

The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2018

• www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Year Ends with Holiday Celebration and Graduation Ceremony

The Marsh Foundation School held its annual holiday celebration before Christmas break. The day included performances by The Marsh School choir as well as 15 individual and group performances. Students were encouraged to choose holiday and winter songs for the audience to enjoy.

In addition to the musical program, a graduation ceremony was held and two students were honored for receiving their high school diplomas. Zildjian Gallihier attended The Marsh for two-and-a-half years and plans to enlist in the military. Xavier Puterbaugh also attended The Marsh for two-and-a-half years and has returned to his home



Principal, Robbie Breese, is pictured with The Marsh Foundation School winter graduates, Xavier Puterbaugh (left) and Zildjian Gallihier (right).

county and enrolled in an independent living program.

Many of the youths' friends and families, as well as community members joined in

the celebration. Following the program in the auditorium, everyone in attendance enjoyed a holiday themed luncheon in the cafeteria.



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 Clay
 - Gary Corcoran
 - Robert Gamble
- **The Marsh Foundation Executive Team:**
 - Robbie Breese
 - Jeff Grothouse
 - Kim Mullins

Mark Your Calendar: Grand Opening and Open House to be held April 26



The Marsh Foundation will hold a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for the new Foster Care and Adoption Center on Thursday, April 26 beginning at 11 a.m. An open house will follow until 1 p.m. The building, located at 102 W. Main Street in Van Wert, has been renovated and updated in order to house the new downtown facility. Everyone is welcome to attend and tour the Center.

The main level is now equipped to hold office and training space for The Marsh's growing foster care and adoption division. "As our agency continues to grow and serve more children, it became apparent that we needed additional space that was more accessible to the community," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh.

Grand Opening ... Continued on page 3

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

From the Executive's desk ...

Spring is in the air on The Marsh Foundation campus. Temperatures rising, birds singing and summer maintenance planning are all happening.

The spring and summer of 2018 maintenance schedule will be no different. The 60-year-old large birch trees on campus froze and split in the bitter cold of December. After close inspection by a local nursery – these trees needed to be taken down for the safety of everyone on campus. The Senior Hall garage built for Dr. Reeder in the late 1920s and the cannery building attached, will be taken down this summer due to excessive deterioration of the structure. Painting, grounds maintenance, grass mowing and continual repairs will also fill the maintenance department schedule.

On March 8, after 24 years of service to The Marsh Foundation, Ms. Bev Boroff resigned her position as Business Office Coordinator. We wish Bev the best of luck and thank her for her years of dedication and professionalism to her position and The Marsh Foundation.

Since the 1960s, The Marsh Foundation has gathered former alumni and employees who have studied and served this campus every five years. The Marsh Foundation opened the campus



Jeff Grothouse

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. Our youth do appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.”

—Jeffrey M. Grothouse

and celebrated with the alumni for many years. It has been decided to update and change this event. The Marsh Foundation will gather everyone together one more time to celebrate the 100 years of The Marsh Foundation in the late summer of 2022.

The facts behind this decision to celebrate in 2022, as we

know them from reading The Marsh Foundation history, are the following; George H. Marsh wrote his last will and testament and signed it on his wedding anniversary date, November 26, 1919. George H. Marsh passed away on August 13, 1920. Following the passing of George H. Marsh, the original Trustees began the process of planning the group homes and Administration Building. The Marsh Foundation Home and School was legally established in 1922.

Dr. R.R. Reeder, the Marsh Home and School's first director, was hired in 1922. Dr. Reeder designed the first program for the incoming students. The group homes and Administration Buildings were erected and children were enrolled into the newly designed program. The Marsh Foundation Home and School was dedicated in 1924. The Dedication Service was held in the School's Auditorium and Governor of Ohio, A. Victor Donahey, was the Dedication speaker.

The Marsh Foundation will hold its final reunion in 2022. The Marsh Foundation will make this reunion very special celebrating the first 100 years of serving children and families. So, mark your calendar for this very special year.

The Marsh Foundation has the design of a three piece wheel. All three pieces working

together to allow the wheel to turn and be useful and productive. The three pieces to the wheel are the Child & Family Services, Marsh School and the Business Office. Each piece has a very important task just as important as the other pieces. Without any piece, the wheel would not roll effectively. The Business Office piece contains the following positions; Executive Secretary and Treasurer, Office Accounting Coordinator, Business Office Specialist, Campus Maintenance Supervisor, Maintenance Staff, Mechanic, Campus Purchaser, Cook, Administration Building Custodian and Group Home Custodian.

These men and women work very effectively and professionally to provide the needed safety services to the youth and staff of The Marsh Foundation.

You too could become a very important piece to the service of our children. If you wish to give to the youth of our campus by cash donation, charitable bequests, gifts from an estate or trust please contact the business office for more details. The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. Our youth do appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Jeff Grothouse
The Marsh Foundation Executive
Secretary and Treasurer

A commitment to excellence

Project Believe Makes Special Christmas and Valentine's Day Deliveries to Marsh

For the sixth year in a row, Project Believe has helped to make Christmas a little brighter for youth at The Marsh Foundation. The organization, which originated in 2007, has grown from serving 10 kids at Christmas to 10 entire facilities this year alone.

Tammie Rafferty, the group's founder, was inspired to help others by her own daughter's circumstances. Their mission is to enrich the lives of youth and their caregivers in residential treatment centers. They provide gifts at Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and back-to-school time at various facilities.

Christmas gifts include things like pajamas, blankets, books, board games, art sets and

journals. Each group home also received a bag of items to share among the house. Director of Residential Services, Kathleen Davis, graciously accepted all of the gifts on behalf of the staff before they were stashed away in anticipation for Christmas morning.

Project Believe doesn't only focus on Christmas, they are active throughout the year. Each youth on campus received a bag of Valentine's cards and candy last month from the organization as well.

You can learn more about Project Believe by visiting their website at www.projectbelieve.net. Or, you can contact Rafferty directly at tammierafferty@outlook.com.



Director of Residential Services, Kathleen Davis, is pictured with Tammie Rafferty and Project Believe's Christmas delivery.

Grand Opening ... Continued from page 1



In recent months, The Marsh has been focused on recruiting more foster and adoptive families. The increase in efforts has brought several new families onboard. As a result, more training events are taking place, more treatment meetings are being held and more children are being placed in homes. "It is a great feeling to see our number of dedicated foster and adoptive families growing," said Melissa Snyder, foster care and adoption supervisor. "We are excited to move into this new office space. It will allow us to continue to grow and give us a convenient,

accessible location to meet with prospective and current parents."

Formerly Next, the building received a face lift from Alexander & Bebout over the past several weeks. In addition, The Marsh maintenance crews did a great deal of work painting and moving furniture. The new sign, made by Wilkinson Printing in Van Wert, was recently installed.

The Foster Care and Adoption staff are looking forward to seeing you at the Grand Opening on Thursday, April 26 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

At left: The inside of the building has been renovated and updated in order to accommodate the new Foster Care and Adoption Center offices and training room space.

Dye Brings Expertise Back to Marsh to Provide Clinical Care for Foster Children

Beth Dye, LSW, has been a licensed social worker in Ohio for more than 25 years. After obtaining her bachelor's degrees in social work and psychology from the University of Bluffton, she originally began her career at The Marsh Foundation and worked there for three years before a programming change. Now, she has been rehired as a foster care clinical provider at The Marsh.

"I am thrilled to once again be working with kids. Children and youth are always where my heart has been," Dye said. "I went into the field of social work to be able to work with people. I enjoy supporting others as they grow and become successful in whatever they chose to do."

The foster care and adoption division at The Marsh Foundation continues to grow in order to meet the increasing number of children in care. Because trauma is common with children in foster care, the clinical component of the program continues to be extremely important. "Many of the children we serve have suffered from neglect or various forms of abuse," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh. "Because of that, we put a strong emphasis on counseling within all of our programs."

Dye said that she is excited to be a part of the growth of



Beth Dye, LSW

the program at The Marsh. "Life can be tough, and often we are not aware of just what others have experienced or are experiencing. I especially like being an advocate for someone who doesn't have a voice," she said. "It is important to let people know that there is someone on their side, who will listen to their concerns and then help them achieve their goals. Everyone needs to know that there is someone in their corner."

Dye brings with her several years of experience as a medical/hospice social worker at Community Health Professionals. She and her husband, Kelly, have twin daughters Claire and Katie. "The Marsh Foundation is a very important part of Van Wert's history and their services and outreach to youth and their families is exceptional. I have many good memories of working here years ago and am happy to be a part of the Marsh family once again," Dye added.

Summer Activity Facilitator Needed

The Marsh Foundation is hiring a seasonal full time position in the activity department from May through August of 2018. The successful candidate should be at least 21 years of age to work unsupervised with youth; have at least a high school diploma. Experience working with troubled youth and youth development is preferred. Candidates having or seeking experience in recreational/ horticultural therapy setting are encouraged to apply. A standard background check and fingerprinting will be required along with a valid driver's license. First aid/CPR training a plus but will be provided if not available during new employee training. Job demands organization, effective communication, and flexibility. Lifeguard certification is also preferred along with outdoor skills and programming such as climbing wall, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, sports, etc...



Physical demands include an ability to do manual task in the gardens & outdoor setting. The job involves a high energy and activity level with standing, walking, lifting and bending. Part of the job will require some driving to and from market sales and supply runs. There will be access to agency vehicles. Projected hours include: early mornings during the week and Saturdays. Work hours will be approximately 40 hours/week.

Position will be working alongside the direction of a seasoned coordinator to assist in planning and facilitation of the existing programs. Duties will include but not limited to greenhouse/garden maintenance and work including planting, weeding, harvesting and market sales; assist in motivating, supervising youth in their job responsibilities and developing job skills; transport youth to farmer's market and supervise market operations & other activities; assist in maintaining garden market records, youth payroll, and media records.

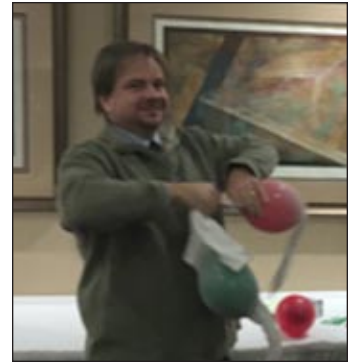
New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff members:

- Ruth Flynn - family teacher
- Lindsay Bailey - family teacher
- Roger Wurst - transporter
- Michael Heffner - family teacher
- Briana Welker - family teacher
- William Heffner - family teacher
- Cody Brinkman - family teacher
- Alassane Ba - family teacher
- Doloris Kuhn - transporter/overnight family teacher



Clockwise starting from the top. The Marsh Foundation campus is always beautiful, but it was exceptionally beautiful one morning as the sun was rising over the freshly fallen snow. Thanks to our own group home consultant, Elizabeth Truxell, who captured the moment. A holiday celebration was held at Willow Bend for staff, foster families and youth. The evening included some fun activities like the balloon challenge you can see Marcus Boatman participating in here. The winter graduation ceremony included an opportunity for youth to showcase their talents. Several played instruments and sang. The youth made gingerbread houses and they were used to decorate the hallway during the holiday celebrations.



Reno Retires After Serving Hundreds of Children

This February, The Marsh Foundation celebrated longtime employee, Marilyn Reno. After serving hundreds of children through her work at The Marsh, Reno is retiring.

Not only has she worked on the night staff as a family teacher assistant, mostly at Vance Hall, but she and her husband also served children in their own home as foster parents.

Working as night staff offers its own challenges, even though the youth are sleeping a majority of the time. It is the night staff who organize and make sure that all medications are accounted for and documented correctly.

Reno said that she enjoyed her time working at The Marsh. "I loved doing this job because of the responsibility to make sure all paperwork and medications were taken care of properly and to keep things organized."

That isn't the only thing about her job that she enjoyed. "My favorite thing about working at The Marsh is how the staff is so supportive," Reno



Marilyn Reno

said. Working with struggling youth can be a tough job and have a lot of stresses that go along with it. The Marsh is proud to have a dedicated staff who support one another.

She never hesitated to ask questions or call another staff person for help when she needed. Reno noted that she wasn't used to using a computer regularly when she started working, but she never had to worry, there was always someone available to help her learn.

Marilyn and her husband Steve were also licensed foster

parents for 14 years. During those years, they had nearly 30 boys live in their home.

In fact, some of her best memories from The Marsh involve her time as a foster parent and the camaraderie they formed with other foster parents. "We always had fun at our trainings and I really enjoyed attending the foster care conferences," she said.

Some of Reno's plans for retirement are what you would expect. She plans to enjoy more time with her family, spend most of the summer camping at Lake

Erie and even visit Florida in May. However, she and her husband also plan to take trips to visit some of the foster children who once lived with them.

The couple will celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary in June and have two daughters and one son. They also have eight grandsons and five granddaughters that they enjoy spending time with. Several foster children also call them mom and dad and visit often.

"We have been so blessed to have this extended family also," Reno said of her foster children. "We have been included in many of their adventures of life since they have left our home. We have been to their weddings, at the birth of their children and they come to the lake to camp with us," she said. The Renos are grateful for these experiences. "This would have never happened if it wasn't for The Marsh Foundation," Reno said. "I would like to thank The Marsh Foundation for giving me this opportunity of working here."

Congratulations, Marilyn and thank you for your service and dedication!

Marsh Foundation to Celebrate 100 Years

It has been a tradition since the 1960s to hold an alumni reunion on campus every five years. The reunions have been an excellent way to gather and enjoy fellowship with former friends, house mates and coworkers. As we near the 100th anniversary of the organization's founding it has been decided to change the event. The Marsh Foundation will gather everyone together one more time to celebrate the 100 years of The Marsh Foundation in the late summer of 2022.

George H. Marsh signed his last will and testament on November

26, 1919. He then passed away on August 13, 1920. Following the passing of George H. Marsh, the original Trustees began the process of building the establishing the program. The Marsh Foundation Home and School was legally established in 1922.

The final Alumni Reunion of The Marsh Foundation will be a special celebration, honoring the first 100 years of serving children and families. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this memorable event.

Serving children and families since 1922



Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall currently has one opening for a girl, ages 12 - 17. The nine girls living at Clymer Hall have kept busy over the winter months but are looking forward to warmer weather. Several girls participated in the talent showcase during the winter graduation and holiday celebration.

Some girls have had the opportunity to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Supper Club program held on campus. The program is a great support to the youth on campus who lack family involvement.

The final quarter of the school year has begun and so have rehearsals for the annual production of the Wizard of Oz. Many of the girls have roles this year. There are also two girls who will receive their high school diploma at graduation.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall currently has two openings in their JSO program. If you are interested in making a referral, please contact Kelly Gross at extension 360 or at kgross@marshfoundation.org.

Springtime means 4H and garden work starting up. Many of the boys are looking forward to participating on the Marsh Grown garden crew this spring and summer. They are also signing up for 4H and deciding on projects for the year.

As the school year draws to a close, the boys are looking forward to more time outside and the upcoming horse program that runs through the summer months.

Several of the boys at Marsh Hall were able to attend a recent bowling trip and had a great time with their peers.



Senior Stuff

Senior Hall has temporarily closed. Plans are currently underway to open the home as a foster home within the next several months.

The boys living at Senior Hall have successfully graduated and completed the program. We wish them the best in all of their future endeavors!



Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently full with 10 boys. The group home has kept busy throughout the winter. One of their favorite activities was an outing to a Komet Hockey game in Fort Wayne.

The boys are looking forward to spring break week where they will complete a variety of service projects in the surrounding communities. Traditionally, spring break on The Marsh campus is a time to reinforce the theme of service to others.

As the end of the school year approaches, the boys have been busy practicing for the spring production of The Wizard of Oz and auditioning for parts. A few have also been working hard to create a video that will be shown that day and highlights all of the wonderful memories from the past school year.

2017 Annual Report

Did you receive a copy of the 2017 Annual Report released last month by The Marsh Foundation? If you did not, please contact our office to request one. Our annual report contains program as well as fiscal information. Call Kelly Gross at 419.238.1695 ext. 360 or send an e-mail to her at kgross@marshfoundation.org.

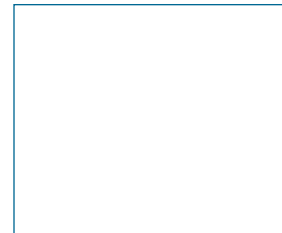
You're Invited: Please Join Us May 23

This year's Spring Celebration and Graduation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 23 in The Marsh Auditorium. Please plan to join us. There will be piano recitals, the annual production of The Wizard of Oz, and graduates will be recognized. A luncheon will follow. All are welcome. The festivities will begin at 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you!



The Marsh Foundation
1229 Lincoln Highway
P.O. Box 150
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Address Return Service Requested



Have You Liked Us Yet?

Did you know that The Marsh has it's 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 and give us a 'like.' Then, encourage your friends to do the same!

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

Calendar of Events

March ~ June 2018

- March 19 - 23 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 6, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.
- March 30 - April 2 - No School (Good Friday and Easter Break).
- Saturday, April 21 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- Thursday, April 26 - The Marsh Foster Care and Adoption Center ribbon cutting and grand opening - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Saturday, May 12 - Spring plant sale
- May 23, 10 a.m. - Spring celebration and graduation ceremony held in The Marsh Auditorium.
- May 23 - The last day of school.



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/alumni. This ensures that you receive all mailings from The Marsh.