

# The Marsh Messenger

• Winter 2013-14 • [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)

Serving children and families since 1922

## A Year in Review: 2013 at The Marsh Foundation

2013 has been another successful and exciting year for The Marsh Foundation. There are many accomplishments and successes to be thankful for again this year.

For the third 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 and grandson are making an Easter tradition out of visiting The Marsh. 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.

This year, The Marsh Foundation made a concerted effort to grow its Foster Care Program by recruiting more foster families. In an effort to serve more children, The Marsh Foundation ran an advertising campaign this fall to attract more families. It included a video, television commercial, billboards and other grassroots efforts.

Currently, there are six families undergoing training and home studies and awaiting licensing. This is fantastic, but there is still room for more! "Foster parenting is filled with opportunities to care for children who can greatly benefit from the love and support of a family. We are looking for people who can be good parents, not perfect parents, but good parents who are willing to share their home and

family with a child in need," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh.

If you or someone you know is interested in fostering, we encourage you to view the informational videos on our website, <http://marshfoundation.org/about-us/video/>.

In addition to the advertising, a banner detailing the need for foster parents was purchased and displayed at the Van Wert County Fair. It is now making its way around the Van Wert community. It has been in the Van Wert YWCA lobby for the past several weeks. If you know of a business or organization that would like to display our banner in the coming months, please call 419.238.1695 ext. 233.

*Continued on page 7 ...*



**THE MARSH**  
FOUNDATION

### Please Share

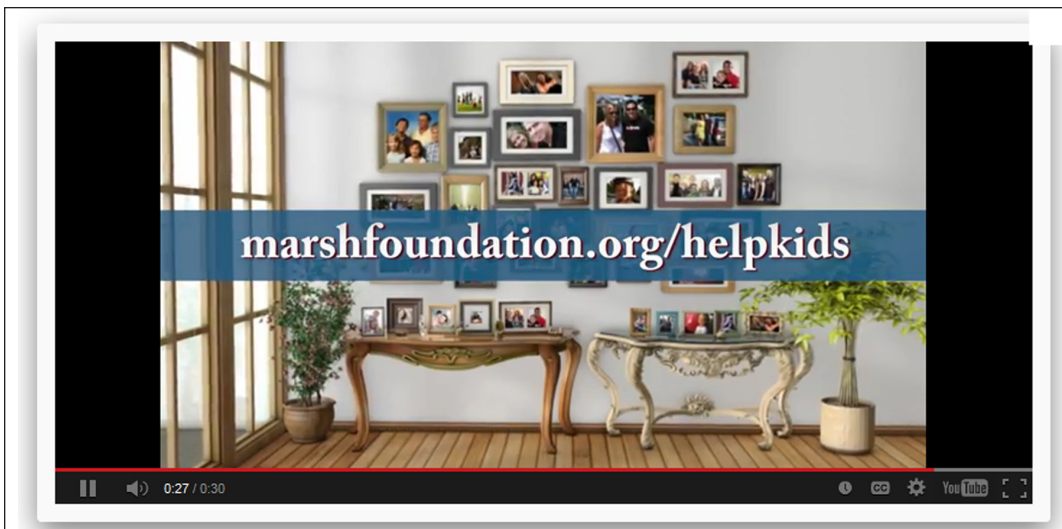
Please pass The Marsh Messenger along to others in your office or family who would like to read it. Thank you!

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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



This is a clip of the television commercial that ran advertising our need for foster parents. You can view the videos here: <http://marshfoundation.org/about-us/video/>.

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

## From the executive's desk ...

The Business Office of The Marsh Foundation, wishes all of you and your families the warmest of greetings and a very joyous holiday season.

The Business Office has been extremely busy this year conducting all the normal business activities, such as, Trustee meetings, year-end audits, payroll, new hire orientations, insurance questions, bill payments, income recording, farm, business and house leases and daily maintenance requests.

The Business Office must thank and wish well Ms. Terry Geiger, payroll and benefits coordinator in her retirement. Terry retired with 24 years of dedicated service and professionalism to The Marsh Foundation. Our thoughts and prayers are with both Terry and her husband Keith during this time of transition.

The Business Office acknowledges the hiring of Ms. Karen Smith, business office specialist. Karen's duties include payroll and human services



Jeff Grothouse

*"I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Thatcher for being a leader, a true professional, compassionate and a friend."*

— Jeff Grothouse

along with the payables and receivables.

The Hall formerly known as "The Old Trustees Office"

has been completely renovated including the name. "Trustee Hall" will now be the home of the Marsh Foster Care office and training room along with an on campus foster home for a family and up to four foster children.

Many improvements and updates have been made to the campus in the past two years. These include the Trustee Hall renovation, addition of a campus wide generator, a three year phase project for burying all campus power lines, addition of fiber to our internet and outlook communication, resurfacing of the parking lots and roadways and tree planting on the entire campus.

On December 31, Mr. Gerald Thatcher will be retiring as a Trustee of The Marsh Foundation. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Thatcher for being a leader, a true professional, compassionate and a friend. The greatest honor a Trustee can achieve during their service is - you make a positive difference in the hundreds of children's lives under your care.

Gerald, you made a difference.

On behalf of the directors, staff, employees, school, children, foster parents and counselors, we wish Gerald and his wife Esther well in their retirement and next phase of their lives.

As we approach the end of 2013, I review my tenth year as executive secretary and treasurer, and looking back, I feel I have been truly blessed with this opportunity to work with the entire The Marsh Foundation organization. The Marsh employees are truly genuine and passionate in their pursuit in making the lives of all the children associated with this campus better and more fulfilling.

I also wish to thank all of the business office employees, Mr. Gary Corcoran and Mr. Bob Gamble, Trustees along with Ms. Kim Mullins, executive director of child and family services and Mr. Roger Salisbury, principal and director of school for all their professionalism and support.

*Jeff Grothouse*  
Executive Secretary and Treasurer  
at The Marsh Foundation

## Deceased Marsh Foundation Alumni and Former Employees

### Alumni:

Robert Davidson  
Date Unknown  
notified 2013

Donald Wieland  
Deceased 1995  
notified 11/05/2012

James Miles Harner  
Deceased 05/20/2006  
Notified 01/09/2013

Larry Zinsmeister  
Deceased 09/22/2012  
notified 04/02/2013

Patricia Ann (Skelley) Stapleton  
Deceased 01/31/2013

Mary Judith (Beall) Feeney  
Deceased 02/09/2013

Zaryl Stamford  
Deceased 08/22/2013

### Former Staff:

Velma Geisman  
Deceased 05/17/2013

A commitment to excellence

## A Fireside Chat with The Marsh Board of Trustees

Hello!

I'm glad you took time out of your busy schedule to stop by the fireplace and allow us to share a few moments with you. Pull up a chair and enjoy some coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

I think it is amazing that as Christmas Day approaches, the air is filled with a spirit of joy, happiness and goodwill. People seem to want the very best for others. Most of us are exhausted from the shopping and a number of Christmas related festivities. And yet, as the Day gets closer and finally comes, we desire to express a spirit of love to others. The character of Christmas is Love. Love originates with God who gave His Son Jesus to atone for our iniquities to show His love for us.

As trustees of The Marsh, we desire the very best for many groups of individuals, who taken as a whole, make up The Marsh Family.

**Our Alumni** - Hundreds of you who know The Marsh as "Home". Many live in Van Wert and many live throughout the United States. Thanks for your support and your encouragement.

**The Agencies who trust us with needy youth** - Thanks for your commitment and labors of love to help provide a more promising life to all the young



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

people you serve.

**Foster Care families** - You see a child who has needs and in love reach out to provide for them and help them experience love and a family environment.

**Our current youth** - We want your time at The Marsh to be a rewarding experience. We have a real desire to help you.

**Volunteers** - You show love to our youth by giving of your time. That is special. You are an important part of their lives.

**Our past employees** - Your services have allowed many children to become great individuals and responsible citizens. Thank you.

**Our current employees**

**in all departments** - A Great Group of dedicated individuals who give daily to reach out in love to help young people. You come to work each day not knowing what special need will occur that can be very challenging. You are special. One of you expressed to me "We don't see the person as they are now, but what they can become". We have a Great Team. Thank you.

Christmas is about love. God's love to us, our love to others. Thanks to all who show their love for youth in need.

By the way, what's your favorite Christmas carol? Joy to the World, O Come All Ye Faithful? Silent Night? I

like the last verse of Away in a Manger - Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray; bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with us there. If we had a piano and pianist, it would be great to get a group together and sing. Maybe another time.

Enjoy your Christmas, your family and friends.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
May God's richest blessings be upon all of you.

*The Marsh Trustees*

*Gary Corcoran*

*Bob Gamble*

*Gerald Thatcher*

## From the Alumni President: Jeannie "Hisey" Snyder

Alumni, Students, Trustees, Teachers & Staff,

I found my diploma from The Marsh Foundation School. It stated what the principles were that The Marsh wanted instilled in us. They were; truth, sobriety, industry and frugality.

I personally know many former students who have practiced most all of these values in their lives.

My wish is that hopefully the present students have some of these values instilled in them before they leave The Marsh Foundation.

In the last year, we have lost several alumni and staff. Please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers.

I really enjoy the conversations with past staff and alumni. You all will always be family to me.

I hope your Holidays are filled with family, joy and laughter! With love from your Alumni President.

*Jeannie "Hisey" Snyder*

*Your Alumni President*



### Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall has 10 girls and is currently full. They had a successful first quarter of school and many of the girls made the first nine weeks honor roll.

The girls had an especially fun time at the recent fall festival on campus. They all dressed in great costumes and one of the girls won a prize for her decorated pumpkin. The girls also enjoyed the music and singing karaoke at the party.

The girls are very caring and always looking for ways to give back. Recently, a staff member's neighbor lost their home to a house fire. There was a bake sale organized to raise funds for the

family and the girls at Clymer wanted to help out. They baked 12 loaves of banana bread for her to take to the bake sale. The bread sold out in an hour and a half and helped to raise over \$1100 for the family in need. The girls were very excited to help and the staff were very proud of them.



### Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall is currently full with 10 boys. They have had a busy fall.

They were very excited to participate in this year's art competition at the Van Wert Apple Festival. A couple of the boys

even won ribbons and prize money for their submissions.

The boys have been very crafty lately. With the help of staff, the boys have been making necklaces, bracelets and key chains in their spare time.

Marsh Hall is excited for the upcoming holidays and have been preparing. Many of their holiday projects won prizes at the recent Thanksgiving luncheon. There were acrostic poems, graphic design and essay projects all submitted. Winners of the poem and essay contests were able to read their projects in front of the group before the luncheon.



### Vance Voice

Vance Hall, like the other homes on campus is at full capacity with ten boys. After several recent intakes the boys are all adjusting and forming relationships with each other.

The boys have been busy with several activities through the fall. Some of them have been involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Supper Club program and are enjoying time with their new Bigs.

Some of the boys at Vance Hall are involved with the social living group on campus. This year, that group has been responsible for purchasing a tree and decorations for this year's Van Wert YWCA Festival of Trees. The donated tree will be auctioned off at this year's event to raise funds for YWCA programs.

The group learned about skills such as budgeting and charity for others while working on the project.

## Thanksgiving Poem

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

**T**hankful for everyone around me.  
**H**appiness is what they bring to my heart, the  
**A**pple pie is where we'd all like to start, the  
**N**eighbors come over, the  
**K**ids run and play on this  
**S**pecial holiday to  
**G**ive our thanks to life, we're  
**I**ndecisive about what to eat, the  
**V**egetables smell like they've been old for weeks!  
**I**ce cream comes last but not least.  
**N**othing could take away the  
**G**ood and greatness of this day! :)

## 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:

- Hunter D.,
- Brandon R.,
- Tyler S.,
- David E.,
- David H., and
- Danielle R.





Clockwise from the top left: During November, we had both snow and leaves falling on our beautiful campus. In October, the annual festival was held for staff, youth and foster families. There was a costume contest, a pumpkin decorating contest, lots of good food and entertainment. Dawn Berryman, marketing and public relations specialist, recently had the opportunity to speak at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Delphos and thank them for a \$100 grant that was used to fund a pizza party for our foster care division. She's pictured (at right) with Pastor Angela Khabeb, center and another grant recipient left. The Marsh is actively trying to recruit a foster couple for the beautiful remodeled house on campus. These are a couple of photos from the interior of Trustee Hall, which used to house the campus clinic. Call 419.238.1695 ext. 360 if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in a great opportunity to foster children in need on our campus. Employment opportunities may also be available. The boys at Marsh Hall have been busy crafting bracelets, necklaces and keychains for themselves and as gifts for others.

# Letter from a Marsh Foundation Alum-

Dear Marsh Foundation,

I had seen an advertisement for The Marsh Foundation, on Facebook, stating they would be attending a PCSAO Conference in the Columbus Area. Since the location was very close to my office I decided to go down and see what the conference was all about.

As I walked through the doors, I noticed tables set up with different exhibits mainly for the help and care of families and children in need. As I continued to walk, I came across the exhibit for the Marsh Foundation. As I walked up to the table I was greeted with a smile. Kelly Gross introduced herself to me and we started to talk. I asked Kelly if she could tell me about the Marsh Foundation and how they helped the family and children. She was very enthusiastic about telling me what the Marsh Foundation offered and the programs which were set up to help each child. She also showed disappointment, in which last year alone, they had to turn many away. This suddenly made me think. I thought back to a time when I was in 4th grade and I was shipped around the state to both , children homes and Foster Homes, some good, some not so good.

I explained to Kelly that I also had been a student at the Marsh Foundation in the mid 60's to the mid 70's. She immediately smiled. I told her about how the Marsh Foundation was quite a bite different today than it was then. We talked for a while

*"I was constantly surrounded by many who had my best interest in mind. The job was never going to make any of them rich but the quality of care, understanding, compassion, tuff love and love, which was demonstrated, made me rich."*

*— Dave Newland, Marsh Alumnus*

longer and discussed some differences in how the Marsh operated then compared to today. I also snuck in a few stories, some of which probably shouldn't have told, about things we use to do when I was a student at the Marsh. (Classified) Well maybe more than a few, hopefully I didn't bore her to death.

As I was getting ready to go, I met Dawn Berryman. Both Kelly and Dawn seemed very energetic and excited about what they were doing. I was impressed with their presentation and it made me feel good knowing that the Marsh had great representation for this event. I enjoyed talking with both Dawn and Kelly then wished them luck

Walking away from the table, I thought about many different things. I thought about how lucky I was to end up at such a great home and not only that, my sisters were with me. I'd already been through some bad situations and I knew they had too. It looked as our lives were about to change for the better.

Even though things have changed at the Marsh Foun-

dation s, many things have remained the same. Where else could I have gone and grown up with 35 guys in one home (and never a dull moment)? I know the numbers in the houses have changed to date. Many of us, both guys and gals, still converse today and will always remain friends, maybe even closer to family. The stories we could tell! So to the current students, look at the friends you have made already and then look ahead to some you haven't met yet. Those friendships too, could last a lifetime.

Another thing which remains the same is the quality of the people put in to help us. I was constantly surrounded by many who had my best interest in mind. The job was never going

to make any of them rich but the quality of care, understanding, compassion, tuff love and love, which was demonstrated, made me rich. It made me understand that there are people in your life that truly want to help. As time has gone by, many of these people have passed away. I never got the chance to let them know how much of a difference they really made in my life. Please don't allow the same thing to happen. Adults need to be told that they are appreciated and an occasional hug doesn't hurt either!

So I challenge the students currently at the Marsh Foundation, to try and understand that this a great opportunity for you because sometimes the options just aren't there. Understand, the adults are there because they truly care and want to help guide you through a difficult time in your life. Make the best of it. Take the time to sit and reflect because life goes by so fast. It seems like just yesterday, I was in exactly the same situation and spot you stand today.

*Dave Newland*

## New Staff Members

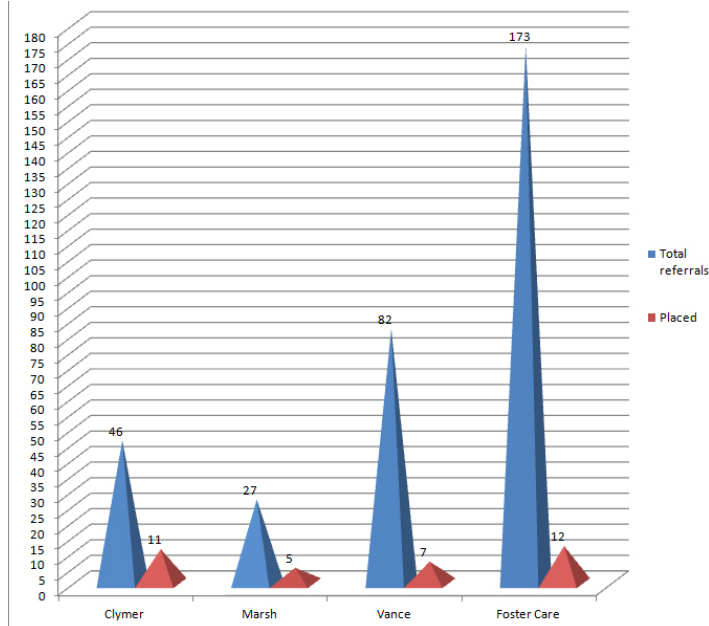
The Marsh Foundation recently hired new staff members:

- Naomi Robertson ~ Family Teacher
- Rhonda Beck ~ Family Teacher
- Karen Smith ~ Business Office Specialist
- Matt McNamee ~ Family Teacher
- Jerry Miller ~ Family Teacher

## 2013 Referrals

*As of November 21, 2013*

	Total Referrals	Placed
Clymer	46	11
Marsh	27	5
Vance	82	7
Foster Care	173	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>35</b>



## Year In Review ... *Continued*

The Marsh has recently partnered with Wright State University's CAM (the Consumer Advocacy Model) to provide psychiatry services to youth in our care. The program provides comprehensive care to our youth and after an initial face-to-face visit, are able to be seen by the psychiatrist through a secure, online video conference.

As of now, four Marsh youth have been enrolled in the program. More are on the waiting list as the program expands. The new arrangement has gotten positive feedback from youth, doctors and our staff. This is an exciting opportunity that gives our youth better access to quality psychiatric care. CAM is a clinical component of the Center for Intervention, Treatment, and Addictions Research (CITAR) and

the Substance Abuse Resources and Disabilities Issues (SARDI) Program at Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State.

This year was full of exciting and meaningful projects for the youth on campus. They've continued with their community service, completed a random acts of kindness project, sold produce at the local farmers market, participated in the annual summer horse program and much more. The Marsh youth have a busy and fun-filled schedule all year long.

The Marsh Foundation is proud of the many accomplishments of 2013 and looking forward to another great year in 2014. The entire Marsh Foundation wishes your family a wonderful holiday season and prosperous New Year!

## Thatcher to Retire from Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees

Gerald Thatcher has served as a Marsh Foundation Trustee since July of 2002. After more than 11 years of service, his retirement will be official on Dec. 31.

Thatcher indicated that it has been an honor and a rewarding experience to serve as Trustee. Thatcher's ties to The Marsh are deep. His father was employed by The Marsh for more than 50 years and often as a boy, Gerald would come and help on the farm. "I'm sure my parents would be very pleased that I was able to serve as a Trustee," he said.

Thatcher said he is proud of his time as Trustee and is excited about the growth that has been seen and what is in store for the future. "It has given me tremendous satisfaction to be able to help children in need. He also credits the other Trustees and Marsh staff. "We have a great team," he said.

"I have the highest respect for all of the people who give of themselves daily to help these kids in need; sometimes I don't know how they do it," he acknowledged. "I love to hear stories of the kids who have left and are doing well – those are the most



**Gerald Thatcher**

rewarding moments."

Thatcher will be missed by the entire Marsh Foundation family. Kim Mullins, executive director of child and family services has especially appreciated Thatcher's dedication. "It has been a pleasure serving as director under Mr. Thatcher. I've appreciated his leadership and support very much," she said. "His wisdom has guided us through many challenging situations and his contributions have been numerous. He will be greatly missed." Thatcher has decided that it is time to reduce his many responsibilities. He and his wife Esther have plans to travel and spend more time with their family.

*Wishing you a happy  
& healthy 2013!*

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

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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](http://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](http://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.

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

## Calendar of Events

*December 2013 ~ April 2014*

- December 23 - January 1 - Marsh Foundation School winter break.
- February 1, 7:30 p.m. - Marsh staff, youth and foster families to attend Mad Ants Basketball game in Fort Wayne.
- February 3, 7 p.m. - The Van Wert County Spelling Bee will be held in our auditorium.
- March 14 & 15, 7 p.m. - Lincolnview Class Play in The Marsh Auditorium
- March 24 - 28 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 4, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.



*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).