

The Marsh Messenger

• Winter 2021-22 • www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

A Year in Review: 2021 at The Marsh Foundation



The Marsh Foundation

*Serving Children &
Families for 100 years*

1921 - 2021

**Fulfilling the Vision of
George & Hilinda Marsh**

2021 marked the 100th year of existence for The Marsh Foundation. For 100 years, individuals at The Marsh have been working hard to fulfill and continue the vision of George and Hilinda Marsh.

To celebrate, the date has been chosen for the 100 Year Celebration and Alumni Reunion. On September 16 and 17, 2022, The Marsh will welcome alumni, staff, friends, families and the community to campus to celebrate this wonderful milestone. Tours, meals and many activities are being planned, including a concert in the Bagley Auditorium. There will also be several surprises! Stay tuned to our newsletters and social media for more information as the event planning unfolds.

Much of 2021 has been spent transitioning from a group home

SAVE THE DATE!

The 100 Year
Celebration & Reunion
will be held :
**September 16 & 17
2022**

facility to a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). This very involved process was completed in October. The changes will benefit children and families and help The Marsh continue to serve those in need as George and Hilinda envisioned.

The year was very busy for

the Foster Care and Adoption division. They held a very successful summer camp for youth in care. They also moved their main office from downtown Van Wert to Westwood Drive. In addition, a satellite office was opened in Wapak to help serve the needs of families south of Van Wert.

Donations are always a big help to the operation of The Marsh. Project Believe coordinated Valentine deliveries, back to school back packs, and Christmas gifts for youth. The family of Shirley Haight once again provided a wonderful Easter celebration for the youth on campus.

New hires have also been critical to not only the transition to a QRTP, but also to the

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Please Share

Please share The Marsh Messenger with others in your family or office who might like to read it. Thank you!

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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 ...

Merry Christmas everyone! Over the last year, The Marsh Foundation has served over 120 youths in residential homes, foster care and in counseling. This means we have had numerous ways in which we have helped children and youths who have often been traumatized, make their way toward healing. Every interaction or encounter between our staff, youths, and their families represent small steps that lead to the realization of hopes and aspirations.

The smallest things such as words of encouragement and empathy can drive away the desire to give up or become belligerent. Children and youth today have the same basic needs as they did on the first Christmas celebrated on the campus 100 years ago. As they feel safe, cared for, supported, and are given the opportunity to talk about experiences, they become more hopeful for a bright future.

The Christmas season provides wonderful opportunities for interactions and activities conducive to bringing about healing and growth. Our youths in the homes are encouraged to share family traditions and learn ways in which others celebrate Christmas. Most importantly,



“The Christmas season provides wonderful opportunities for interactions and activities conducive to bringing about healing and growth.”

- Kim Mullins
LPCC

youths and their families, over time, will learn to make happy memories together. Counselors will work with families so that they may be together with their youth here at Marsh or during a home visit. Progress unfolds slowly over time. It takes patience, compassionate services, trust and most importantly support from everyone involved. As

we work alongside of these extraordinary youth and their families, hope is inspired, and they will know they are not alone.

On campus, we celebrate by making happy holiday memories for our youths as each home decorates, makes meals and baked goods to share with one another. Because of the generosity of our trustees, each home is able to select a restaurant of their choice to enjoy a Christmas Eve meal. This gives them the opportunity to practice social skills which helps them prepare for a successful transition to adulthood. Social skills learning improves youths’ communication with peers and adults, improves cooperative teamwork, and generally helps them become productive, caring, concerned members of their communities.

The Marsh Foundation Foster Care division provides safe, nurturing, loving families for a temporary period of time. Some of the families adopt the children who cannot return to their birth parents. Christmas is a special time for our workers and foster families, too. This year, they are excited to host their annual Christmas Party in the new location on Westwood Drive. All foster families are

invited and will be provided with a nice meal prepared by our wonderful cooks from the main campus. Dinner will be followed with the distribution of Christmas presents for foster families, foster children, and biological children alike!

Christmas is a time for families to celebrate together, make special memories, and be thankful for one another. The Marsh Foundation will build happy memories as it has for many years. It is our hope that every child and family served here will take away a sense of hope and optimism for the future.

Kim Mullins

Executive Director,
Child and Family Services

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff member:

- Haley Fosnaugh –
Overnight Family Teacher

A Note from The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees

As we enter this holiday season, the staff and Trustees of the Marsh Foundation had a lot to celebrate and many gifts to be thankful for during 2021.

On October 16, 2021, the Marsh Foundation had a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to dedicate the new 15,100 square foot gymnasium, kitchen, and cafeteria. This gift to the students and staff of the Marsh Foundation was the first major project on the campus since the early 1960's. This new space will be used for physical education classes, meals, foster care day camps, recreation, and meetings. Moving the cafeteria to this new facility allowed for the transformation of the old cafeteria into an exercise area which includes weights, treadmills and elliptical machines.

With the addition of these new facilities, the Trustees instituted a new physical education program for the students of the Marsh Foundation, and hired Mr. Kevin Longstreth to head up the program. All of these changes have had a very positive impact on the students and staff of the Marsh Foundation.

In conjunction with the open house, the Marsh Foundation also paid tribute to Mr. Ron Bagley with a memorial service in his honor. Mr. Bagley was truly a gift to the Marsh Foundation over the years and we were blessed and honored to have him as part of the Marsh Foundation family.

The Marsh Foundation Foster Care staff received the gift of a new office and new location. The Foster Care Office moved from their Main Street location to their new location on West-

wood Drive earlier this year. The Marsh Foundation Trustees purchased the former Adult Day Care Building and renovated the 5,000 square foot facility that will be used for Foster Care training, office space and family meetings. This new facility will enable the Foster Care program to continue to grow and meet the needs of our foster care families. Speaking of growth, in addition to this new facility in Van Wert, the foster care division also expanded into Auglaize County by opening an office in Wapakoneta, Ohio. With so many children in Ohio in need of foster care and in an effort to fulfill the mission of George and Hilinda Marsh, the Trustees of the Marsh Foundation decided to expand their foster care outreach to give the gift of a caring, family setting to as many children as possible.

The staff and Trustees of the Marsh Foundation are very thankful for the many gifts bestowed upon during 2021, while also dealing with all of the challenges created by Covid 19. However, we are also very excited about 2022. In 2022, we will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Marsh Foundation and we will have the opportunity to give back to our community during the celebration of this special occasion. Please watch for details about this exciting event in our newsletter and the newspaper.

As we all celebrate this holiday season, the staff and Trustees of the Marsh Foundation want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the gift of a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support of the Marsh Foundation.

Marsh Foundation Trustees; Bob Gamble, Gary Clay and Gary Corcoran

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overall programming. A third full-time counselor was added as was a physical education teacher.

Completion of the new dining facility and gymnasium has meant increased activities and

opportunities for youth. The space was highlighted in an open house this fall and is an amazing addition to campus.

As we look toward 2022, we are excited about the 100 Year Celebration and Alumni Re-

union, but also the opportunity to continue to serve and help additional children and families. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Deceased Alumni & Former Employees

Alumni:

Charles Nash Saulisbury
Deceased August 20, 2019

Dale Derrow
Deceased December 27, 2020

Thomas Krick
Deceased May 28, 2021

Zela May Buerkley
Deceased June 10, 2021

Rita (Grimes) Langdon
Deceased January 20, 2019

Patricia L Fellers
Deceased March 20, 2020

Betty Jean Miller
Deceased April 14, 2021

Dorothy "Keipper" Lewis
Deceased June 30, 2021

Dolores (Brockert) Wiechart
Deceased May 27, 2019

Karen (Brockert) Smith
Deceased November 24, 2021

Former Employees:

Ronald Bagley
Deceased December 16, 2020

W. Evelyn Thurston
Deceased November 17, 2020

Richard "Rick" Speakman
Deceased November 21, 2021

Former Trustee:

Gerald Thatcher
Deceased January 12, 2021

Marsh Receives New Facility Accreditation

For years, The Marsh Foundation's clinical and counseling department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). They have now received their first accreditation for their residential services division.

According to the executive director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh, Kim Mullins, this is a great accomplishment. "Through accreditation, The Marsh demonstrates value and quality of our services as well as meeting internationally recognized organizational and program standards," she said. "The surveyors look at all of our services and methods for demonstrating positive outcomes and our business practices."

This accreditation is critical to The Marsh Foundation's transition to a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). CARF accreditation is one of the State of Ohio's requirement for QRTPs. The agency also officially received their QRTP certification last week. According to Mullins, this was a large undertaking and a long process for the organization that involved many staff members. "I particularly would like to thank LeAnn Patterson, compliance specialist, for her dedicated work which led the way for this to happen

Foster Care Division says Thank You to DJFS!

The Marsh Foster Care Division spent the month of November delivering goodie bags to the surrounding counties' Job and Family Services offices. Included were delicious cookie treats from Flour Loves Sugar. The deliveries are to say THANK YOU to the caseworkers and employees for all they do for the community and its children!



Residential/Group Home Referrals: Call Kelly at 419.238.1695 ext. 360 or kgrass@marshfoundation.org

Foster Care Referrals: Call 419.238.1695 option 3, then option 1.

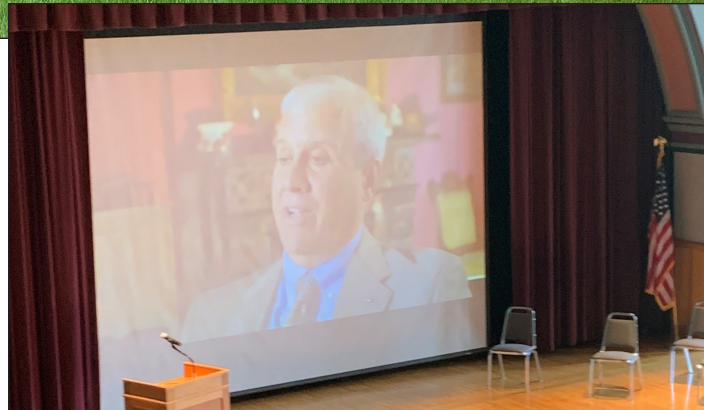
After Hours/Emergency: 419.605.8056
fostercare referrals@marshfoundation.org

THE MARSH FOUNDATION





Clockwise starting at top: The Marsh held a ribbon cutting and open house for the new dining and fitness facility and gymnasium. The gym was utilized for many activities this fall and one was a pickle ball tournament for youth and staff. The open house featured refreshments for guests. The staff and youth participated in Spirit Week and one day dressed in their favorite Halloween costumes. The foster care division participated in a fall parade in Wapak and promoted the need for foster parents. During the open house, a memorial service was held for former director, Ron Bagley in the Bagley Auditorium.



Orders for this round are due by January 10, 2022!



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.



Clymer Chat

As the holidays near, the boys at Clymer have been keeping busy with various projects and activities. Some of them participated in the 'Chopped Challenge' as part of the independent living program. The cooking contest paired staff with youth to prepare a meal with certain, predetermined ingredients. It was a lesson in creativity and resourcefulness!

The boys also enjoyed the Thanksgiving projects in Mrs. Looser's class. They wrote essays about thankfulness and also wrote acrostic poems about the holiday. Winners were chosen and recognized with awards.

As the holidays approach, they have been busy decorating Clymer Hall. Everyone is getting in the festive spirit and looking forward to the holidays. All the youth at Clymer and on campus want to wish you all a Merry Christmas!



Marsh Matters

The boys at Marsh Hall enjoyed activities this fall like the Fall Festival. The event featured food as well as a group home chili cook off. Youth also dressed up for the costume contest with many staff and their families participating as well. There was also a pumpkin carving and decorating contest that many of the boys participated in. It was a fun evening for all!

The boys at Marsh Hall also had a blast participating in the pickle ball tournament recently held on campus. The new gym, fitness center and physical education teacher have provided opportunity for a lot of new activities on campus.

As the holidays approach, the boys are looking forward to special meals, time with family, and making memories with each other. And, they are looking forward to an awesome 2022!



Vance Voice

Vance Hall is always busy and the boys stay active with a lot of activities. While the weather has turned cold, the boys have shifted their basketball games indoors to the new gymnasium and spent time lifting weights in the fitness room.

They have also kept busy this fall and assisted with the poinsettia sales. During the times for pick up, youth take money, help customers select flowers and then carry them to cars for patrons. Not only is the event a good fundraiser, it is also a great opportunity for youth to work on social and customer service skills.

As the holidays approach, the boys are looking forward to time with family and friends and a break from the classroom. They are especially excited about their meal at a restaurant for Christmas Eve.

If you are interested in making a referral, please contact Kelly Gross at 419.238.1695 ext. 360.

Merry Christmas!

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

Address Correction Requested
Return postage Guaranteed



Did You Know? We offer adoption services!

The Marsh Foundation has the ability to license homes with a dual foster care and adoption license. This means that families that may be interested adopting their foster children in the future can simplify the process with The Marsh Foundation.



This allows The Marsh to provide additional support to families. Families that think they may be interested in adoption can complete the necessary steps up front, with very little additional work. Many families that are interested in becoming foster families are interested in accepting young children that may be available for adoption in the future.

If you are interested in more information, contact The Marsh foster care department at 419.238.1695.

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

Calendar of Events

December 2021 - April 2022

- December 22 - 31 - Marsh Foundation School winter break. Classes resume Jan. 3.
- No School Monday, January 17 in honor of MLK, Jr. Day.
- No School on Monday, February 21 because of President's Day.
- March 4 - No school, staff in-service.
- March 14 - 18 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- Saturday, April 9 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday, April 15 - No school for Good Friday.



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.