

The Marsh Messenger

• Summer 2014 • www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Marsh Foundation 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 the homeless and the hungry. This year, they did the same and even added a short trip to the Appalachian area of Kentucky.

Activities coordinator Sherry Grone and CSP worker Christina Flinn coordinated a project with the Appalachia Service Project organization in Chavies, Kentucky. Two youth traveled to Kentucky and were able to help a retired police officer make repairs to his residence.

According to Grone, the trip was a successful one. "We traveled to a new location in hopes of sharing another corner of the world with our students, to help them grow and learn more about their own abilities and the world around them," she said. "They learned the value of hard work and staying on task even when you're physically tired; and they gained valuable perspective on the struggles we all face in life."

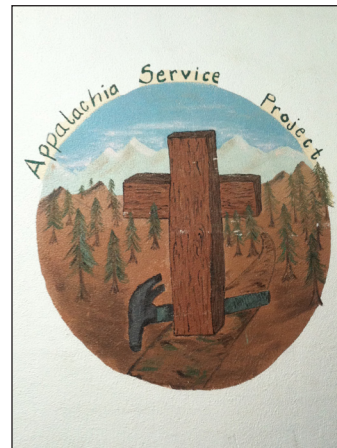
The groups that stayed back completed several projects locally. Two groups visited the Lima Rescue Mission, serving and cleaning up a meal there. Another group packed senior boxes at the West Ohio Food



Marsh Foundation youth and staff work on home repairs as part of an Appalachia Service Project.

Bank and served the Friday night meal at the Bread & Bowl at the Van Wert First United Methodist Church.

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



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

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
 - Jeff Grothouse

The Marsh Foundation
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Clymer Chat

Currently, there are nine girls at Clymer Hall, with just one opening. There were some recent successful program completions at the end of the school year, 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

doing many different campus activities like bike riding, softball and kick ball.

Another favorite activity is swimming. The girls enjoy visiting area pools during the summer months.



Marsh Matters

The boys at Marsh Hall are excited to see summer come. Their is currently one opening in the house after four boys graduated the program in May.

The boys are enjoying the more relaxed schedule and can be found at the pond fishing many days. They've also been seen playing basketball and kickball outside a lot in recent weeks.

Some of the boys are involved with 4H projects and preparing for the County Fair. Everyone on campus, including the Marsh Hall boys, really enjoyed the summer field day that was held to kick off the season.



Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently full with ten boys. They have settled right into the summer schedule. They have had the opportunity to take some day trips. One day recently was spent at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Several boys at Vance are on the Marsh Grown Garden Crew and are working in the garden and selling produce at the farmer's market this summer. Others have gotten on-campus jobs through the Independent Living Program to earn some extra money through the summer.

The boys are also looking forward to a summer picnic and fun day planned on campus for youth and staff in July.

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, petunia quarts, and perennials.

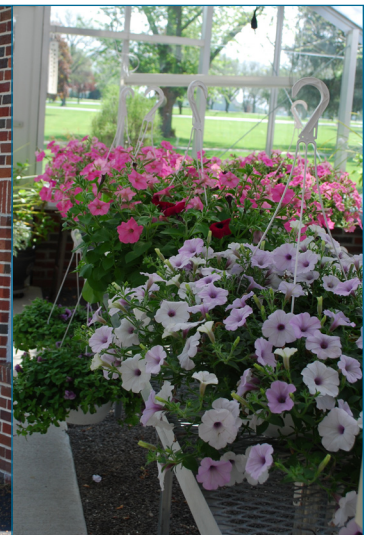
The Marsh Grown youth garden program is dedicated to helping young people develop a sense of land stewardship and learn the importance of healthy food. Participants are taught valuable gardening skills throughout the season. In addition, the program serves as a catalyst for

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



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

Marsh Foundation Shows Appreciation to Current and Past Foster Parents

One of the most meaningful things you can do in life to help a child is to become a foster parent. Last week, The Marsh Foundation honored several families who've done just that. The annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner was held at The Marsh Hotel in downtown Van Wert. May is Foster Care Appreciation Month.

Several new families were acknowledged for joining The Marsh foster care team. In addition, three families received their new licenses for the very first time. The Fryer family was also recognized for their years of service. After seven years of

fostering, Brad and Shana are retiring this summer. Their dedication and service is very much appreciated.

Time was also spent honoring Faye Lepper, a dedicated and loved foster mother who passed away unexpectedly in a car accident in January. Her son Paul was in attendance and was presented with a plaque in memory of his mother who served more than 60 children in her home during her time with The Marsh.

"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.

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.



Clockwise from top left. The Fryer family was presented with a plaque in honor of their retirement and many years of service to The Marsh Foster Care Division. Paul Lepper was present to accept a plaque in remembrance of his mother, Faye, who passed away in January. Laura Beckett-Avery (far right) and Elizabeth Pleasnick present the Sniegowski family with their new license. They also presented Felicia Quaintance with her license.

Marsh Alumni, Community Leader, Passes Away

This is an excerpt from Carolyn's obituary. The entire article can be found at <http://www.semissourian.com/story/2072640.html>.

A fond farewell to a great local civic leader, Carolyn Joyce Pendergrass, who died Saturday, April 19, 2014.

Carolyn began her journey March 11, 1934, in Lima, Ohio. She was one of 13 children. She grew up in Van Wert, Ohio, and in surrounding areas. She spent her high school years at the Marsh Foundation, an orphanage for impoverished children. This experience most definitely shaped Carolyn's view of the world.

At the Marsh, Carolyn trained to be a stenographer, which led her directly to her beloved. She and George Washington Pendergrass of Beattyville, Ky., were married Sept. 5, 1953.

Carolyn graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Southeast Missouri State University in 1971. She received a master of education in 1985. She found her niche at the Oran School District in 1971, and retired in 1997.

She took a vital role in the development of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, where she served on the board and as president and secretary over a 40-year span. She also served as a member of Lutheran Church Women's Association.

Carolyn was active in the Cape Girardeau Civic Center many years. Her role there enabled pre-school education and housing for the poor in Cape Girardeau. She served on the board with KRCU



Carolyn Joyce Pendergrass

National Public Radio for several years on the Southeast University campus.

In Scott City, Carolyn took responsibility for the edification of the city. Both George and Carolyn were instrumental in the development of Scott City Park. She was a longtime member of Kiwanis Club, Scott City Zoning Board as chairwoman, and as past president of Sunny Village Garden Club. Her legacy includes the trees and flowers lining the access road of the park and all along Main Street.

Carolyn took her magnificent passion for life and others and entered into volunteering by tutoring at St. Joseph School, doing advocacy for children in crisis in the CASA program, becoming a hospice volunteer, and helping with the SCIP parks program in Scott City.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, Virgil A. Breneman and Beulah Lewis Thurston; brothers, Virgil Breneman and Gary Thurston; and a sister, Angela Thurston.

Seven Graduates Honored at Spring Celebration



The Marsh Foundation School held its annual spring celebration on Wednesday, May 28. The day included piano recitals, a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, a graduation ceremony and a luncheon. A total of seven students were honored for receiving their high school diplomas. Many of the youths' friends and families, as well as community members joined in the celebration. Superintendent of Lincolnview Local Schools, Jeff Snyder, gave the ceremony's remarks. Three graduates also spoke. Pictured is a graduate receiving his diploma from Snyder (left) and Marsh Trustee Gary Corcoran.

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation recently hired new staff member:

- Elizabeth Davis ~ Activities Assistant

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Marsh Foundation Celebrates Easter Holiday

The youth at The Marsh Foundation had a very exciting week leading up to Easter and a festive celebration on Easter Sunday.

In art class, Mrs. Hoying introduced projects relating to the holiday. All of the youth made both Easter baskets and Pysanky eggs. The baskets were crafted out of string they put around an inflated balloon and hardened with sugar water to keep its shape.

The eggs came along with a history lesson. The pysanky, or Ukrainian Easter egg, are an ancient tradition of decorating eggs with wax. The tradition is said to have started before written language when the beautiful eggs were decorated with symbols.

Again this year, Easter Sunday was highlighted by an egg hunt sponsored by the Shirley Haight family. In the 1940s Shirley Haight came to live at The Marsh.

For the fourth straight year, her daughters and grandson have given 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.

Marsh youth prepared for the Easter holiday by decorating Pysanky eggs in art class. On Easter Sunday, they enjoyed a fantastic egg hunt on campus sponsored by the Haight family. They provided eggs, gifts and baskets for all youth on campus.



The Marsh Foundation
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Foster Parents Wanted!

The Marsh Foundation has recently licensed several new foster parents. There is still a great need for more. Last year, The Marsh turned away more than 100 foster children because of a lack of families to place them with. If you've ever considered becoming a foster parent, now could be the perfect time. Feel free to visit our website at www.marshfoundation.org/helpkids to request more information. Or, call 419.238.1695 ext. 360 to speak with someone about the opportunity. This is not a decision to be taken lightly, however there are many children who need you to make a difference in their life!

"Like" The Marsh on Facebook!

The Marsh Foundation's official Facebook page is 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 2014

- Summer horse riding for youth - June 9 - August 15, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday
- The Business and Child and Family Services Offices on campus will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday
- The summer horse show, open to the public is Wednesday, August 6 at 10 a.m. Rain date is August 8.
- First day of school - Wednesday, August 20.
- The Business and Child and Family Services offices, as well as the school will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor 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.