

The Marsh Messenger

• Winter 2012-13 • www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

A Year in Review: 2012 at The Marsh Foundation



This Easter, a family with a special connection to The Marsh visited and again provided an Easter egg hunt and gifts for the youth. Shirley Haight's daughters and grandson are pictured in an auditorium seat inscribed in her honor.

2012 has been another successful and exciting year for The Marsh Foundation. Many fantastic things have been happening for staff and for the youth and families served by The Marsh.

In March, The First United Methodist Senior Choir 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.

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.

For the second straight year, a family now living in Charlotte, NC 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.

Prior to Saturday afternoon's 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 a small token of appreciation for the kindness and generosity offered to The Marsh Foundation youth.

In June, The Marsh Foundation was fortunate enough to

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The First United Methodist Choir performed at The Marsh Foundation in March as part of the Living the Legacy program.



THE MARSH
FOUNDATION

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Please pass The Marsh Messenger along to others in your office or family 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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Van Wert, Ohio 45891

From the executive's desk ...

One of the most difficult issues associated with the children and youth placed at The Marsh Foundation is that they have experienced some type of trauma. Most all children and youth will enter placement with a variety of memories: some happy, some sad, some worse than sad.

Some children have had experiences which are terrifying and disturbing and the memories of these events play repeatedly in their minds. They can re-experience the pain, thoughts, emotions, and the feeling of being out of control and threatened over and over again.

A secondary problem is that these children are often victims of what has been labeled, "foster care drift," meaning that they have histories of moving to and from placement after placement, never having the opportunity to form lasting bonds with caregivers. This type of movement only serves to intensify their problems causing them to be more and more resistant to the changes in behavior which would help to create lasting relationships for them.

It seems to be a vicious cycle for them in terms of taking a risk to trust someone; and this risk is often much too difficult for them to face. They frequently go on to sabotage the very relationships that could be instrumental in creating hap-



Kim Mullins, P.C.C.

"The Marsh Foundation has taken steps to learn about and modify current treatment strategies to address the issue of trauma and it's impact on the lives of the children youth and families served."

— Kim Mullins

piness and fulfillment in their lives.

Over the past several years, The Marsh Foundation has taken steps to learn about and modify current treatment strategies to address the issue of trauma and it's impact on the lives of the children, youth and families served. Both staff and foster parents have participated in various training

activities which are designed to heighten their sensitivity to the trauma responses in youth and learn strategies which are more empathetic and effective in addressing behaviors.

Several years ago, we made a commitment here at The Marsh Foundation to do our share in reducing the movement from place to place. Spontaneously discharging a child from our care rarely happens. When a move cannot be avoided, there is concentrated effort to continue relationships with significant adults here at Marsh or with significant others. Though it's against the mainstream philosophy in the child care industry, The Marsh Foundation will sometimes keep a child through graduation and pair them with a mentor. Relationships with mentors will often continue after a youth completes treatment here at Marsh. On-going relationships are crucial in making a difference in the life of any child but they are paramount in the success of a child who has experienced prolonged stress because of trauma.

We must be diligent in helping traumatized children learn to trust again if they are to get better. It is a daunting task because the behaviors exhibited by these children are often aggressive and sometimes violent. As a result, some children must be moved temporarily to a more secure facility. It is very difficult

not to harshly judge children and youth who engage in these types of behaviors. A better understanding of trauma and it's effects has been helpful to the workers here at Marsh. It is much more helpful to think about what happened to the child versus what is wrong with them.

As we continue to grow in knowledge and understanding of trauma specific treatment, please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Your support means so very much to all of us here at The Marsh Foundation. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kim Mullins

Executive Director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh

You're Invited: Please Join Us Dec. 21!

This year's Christmas celebration will be held on Friday, December 21 beginning at 10:15 a.m. The students will present their annual piano recital and production of 'Scrooge' in the auditorium; a holiday luncheon will be held in the cafeteria afterwards. Please plan to join us for a fun morning on The Marsh Foundation campus!



A commitment to excellence

Annual Christmas Letter from The Marsh Board of Trustees

To The Marsh Foundation Family:

As we come to the end of 2012, the Trustees take this opportunity to thank our directors, staff, teachers and foster parents for another great year in the life of The Marsh Foundation.

All of us at The Marsh Foundation count it a real privilege to be part of continuing the legacy of George and Hilinda Marsh, and to bring the promise of hope to the youth entrusted in our care.

Society doesn't always get it right when it comes to Christmas, but we can. In every part of the season we catch a glimpse of the real reason we celebrate.

Let the poem "Let Every Day Be Christmas" by Norman Wesley Brooks express it:

Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing,



The Marsh Foundation Trustees from left to right: Mr. Robert Gamble, Mr. Gerald Thatcher and Mr. Gary Corcoran.

giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do for yourself. Peace on Earth, good will to men, kind thoughts and words of cheer are things we should use often and not just once a year.

We are blessed at The Marsh Foundation to enjoy your partnership in fulfilling the mission of this

organization. So keep the Christmas spirit. Share it with others from week to week and month to month throughout the year!

With Warmest Regards,

*The Marsh Foundation Trustees
Mr. Gary Corcoran
Mr. Robert Gamble
Mr. Gerald Thatcher*

From the Alumni President:
Jeannie "Hisey" Snyder

Alumni, Students, Trustees & Staff,

A special wish from our house to your house.

Christmas is the season of good tidings and goodwill. When happiness surrounds us all and time seems to stand still.

For as we stop to ponder over Christmases long passed we realize those memories were truly made to last.

We have lost a lot of members of our Marsh Family this year. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Have a wonderful Christmas and good luck and best wishes for 2013.

I love you all!

*Jeannie "Hisey" Snyder
Your Alumni President*

Deceased Marsh Foundation Alumni and Former Employees

Alumni:

Mr. Harlan Taylor
Deceased 11/25/2001
(notified 6/11/12)

Mr Robert E. Yarger
Deceased 12/09/2011

Mr. Russell Grimes
Deceased 12/22/2011

Mr. Gordon Harold Haight
Deceased 01/03/2012

Mrs. Ruth May "Mamaw"
Green Taylor
Deceased 08/13/2012

Ms. Deborah Hisey
Deceased 10/05/2012

Mr. Joseph C. Richey
Deceased 11/04/2012

Former Staff:

Mr. Gerald Ashbaugh
Deceased 04/03/12

Mrs. Flo Gallaway
Deceased 09/30/2012



*Merry Christmas
and Happy
New Year
from everyone
at The Marsh
Foundation!*





Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently full with 10 girls ranging in ages from 7 to 17. The newest face at Clymer Hall is a new program manager. After several years at The Marsh, Megan Tuttle moved on to a new position at Westwood Behavioral in Van Wert. We wish her well.

Danielle Duncan recently joined The Marsh team as a family teacher and has since been promoted to program manager for Clymer Hall. Duncan brings with her many years of supervisory experience from Starr Commonwealth.

The girls at Clymer Hall have adjusted well. Two new youth have also recently moved into the home. In addition to school and other activities, the girls have been busy preparing for the upcoming holidays and special events associated with Christmas.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall is also full. There are a couple of boys who are planning to step-down and transition to foster care in the coming weeks, which will create an opening.

The boys at Marsh Hall have been enjoying the mild fall weather and can still be seen outside throwing the football or riding their bikes.

They have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming Christmas program and piano recital on Dec. 21. Many have auditioned for parts and rehearsals have been taking place every morning before the regular school day begins. Please plan to join us for the piano recitals, performance of Scrooge and the annual Christmas luncheon. The youth have been working very hard and you're sure to enjoy it!



Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently at capacity with 10 boys. There is also a waiting list for placement.

The boys at Vance Hall have been busy with school and other activities. They enjoyed the recent oil painting workshop and a couple of them also won awards at the local Apple Festival Art Competition.

Recently the boys said good-bye to a youth who had been with The Marsh for several years. He turned 18 and was able to successfully transition to an adult living program. In a good-bye letter to The Marsh he stated, "I feel that I have gained a lot from my treatment. What I have gained the most is confidence in myself and my capabilities of learning. Thanks for everyone's encouragement and support to me. I will be staying in contact with everyone and will be back to visit."

Several of the boys are excited to be planning extended home visits over the holidays.

Thanksgiving Poem

Each year, The Marsh Foundation School has an acrostic poem writing contest at Thanksgiving time. Below is this year's winner.

T is for thanks and being together.
H is for happiness and loving each other.
A is for apple pies "grandma makes the best ones yet!"
N is for nice because I'm actually playing with pet!
K is for kids being so LOUD.
S is for smells, here comes the crowd.
G is for gravy, it's such a good taste.
I is for ice cream, it can't go to waste.
V is for vacation it has already begun.
I is for innocence and having some fun.
N is for nuts I found in my socks.
G then is for giggling as I spied my nephews hiding in the toy box.

Marsh Youth Win Awards at Apple Festival Art Competition

The youth at The Marsh Foundation recently submitted projects completed in their art classes to the art competition at the annual Apple Festival. Marsh Foundation youth won a total of five awards in various age categories. Award winners were:

- Fathia – 1st Place (\$20)
- Gabby – 1st Place (\$20)
- David G. – 2nd Place (\$15)
- Michael S. – 2nd Place (\$15)
- Kameron S. – Outstanding Award



This year's projects were painted gourds.



Clockwise from the top right: The youth, staff and foster families celebrated the annual Fall Festival in October. There was a costume contest, a pumpkin decorating contest, lots of good food and entertainment. The annual event is enjoyed by all. This November, The Marsh School once again hosted an all-day oil painting workshop for each class. Students all completed their own oil painting. The artwork will be on display in the basement for this month's Christmas play and luncheon. This month, the Independent Living group held their annual poinsettia sale. The youth worked hard taking orders, filling them and hosting the holiday open greenhouse on December 1.

Foster Care Updates

The Foster Care program at The Marsh Foundation has been steadily growing. This summer, a family was added to the program, giving The Marsh the ability to help more children.

Direct foster care referrals have been increasing over the past months. Traditionally, many of the youth placed in Marsh Foundation Foster Homes have stepped down from the group home program. However, recently, we've had several new foster youth come in from various communities.

The Marsh currently has seven foster families and those families are serving a total of 15 youth. Four of those youth are in the Independent Living program and live in a foster home on The Marsh campus. The others are in homes in the surrounding communities.

Because of the increase in direct referrals and the consistent need of group home youth to step down into foster care, The Marsh is in need of new foster families. You could make a difference in the lives of children in need!

Couples and single parents are eligible; complete and extensive training is provided prior to placement; supportive, 24-hour on-call consultation is provided and substantial reimbursement is available to those who qualify. For more information, call 419.238.KIDS.

Halston Clothing Donates Fall Festival Fabrics to Girls at Clymer Hall

What do the girls at The Marsh Foundation's Clymer Hall and the models of Los Angeles Fashion week have in common? They've both recently been spotted wearing fabrics and clothing from Halston Clothing!

Author and philanthropist Dennis Yang of the Papa Didos Ideals Foundation and Halston Clothing provided a generous donation of fabrics left over from their Fall and Winter 2012 clothing lines to help make Halloween special for the girls at Clymer Hall. Overnight family teacher Lisa Washam was instrumental in this project.

Washam worked with the girls throughout the months of September and October to help them design their own unique Halloween costumes from a variety of haute couture fabrics that included silks and embroidered lace.

Washam said they had only one rule, "I encouraged the girls to go big and have fun designing the dress of their dreams." Washam said she loved seeing the girls' reactions in the mornings after she'd spent time sewing, and them seeing their dresses take shape. "One of their happiest surprises was learning they actually got to keep the



The girls at Clymer had the unique experience this year of designing their Halloween costumes with designer fabric. Thanks to a generous donation, staff were able to help them create the costumes of their dreams.

costumes," said Washam.

In 2010, Washam provided costume workshops with the Marsh Hall boys and loves to create costumes with and for the youth to provide them with a special Halloween memory and a costume created for them and them alone. "This year was particularly enjoyable for me because we were able to use high-quality fabrics used in upscale fashions and seen on the famous runways to create the Halloween

costumes for our girls at Clymer Hall," said Washam.

The Papa Didos Ideals Foundation promotes education and literacy to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. Founder Dennis Yang visited The Marsh Foundation during his 2011 run across the country. Halston clothing has been worn by celebrities such as Jacqueline Kennedy, Lauren Bacall and Elizabeth Taylor.

Wishing you a happy & healthy 2013!

Year In Review ... *Continued*

host Heather T. Forbes LCSW, a nationally known speaker and author, for a day-long training entitled “Why Tokens Aren’t Working: Helping Children with Difficult Behaviors.”

The seminar was a collaborative effort between Mercer County DJFS and the Western Ohio Regional Training Center through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. The training was provided as a free educational opportunity for parents and professionals and social work and counselor CEU hours were offered.

The event focused on understanding the child’s point of view and included a lot of video clips, role-play and lectures to help understand how to work with these children. Forbes’ “Beyond Consequences” approach is detailed in her three top selling books. “We want to give parents, teachers, and professionals the tools to help children not only change their behaviors, but to move them onto a path of deep healing,” Forbes said.

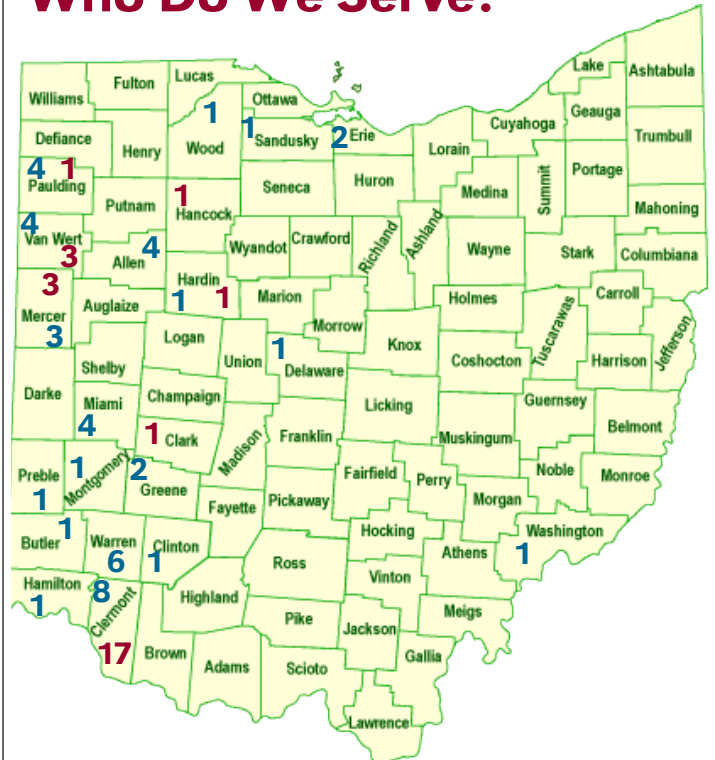
The summer was busy and exciting. In July, Jennifer Justice, the deputy director of the Ohio Department of Job and Fam-

ily Services (ODJFS) visited The Marsh. She made the trip along with Mark Mecum, the executive director of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) in an effort to further familiarize themselves with the private agencies that are serving children in the state of Ohio.

The visit included a tour of the campus and a conversation over lunch about how private and public agencies can work together more closely and better meet the needs of children and families. According to Mullins, The Marsh, which is licensed through ODJFS, continually works to stay abreast of state policies and happenings. “This was a great way for Jennifer and ODJFS to broaden the lines of communication and reach out to agencies in different parts of the state,” she said.

The Marsh is also a member of OACCA. The association’s mission is to promote and strengthen a fully integrated, private/public network of high quality services for Ohio’s children, youth, and their families through advocacy, education and support of member agencies.

Who Do We Serve?



The Marsh Foundation serves youth from around the state of Ohio from many different counties. Above, the map details the number of referrals that have been received from each county since October 1. The red numbers indicate foster care referrals and the blue indicate group home referrals. Obviously, not each referral is a placement. In addition, six youth have been referred to The Marsh solely for clinical or counseling services. Two out of state referrals are not indicated on this map.

The Marsh regularly takes advantage of OACCA conferences and training opportunities.

Also in 2012, CARF International announced that The Marsh Foundation has been reaccredited for a period of three years for its Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents); Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults); and Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents) programs. The latest accreditation is the third consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to The Marsh Foundation.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of

accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

The Marsh Foundation is proud of the many accomplishments of 2012 and looking forward to another great year in 2013. The entire Marsh Foundation wishes your family a wonderful holiday season and prosperous new year!



Jennifer Justice, deputy director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, visits The Marsh Foundation.

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Have You Liked Us Yet?

For a little over a year, The Marsh Foundation has had 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. Please, visit our page at www.facebook.com/Marsh-Foundation and give us a 'like.' Then, encourage your friends to do the same!



Marsh Foundation Alumni Wanted

Are you in contact with other alumni from The Marsh Foundation that aren't on our mailing list? Encourage them to fill out our contact form online at www.marshfoundation.org, and provide us with their contact information. We would like all alumni, no matter what years they attended The Marsh, to be on our contact list.

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

Calendar of Events

December 2012 ~ April 2013

- December 21 - The Christmas Play and luncheon begins in The Marsh auditorium at 10:15 a.m.
- December 22 - January 1 - Marsh Foundation School winter break.
- January 5, 7:30 p.m. - Marsh staff, youth and foster families to attend Mad Ants Basketball game in Fort Wayne.
- March 14 & 15, 7 p.m. - Lincolnview Class Play in The Marsh Auditorium
- March 25 - April 1 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 5, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.



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.