Serving children and families since 1922
The Marsh Foundation Continues to Evolve

Then

The Marsh Foundation’s mission is to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families. The agency is supported by an endowment established by a Van Wert family and has a long successful history reaching back to 1922.

George and Hilinda Marsh and their daughter Katie, gave most of their substantial estate for the purpose of helping needy children and families. According to legend, George and Hilinda were traveling through Van Wert on a frosty winter night on their way home from the theater in Fort Wayne, Ind. when they noticed two small boys huddled together in a dark deserted doorway. Moved with compassion, Hilinda said, “There George, we could use our money when we need it no longer, to establish a home for little fellows such as those.”

The Marsh endowment, contributed more than 90 years ago, has provided resources for building a stately campus, assembling dedicated professionals, underwriting a successful orphanage for many decades and now for expanding services to meet the ever-changing needs of children and families.

Now

The Marsh Foundation is committed to meeting the needs of the youth it serves. Youth referred to The Marsh Foundation receive intensive treatment services to address a variety of behavioral and emotional issues. As a trauma informed organization, The Marsh Foundation provides a treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of trauma. The organization’s Child and Family Services is headed by executive director, Kim Mullins, M. Ed., LPCC, and encompasses residential and clinical services.

The Marsh Foundation offers on-campus group homes for males and females ages 7 to under 18, 18 to under 21 with a mental or physical handicap. A specialized residential program provides services for male juvenile sex offenders. The juvenile sex offender treatment program at The Marsh was one of the first programs in the state to be certified by Ohio’s Department of Youth Services.

In addition to group homes, The Marsh Foundation maintains a strong network of foster homes. Both family, and when certified, treatment foster care are available. Some foster homes provide specialized independent living services. The Marsh Foundation has recently become able to license adoptive homes as well.

The Marsh Foundation offers an array of clinical services to clients. Services can include individual counseling, group counseling, family services, community support programs and/or home-based services.

In addition, The Marsh is fortunate to be able to provide an on-campus school to those living in the group homes, in foster homes and special needs students from the community.

“I depart this life in the hope that the Foundation shall become an instrument of enduring and ever increasing benefit to mankind.”

—George H. Marsh

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A Letter From Our Trustees

As I reflect on the past year, I am amazed how quickly The Marsh Foundation continues to evolve to meet the needs of our changing society. Due to the opioid epidemic, more and more children of all ages, are becoming the “invisible victims” and need the support of a strong foster care program. It is estimated that over the next two years there will be over 20,000 children in foster care in Ohio due to the opioid crisis. That is an increase of 33 percent in a two-year time period and this increase will put a tremendous strain on the foster care system in Ohio.

The Trustees and staff at The Marsh Foundation recognized that in order to meet this problem head on, that they would need to expand The Marsh Foundation Foster Care and Adoption program. In April 2018, The Marsh Foundation opened the Foster Care and Adoption Center office at 102 West Main Street and added additional staff members to the program. This allowed The Marsh’s Foster Care and Adoption program to expand the number of foster families and substantially increase the number of children in the program. At the close of 2018, there were 36 children in the foster care program, a substantial increase over 2017. The staff also assisted in the adoption of three foster children in 2018. While The Marsh Foundation is helping make happy beginnings for many children, they still have a tremendous need for additional foster families.

In 2018, The Marsh Foundation Trustees and staff saw the need to provide support services to young adults in order to help facilitate their success in transitioning to adulthood. In late 2018, The Marsh became a member of the Bridges Program and filled a newly created Bridges Liaison position by hiring Kyle Pressley. Bridges is administered by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through a contract with The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio of which The Marsh Foundation is a member. The program serves young adults who are emancipating from the foster care system up until their 21st birthday. By providing physical, emotional, and financial support, the Bridges liaisons will work with the young adults to obtain and maintain housing, education, employment, and physical and mental well-being.

The Marsh Foundation Trustees also reviewed and finalized plans to build a new ADA accessible cafeteria, dining hall and gymnasium on The Marsh Campus. This construction project, which will begin in 2019, will be the first major construction project in several years. The Trustees take great pride in the appearance of The Marsh Foundation. It is the front door to the Van Wert Community on East Lincoln Highway, so great care has been taken to make sure that the design of the building will match the current architectural design of the other buildings on campus. The Trustees invite the friends and alumni of The Marsh Foundation who wish to leave a lasting legacy to The Marsh Foundation to donate to this building project. This new addition to The Marsh campus will provide an excellent location to house different events when the Marsh staff and Trustees host The Marsh Foundation alumni reunion in 2022.

On Thursday, November 29, 2018, the Trustees of The Marsh Foundation – by unanimous vote – changed the name of The Marsh Auditorium to “Bagley Auditorium.” The announcement of the name change was made at The Marsh Christmas party at Willow Bend in December. The name change is in honor of Mr. Ronald R. Bagley, who was employed at The Marsh Foundation, first as a teacher and then as the Director of The Marsh Foundation School until his retirement in 1991, completing 29 years of employment at The Marsh Foundation. Mr. Bagley has continued to volunteer as the official historian of The Marsh and has shown an incredible respect for The Marsh’s legacy. Mr. Bagley’s example of Christian faith and values has earned him the undeniable and much deserved respect of Marsh Alumni and students that were in his care.

In June 2018, Kim Mullins, Executive Director of Child and Family Services, informed The Marsh Trustees that The Marsh Foundation had once again received their CARF International accreditation for another three-year period. This latest accreditation is the fifth consecutive accreditation and it represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization. The Trustees are very proud of the staff who worked very hard to attain this high standard.

Mr. Robbie Breese, The Marsh Foundation principal, along with the Trustees presented the 10 seniors with their diplomas in two different graduation ceremonies in 2018. Mr. Corey Budd, a former Marsh student, was the guest speaker at the May graduation ceremony. The mission and purpose of The Marsh Foundation was never more evident than after the December graduation ceremony when a parent of one the graduates expressed their deep appreciation to the Trustees, describing how The Marsh Foundation staff had not only changed their child, but had probably saved their child’s life.

Of course, there were also other highlights during the year. As you can see the Trustees and the staff of The Marsh Foundation had a very busy and exciting year in 2018. However, all of these activities require funding. The extreme volatility in the financial markets make it difficult to rely on the market to provide the revenue to cover the day to day financial needs of The Marsh Foundation, so the Trustees must look to develop new revenue sources. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Jeff Grothouse, and the Trustees are constantly reviewing the assets of The Marsh Foundation to determine the best use of the assets to generate the revenue needed to operate The Marsh Foundation on a daily basis. They generate revenue using a variety of different sources which includes farm ground, market investments, school funding, and government funding. In order to be proactive in the management of Marsh assets, the Trustees and Mr. Grothouse meet regularly with investment companies, tenant farmers and local economic development groups. The strategy and planning that take place in all these meetings are critical to help provide the necessary funding needed to operate The Marsh Foundation on a day to day basis. I am pleased to report that The Marsh Foundation continues to maintain a strong financial base.

The Trustees of The Marsh Foundation are very excited to ascertain how the programs put in place in 2018 will impact the mission of The Marsh Foundation in 2019 which is “to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families.” The Marsh Foundation Trustees and staff thank you for your continued support in 2018 and wish you the very best in 2019, which will be an exciting year for The Marsh Foundation, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Foundation established by George Marsh.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Clay

The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees
Group Homes at The Marsh Foundation

The Marsh Foundation campus features licensed group homes. Each is gender-specific and licensed to house up to 10 youth. All group homes offer private bedrooms for each youth.

The homes are staffed 24-hours a day, including awake-overnight staff, who are extensively trained. Youth attend school and counseling sessions on our campus.

**Behavior intervention**

As a trauma informed organization, The Marsh Foundation provides effective and humane behavioral interventions which are trauma sensitive, least intrusive and least disruptive for children in care. Procedures are not aversive nor are they punitive.

The Marsh Foundation utilizes The Teaching Family Model of Care, (TFM). TFM represents an organized approach to providing humane and effective behavior intervention strategies which are individualized. Teaching Family Model elements include: teaching systems, self-determination, client advocacy, relationships, family-sensitive approach, diversity and professionalism. TFM strategies are integrated and well researched so that children and families can learn and become increasingly self-sufficient.

The following TFM procedures are supportive teaching strategies which are designed to provide consistently positive, objective, calm responses to behaviors: effective praise, teaching interactions, preventative teaching, intensive teaching, problem solving, crisis intervention and verbal intervention.

**Completion**

Each youth in care has an individualized treatment plan with specific skill target areas. As skills are improved and mastered, others are added. When treatment goals are met, youth are able to reunify with family or step-down into a foster or adoptive home.
Clinical Services

The Marsh Foundation offers an array of clinical services to clients. All youth placed in The Marsh Foundation residential program receive some type of counseling services from our clinical division.

Services begin with a referral from a court system, a social service agency or a private party. Clinicians gather information and then diagnose the severity and nature of the situation. This involves an intensive face-to-face clinical interview with the client.

An Individual Service Plan (ISP) is developed with client input that includes a projection of the length of treatment and objective measurement of outcomes. Plans can include individual counseling, group counseling, family services, community support programs and/or home-based services. Whenever possible, the youth’s family members are included in their clinical treatment. A dedicated, full-time clinician also works with foster youth within the program.

The Marsh Foundation also offers specialized psychosexual assessments and offers a treatment program for male juvenile sex offenders. In addition, Marsh counselors are highly-trained and specialize in reactive attachment disorder, dual diagnosis (intellectual disabilities and mental health) and bipolar disorder.

Campus Activities

The Marsh Foundation employs a part-time activities coordinator to plan and coordinate events and projects for the youth on campus. These activities are designed to contribute to a holistic approach in their overall treatment. Consideration is given to physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual well-being, as well as respect for self, others and the world around us.

Youth participate in a variety of team building and community service projects. Many older youth participate in 4-H and present projects at the county fair. Several youth are in the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Garden activities are a large part of the Independent Living Group’s activities on campus. They utilize the renovated greenhouse to start plants and raise a large garden throughout the summer. They then take their produce to the local farmers market and earn an income for their hard work. Projects have also been done in collaboration with the Master Gardener’s Club in Van Wert County.

In the summer, the on-campus horse program is very popular with the youth. The program not only teaches them how to ride, but also how to care for the animals. Each weekday, youth spend time in the horse barn learning various responsibilities and about riding. A horse show concludes in the summer and provides an opportunity for the youth to showcase what they have learned.
Our Finances

Support and Revenue

- Child & Family Services: $2,429,477
- Foster Care: $778,680
- Other School Income: $37,303
- Contributions: $28,465
- Investment Income: $1,202,432
- Home Farm: $558,785
- Commercial Properties: $124,851
- Total Support & Revenue: $5,159,993

Expenses

- Child & Family Services: $3,562,223
- School Campus: $870,076
- Foster Care: $733,531
- Support Services: $424,394
- Commercial Properties: $264,759
- Total Expenses: $5,864,983

* A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Our Numbers

Clients Served

- Group Home: 68
- Foster Care: 62
- Clinical: 32
- School: 22
- Residential: 55
- Community: 4

Counties Served


Days in Care

- Group Home: 10,297
- Foster Care: 9,946
- Total: 20,243

Our Staff

Child & Family Services

- Group Home: 31
- Foster Care: 5
- Clinical: 5
- Administration: 7
- Part Time: 8

School

- Teachers: 4
- Staff: 5

Business Office/ Grounds & Maintenance

- Custodial/Cooks: 4
- Business Office: 3
- Grounds/Maintenance: 5
- Part Time: 8
- Trustees: 3

The financial information included with this fiscal year 2018 Annual Report is a summary from The Marsh Foundation annual financial statements which were audited by Bashore, Reineck, Stoller & Waterman Inc., Certified Public Accountants. Their audit report is dated October 22, 2018 and expresses an unmodified opinion on those financial statements as of June 30, 2018 and for the year then ended.
Evaluations

Each year, consumers are surveyed about their experiences at The Marsh. This includes the youth. Here are some of their recent comments.

“I cannot say how or what could improve the services. They have saved me so I would say that the services are very satisfactory.”

“Keep doing what you are doing. You guys are changing lives.”

“The Marsh helped me a lot and I want to thank everyone there because it made me a different person.”

“I appreciate everyone on my team that helps me. They do a good job and that's all that matters.”

Notable Notes

Caseworker Feedback
“Amazing treatment program! I am always satisfied with services.”

Parental Feedback
“I think you all did a great job with her. I appreciate that she was able to finish 12th grade and graduate. Many thanks!”

Judicial Feedback
“[The staff] help with all aspects of treatment; health, therapy, social and school.”

Counties We Served in 2018

The Marsh Foundation provides services to children and families from across the state of Ohio. Children are referred for residential services and foster care from a myriad of agencies and organizations around the state. This graphic depicts the number of children that The Marsh served during fiscal year 2018 from various counties. These numbers reflect children in both foster care and in on-campus group homes.
The Marsh Foundation strongly believes that education dramatically increases a youth’s chances of being successful in the future. That is why The Marsh School provides a dedicated staff and strong, flexible curriculum to those living in group homes, in foster homes, as well as special needs students from the community. The school is a chartered member of the Lincolnview Local school system and is overseen by principal Robbie Breese, M. Ed.

**Instruction**

The school is staffed by three full-time academic teachers, all with their master’s degrees, two of which are in special education. There are also music, art and library instructors. Each student takes weekly piano lessons and participates in school-wide recitals. The art room is an exceptional example of student creativity and imagination. The walls are a painted mural and colorful art projects fill the room with character.

Academic teachers are assisted in the classroom by school family teachers who provide behavioral treatment in the classroom setting. They also provide a treatment bridge between the school and group homes by monitoring and correcting behaviors and assisting with general academic functions. They are a vehicle for communication when the school day ends and students return to the group home for the evening.

**The difference**

Students at The Marsh School attend for a variety of different reasons. Therefore, the staff members collaborate to meet a diverse range of educational needs. At the same time, students take the same standardized tests and have similar grading and graduation policies as other Ohio schools.

Because of the unique school structure, The Marsh School has the ability to tailor a student’s schedule to help them earn the specific credits that may be needed for graduation. School staff routinely work with the youth’s home school districts to ensure the best results for students.

Classrooms are no different than an average school in that they contain up-to-date technology and computers to assist students in the learning process. Various class workshops, such as a copper enameling art workshop, are an added bonus for students.
Foster Care & Adoption

The Marsh Foundation’s Foster Care Program provides services to youth from birth to age 18 throughout Ohio.

Our trained foster parents provide care for youth of all ages who are in need of a safe placement. The goal of the Foster Care Program is to work directly with the youth and, whenever possible, their families to help them learn to deal with underlying issues.

Oftentimes, foster care is provided as a step-down service to youth within The Marsh Foundation’s continuum of care. After meeting specific treatment goals within the group homes, youth can transition to Foster Care with the ultimate goal of permanent placement or reunification with family. However, The Marsh also serves community level children. This can include infants and toddlers who need a safe place to call home while their parents get needed help.

Different foster homes in our network offer specialized treatment options. A comprehensive independent living program is available to older youth who will soon be on their own. Budgeting, cooking and job searching skills are just some of the topics covered.

In addition, our clinical staff is highly involved with those in our foster homes and provide services as needed.

We need you!

Foster parents are needed. Parents can be married couples or single individuals. They receive 40+ hours of intensive training before having youth placed in their home and additional training throughout the year to maintain their license. Foster parents are also trained in the Teaching-Family model of care and make the decisions about which children are placed in their home. Consultants, assigned to each foster home, are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Substantial reimbursement is available to certified foster parents.

The Marsh able to certify adoptive homes as well. This simplifies the process for those interested in adopting foster children and The Marsh can facilitate all required paperwork.

Contact us at 419.238.KIDS today!
The remarkable financial legacy of George and Hilinda Marsh remains a thriving foundation, licensed by the Ohio Secretary of State as a non-profit corporation. The original homestead of the Marsh couple and their daughter Katie (Marsh) Clymer still stands on campus.

The last will and testament of George H. Marsh directed a board of three trustees to oversee the foundation designed initially for orphan children of Van Wert and northwestern Ohio. The first three trustees, named on Sept. 6, 1921, were L.C. Morgan, H.L. Conn and O.W. Kerns. A total of 17 local citizen-leaders have served as trustees since the inception of The Marsh Foundation. Current trustees are Gary A. Corcoran, Gary L. Clay and Robert D. Gamble.

Investments and donations

The annual expenses of The Marsh Foundation are approximately $5.8 million, of which approximately 54 percent is reimbursed from Title IV-E, Medicaid and county cluster payments. The other 44 percent is paid from the income generated from the assets of The Marsh Foundation.

The original restricted investment has retained its value measured by annual inflation rates by utilizing professional investment advisors and by contracting with local farmers to grow and sell corn, beans, wheat and popcorn on 2,600+ acres of The Marsh Foundation farm properties.

The Marsh Foundation also welcomes donations. Past donations have been earmarked for furniture purchases, special trips and to assist in the renovation of group homes. Your giving will help continue the legacy of The Marsh Foundation. Charitable giving can be done in a variety of ways: cash donations, charitable trusts, life insurance or bequests in wills and living trusts. If you need more information, contact Jeff Grothouse, executive secretary/treasurer at 419.238.1695 ex. 120. He has been responsible for the Business Office since 2003.

A commitment

The management and staff of The Marsh Foundation do not take for granted The Marsh legacy, the successful history or its regarded position in child and family services. A recent audit by an outside professional agency concluded that the staff know and identify with the agency’s mission and that job satisfaction is high, leading to long-term employment and stability for the youth.

The Marsh Foundation certifications and credentials

- Certified, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Certified, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)
- Certified, Juvenile Sex Offender Program by the Ohio Department of Youth Services
- Accredited, Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- Supportive Member, The Teaching-Family Association
- Member, Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA)
- Member, Ohio Children’s Alliance
- Member, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Eligibility, Title IV-E reimbursement
- Eligibility, Medicaid reimbursement for clinical services
Compassion and understanding

“The commitment of our staff is to support, encourage and recognize progress in the children we serve in an environment rich with heartfelt compassion and understanding. These dedicated adults teach and model strong character traits such as empathy, responsibility and trust. I feel privileged to watch and learn from so many talented and caring individuals.”

—Kim Mullins, executive director
Marsh Foundation Child and Family Services

Providing opportunities for success

“The Marsh Foundation School strives to meet the educational needs of our diverse student population. Our experienced staff does an outstanding job of providing a safe, conducive environment for student success in the school. We are committed to meeting the individual needs of our students as a collaborative unit. It is an honor and privilege for me to be a part of an organization that is able to provide such great opportunities for our youth.”

—Robbie Breese, principal
Marsh Foundation School

“It is an honor for me to be part of an organization that is able to provide such great opportunities for our youth.”

Serving children, both today and tomorrow

“The pledge of the Business Office Division is to provide services that meet and exceed the expectations of the staff and children in the care of The Marsh Foundation. This dedicated staff provides meals, a safe clean campus environment, maintenance and repairs, bill paying and payroll. It is an honor to be part in the continuation of the Marsh Family Mission.

Today, The Marsh Foundation is very solid financially and I am very confident this Foundation will be financially solid for the next generations of children in need of the great work performed on this campus.”

—Jeff Grothouse, executive secretary/treasurer
The Marsh Foundation
About our cover: Wear Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue that day – to work, to school, to a community event – to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. Each year, The Marsh Foundation campus participates in the event each year to help raise awareness. This picture was taken of Marsh employees in April 2018.