happenings.

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

Address Service Requested



## Have You Liked Us Yet?

Did you know that The Marsh has its own Facebook page? Have you liked us yet? You can stay atop of current happenings, get updates about events, or connect with friends you used to live with.

Most importantly, you can learn more about the upcoming reunion and connect with others who may be attending. As the event draws closer, we will be posting updates, agendas and reminders.

Please, visit our page at [www.facebook.com/Marsh-Foundation](http://www.facebook.com/Marsh-Foundation) and give us a 'like.' Then, encourage your friends to do the same!



## Calendar of Events

June - September 2015

- The summer horse riding program for youth is in full swing and will last through Aug. 14.
- The Business and Child and Family Services Offices on campus will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday
- The summer horse show, open to the public is Wednesday, August 5 at 10 a.m. Rain date is August 7.
- First day of school - Wednesday, August 19.
- The Business and Child and Family Services offices, as well as the school, will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7 for Labor Day.
- A campus-wide open house will be held for the public on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 1 - 3 p.m. Watch for more details soon!



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/alumni](http://www.marshfoundation.org/alumni).

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