

# The Marsh Messenger

• Winter 2010-11 • [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org)

*Serving children and families since 1922*

## A Year in Review: 2010 at The Marsh Foundation



**In August, the five-year alumni reunion was held on The Marsh Foundation campus. Hundreds attended the weekend-long event.**

It has been another busy year at The Marsh Foundation. The highlight of 2010 was the five-year alumni reunion held in August. The Marsh hosts a reunion every five years to offer past students, staff and their families the opportunity to gather and reminisce.

The weekend included catered meals, a campus-wide open house and an opportunity to reconnect with past students and staff of The Marsh Foundation. More than 180 attended Saturday evening's dinner and more than 400 were on campus Sunday to celebrate.

Since George H. Marsh wrote his last will and testament in 1919, The Marsh Foundation has served thousands of children. Originally established as an orphanage, The Marsh has since evolved to better serve the changing needs of children and families.

Many other exciting things have also occurred this year, including the

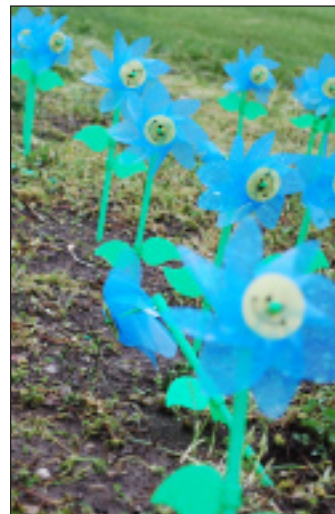
nomination of two new Marsh Foundation Trustees. The Third District Court of Appeals has named two new members to The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees. Robert D. Gamble and Gary A. Corcoran were both appointed as trustee on Feb. 2. Both men bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the board. The two vacancies in the board were created by recently retiring trustees Donald C. Sutton and Paul W. Purmort Jr. (Wally).

Gamble, a Van Wert resident, holds a bachelor of science degree from the Bowling Green State University. He is currently a Nationwide Insurance Agent and the president of Bee Gee Realty & Auction, Ltd. Corcoran, also a Van Wert resident, retired from the Central Insurance Company after 40 years of employment. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from The Ohio

University. He is a business counselor with Wright State University and serves on Van Wert City Council, currently as president.

The Marsh Foundation has served many youth this year in residential services, foster care and through clinical services. The youth have had the opportunity to participate in many community service activities, like visiting nursing homes, etc. In April, the boys at Marsh Hall created a pinwheel garden at Jubilee Park in Van Wert in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention month. Children were invited to take a pinwheel to have as their own as a reminder that no child should be abused in any form.

Thanks for your continued support of The Marsh Foundation! Best wishes for a happy 2011!



**Pinwheel garden created by the boys at Marsh Hall.**



**THE MARSH**  
FOUNDATION

### You're Invited

The annual Christmas celebration will be held on Wednesday, December 22 beginning at 10:15 a.m. The students will present their annual piano recital and production of 'Scrooge' in the auditorium; a holiday luncheon will be held in the cafeteria afterwards. Please plan to join us!

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### Leadership

- **The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees:**
  - Gary Corcoran
  - Robert Gamble
  - Gerald Thatcher
- **The Marsh Foundation Executive Team:**
  - Kim Mullins
  - Roger Salisbury
  - Jeff Grothouse

The Marsh Foundation  
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## From the executive's desk ...

For many children, Christmas represents the gift of joy, warmth and the happiness which come from belonging to a family. It is a gift which is taken for granted by many of us. This Christmas I would like to share the story of a young girl who was placed with us several years ago. She worked through many challenges but was able to reunite with her loving family after several months of treatment.

Fifteen-year-old \*Jenny was struggling with very aggressive behaviors. She had been in five different foster homes prior to her admission to The Marsh Foundation. She had low self-esteem, was defiant toward adults, and showed a serious lack of impulse control. Her foster mother described her as "completely lost." Jenny's behavior problems occurred both in the foster home and at school. There was little hope from referral sources that she could ever return to live at the foster home successfully.

Jenny did everything she could to prove everyone correct through having several major episodes where she threatened staff. Her language was disrespectful and often vulgar. When limits were set and the staff followed through with correcting her behavior, Jenny would



**Kim Mullins, P.C.C.**

verbally and physically explode in a violent manner. In their attempt to recognize the good in her, staff would say, "Well, she hasn't hit me yet."

After several family counseling sessions and consistent treatment at the group home, Jenny's relationships began to improve. She started to shed negative behaviors. For example, she would cry instead of engage in emotionally violent outbursts. She once said to a family-teacher, "Why do you care about me when I have been so mean to you?" The family-teacher responded, "You're here because we want to help you make better choices. I'm glad you know that we care about you." According to her counselor, one of Jenny's biggest obstacles was realizing that she must learn to trust others and ask for help when needed.

Historically, Jenny would

use aggressive behavior as a means of coping or getting her needs met. Through patience and understanding on the part of all the staff, Jenny learned more effective ways to be heard, to cope with problems and to meet her needs. When she made the transition from the group home to her foster home, she was able to continue with counseling services here at The Marsh. Though there were times in which she would have difficulties, she was able to overcome through the support and encouragement from her family.

Jenny said, "I want to tell the other kids at Marsh to stop fighting and accept the help they are offering. I wish I had done it a lot sooner." Jenny eventually graduated from high school and is married with a new baby. She stays in touch with her foster family and celebrates holidays and special times with them.

This Christmas, let us all be more aware of the gift of family and celebrate those relationships which are so precious.

*Kim Mullins*

Executive Director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh

*\*Jenny's name has been changed to protect confidentiality.*

## Deceased Marsh Foundation Alumni and Former Employees

### Notifications in 2010 of Deceased Alumni :

Mrs. Shirley Ann Goodwin Oglesbee 03/06/2001

Mr. Harold F. (Sam) Derrow 03/28/2000

Mrs. Jane Davidson Holdcraft 04/25/2007

Mrs. Dorothy Fleece Skidmore 06/27/2008

Mr. Edgar Leo Grimes 05/01/2009

Mr. Arby Bennett, Jr. 12/22/2009

Ms. Lillie Anne James 01/30/2010

Mrs. Crystal V. Roberts Gwozdz 04/09/2010

### Deceased Former Employees:

Mr. Robert W. Barnes Date Unknown

Miss Jane Gamble 02/25/2010

Mr. Max Kohn 06/05/2010

Ms. Kay George 06/07/2010

Mary L. Germann 07/08/2010

# A commitment to excellence

## Annual Letter from The Board of Trustees

Christmas is a time to be especially thankful for the many blessings we enjoy. Christmas is remembering the reason for the season, the freedom to worship as we desire, and decorating our homes and stringing lights with Jack Frost nipping at the nose. It is trimming the tree, last minute shopping and leaving cookies for Santa. It is laughter from boys and girls on Christmas morning, gathering with family and most important, connecting with good friends like you.

The holiday season could not pass by without wishing Merry Christmas to the staff at The Marsh, the many Marsh graduates, our foster families and present students. We are deeply indebted and especially thankful this season for the



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

contribution made to the Marsh by former Trustees Paul "Wally" Purmort and Don Sutton.

This season's greeting is for the happiest of all holidays from the Marsh family to yours. We wish you all the joys of a great Christmas season, and the very best for the

coming New Year.

With Warm Wishes from,

*The Marsh Foundation Trustees*

*Mr. Gary Corcoran*

*Mr. Robert Gamble*

*Mr. Gerald Thatcher*

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

Dear Alumni, Students, Staff and Trustees:

I was very happy to see all of you at the reunion. Thank you for coming! I want to share my favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe. My family loves when I make these soft chocolate chip cookies when they come home for the holidays!

- 2 sticks margarine, softened
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 3oz. package instant vanilla pudding
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 12 oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 1/2 cups of flour

In large bowl, beat together margarine, sugars, pudding and eggs. Beat well then stir in vanilla, baking soda and chocolate chips. Stir in flour last and mix well. Drop by tablespoons on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

Happy Holidays!

*Jeannie "Hisey" Snyder*  
Your Alumni President

## Staff Presents at Teaching Family Association Conference

The Teaching Family Association (TFA) recently held its annual national conference in Columbus. The Marsh Foundation is a supportive member of the association and had two teams of staff present workshops at the conference.

Laura Beckett-Avery, community psychiatric supportive treatment and Megan Crouse, Clymer Hall program manager presented 'Dilemmas Faced by Aging-Out Youth: Evaluating Supportive Treatment.' Between 20,000 and 25,000 teenagers are aging-out of foster care each year and lack the support for a successful transition into adulthood. Those in attendance gained research-based knowledge about the specific obstacles facing these youth and discussed ways to assist the youth with envisioning a future far greater than their past circumstances.

Another team of staff; Annette



**Two teams of Marsh Foundation staff presented at the recent TFA conference. Here, Megan Crouse and Laura Beckett-Avery present on the dilemmas faced by aging-out youth.**

Herrmann, clinical supervisor/therapist, Matt Tuttle, Vance Hall program manager and Kim Mullins, executive director of Child & Family Services, presented 'Effective Treatment for Attachment Disordered Youth.' Attachment disordered children and their families experience challenges in which many treatment approaches prove to be ineffective. The workshop focused on understanding how symp-

toms manifest in behaviors and how to effectively interpret, manage and treat them.

TFA was founded in 1975 to ensure the quality of care provided by professionals who actively pursue the goals of humane, effective, individualized treatment for children, families, and dependent adults using the common framework of the Teaching-Family Model for treatment and support.





## Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall staff and girls have had a busy fall. Like the other youth on campus, the girls have been busy preparing for the annual Christmas play and piano recital that will be held on Dec. 22.

Clymer Hall and the greenhouse were also featured this year on the local YWCA Holiday Home Tour the first weekend of December. Both were beautifully decorated and open to be toured. The girls and staff worked hard to make the house look great and prepare gingerbread cookies that they

passed out to guests.

Currently there are three openings in Clymer Hall. The house is licensed for ten girls ages 7-17. Components of the teaching family model are used to treat a variety of behavioral and emotional issues. For information on referrals, contact Tim Dull at 419.238.1695 ext. 360.



## Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall is always a flurry of activity. In addition to the typical school and fall activities, the boys have been very busy with extra activities and community service projects.

One youth at Marsh Hall participates in a bowling league. He recently finished second in his division and qualified to participate in the Pepsi Championship Tournament that will be held later this winter.

A big part of the program at Marsh Hall is community service. One youth collected newspapers for the Angels For Animals animal shelter in Lima. He made two trips to the shelter to deliver paper and to help take care of the animals.

The boys are anxiously awaiting the holiday parties that are just around the corner!



## Vance Voice

There are currently ten boys living at Vance Hall, making for a full house. The boys have been working hard and practicing their piano pieces in preparation for the upcoming Christmas play and recital.

Many of the boys have been working hard to earn rewards such as special outings with their families. They are also anxiously awaiting the Christmas holiday and festivities.

Recently, many of the boys in the house submitted entries in a local art contest at the Apple Festival. They were competing against other area schools and several youth won awards.

Youth from Vance Hall were also recognized at a small awards ceremony before the campus Thanksgiving luncheon. One youth was honored by reading his Thanksgiving essay to the audience.

## Youth Do Well in 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. In the contest, youth were competing with students from all the Van Wert County schools. The youth were very successful, winning 11 awards.

Best of Show went to Sam's project, 'Red Knight Apple Doll.' In recognition, he received a \$25 cash prize. In addition, 10 other youth won



awards. They were:

- Deneah – First Place (\$20)
- Dakota – First Place (\$20)
- Jennifer – Second Place (\$15)
- Brian – Second Place (\$15)
- Alissa – Third Place (\$10)
- Kameron – Third Place (\$10)
- Tori – Fourth Place (\$5)
- A.J. – Fourth Place (\$5)
- Donnie – Outstanding Award
- Steven – Outstanding Award

## Summer Once Again Concludes with Annual Horse Show

The youth at The Marsh Foundation concluded their summer equestrian program with a show for staff, trustees, families and guests. The program, which began in May, gave the youth opportunities to ride at least four times per week.

For the program, The Marsh leases horses from The University of Findlay and hires on-campus riding instructors, Steph Hall and Erin Calvelage. In addition to riding instruction, the youth also learn how to care for and demonstrate respect for the horses.

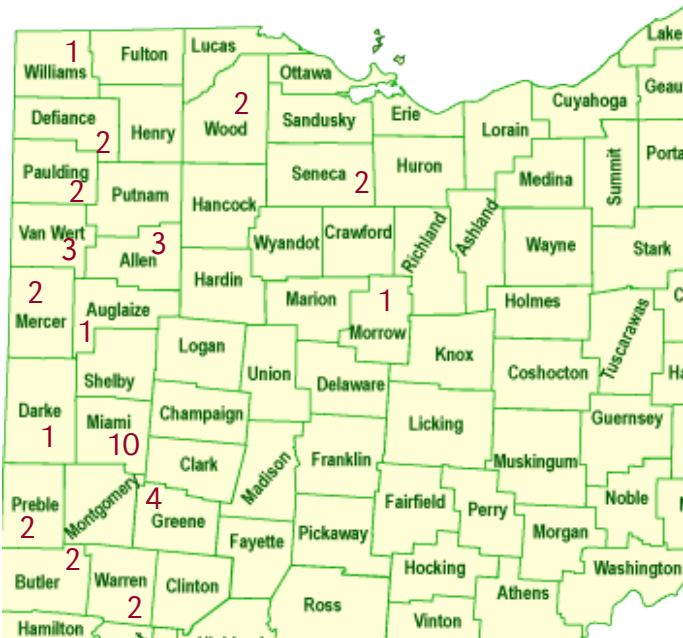


The program culminated with the horse show. Each youth had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills for the audience. Medals were given to the top placers in the various categories. All youth also received a participation gift from the instructors.



Clockwise starting at top left: When various events come to The Marsh auditorium it provides an opportunity for community service. Here, boys help disassemble a set from a recent puppet show. During the YWCA Holiday Home Tour, each room at Clymer Hall was decorated with a different theme. The dining room had a peppermint theme. This summer, a Civil War reenactor came to campus to give youth a taste of what it was like to live during the Civil War era. In October, a Fall Festival was held for employees, their families, youth, foster families and trustees. Before the Thanksgiving luncheon, a short awards ceremony was held for youth in the auditorium. Several youth were recognized for their recent accomplishments. At the Teaching Family Association's annual national conference, two teams of Marsh Foundation staff presented workshops. Annette Herrmann and Matt Tuttle were part of the team that discussed attachment disorders. The youth enjoyed creating and choosing costumes for the Fall Festival. Many were awarded prizes during the costume contest.

## Where's Home?



We are often asked where is home for our youth. Here is a snapshot of where our current group home and foster care youth call home.

## We're on Facebook!

In an effort to keep up with the growing interest in social media and online networking, The Marsh Foundation has started an official Facebook page. It can be found at [www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/MarshFoundation).

In addition to a variety of photographs from the past and recent events, the Facebook page features updates on current activities and various things happening at The Marsh Foundation.

If you are a member of Facebook, please stop by and 'like' our page. We'd love to see comments from alumni and friends of The Marsh. Also, feel free to invite all of your friends



to 'like' The Marsh as well. We are involved in a variety of community activities and our page is of interest to many, not just alumni and former employees.

There are several alumni already on our page, networking and having great conversations. Please join us!

## Youth Make Costumes for Fall Festival

The Marsh Foundation recently hosted its annual Fall Festival for youth, employees, foster families and trustees. The festival included a meal, costume contest and pumpkin judging.

This year, the boys in Marsh Hall took a unique approach to their Halloween costumes. Lisa Washam, a family teacher in Marsh Hall, is a big fan of Halloween and enjoys making her own costumes. This year, she used her crafting skills to help the boys make their own costumes for the Fall Festival.

She developed a series of workshops that began in September. Everyone came up with their own costume idea and was involved in every step of the process; planning, cutting and sewing. It was a learning experience that not only taught sewing skills, but also how to build relationships with staff and peers by helping one another.

According to Washam, this was a great way to build relationships with the youth. "It provided the youth a unique chance to learn something new, make something enjoyable for



Pictured is a Marsh Hall youth in his award winning Jester costume.

themselves, and spend time with staff," she said. "One of the most enjoyable parts for me was seeing the "a-ha!" moments when the boys began to see the individual pieces of fabric come together and their costume beginning to take shape."

The boys all enjoyed showing off their hard work at the Fall Festival. One youth even walked away with a first place prize for his Jester costume which he had designed and made himself.

## New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation recently hired three new staff members. They are:

- Jessica Wilson ~ family teacher for Vance Hall.
- Heather Wilson ~ family teacher for Clymer Hall.
- Tammy Nouza ~ classroom aide.

## A Day in the Life ... of an Independent Living Foster Child

Destiny doesn't have much time to get bored. She's going to be 18 soon, so she's busy preparing herself for her future. She spent nearly seven months in Clymer Hall at The Marsh Foundation, but now she's transitioned into the independent living foster home on campus.

She now has more freedom, but also more responsibility. She gets up around 6:30 a.m. to get ready for school. Her school day starts at 8:15 a.m. and then most days she's home by 3 p.m. At 4 p.m. she's due to report to her part-time server job at a local restaurant. After working until 9 p.m. she returns home to finish her homework and get ready to do it all over again the next day.

According to Destiny, she likes living at the independent living house. Faye Lepper is the foster mother at the home. "Faye is great. I really like the freedom she gives us, but there is still a lot of structure. It's like you're on your own but you're not. She's always there when you need her," she said.

Destiny works six days a week, sometimes a double shift on the weekends and may even start a second job. At the same time, she maintains a 3.8 GPA at school. "Reality has really hit me that I'm about to turn 18 and be out on my own," she said.

Over the summer, Destiny was fortunate enough to get one of the four on-campus jobs offered to youth. She worked as the custodial assistant and learned a lot of important job skills. "It gave me a taste for working and earning money

and then I wanted more," she said. "I realized I didn't have a lot of time to save money before I turn 18." Destiny will graduate in May and celebrate her 18th birthday in June.

Destiny wasn't any less busy during the summer. In addition to her on-campus job she also participated on the garden crew with other independent living youth. The crew started working early in the morning and continued until lunch time. In the afternoon she would work as the custodial assistant and she started working at her off-campus job in the evenings.

Thursdays are her day off. She doesn't have to report to work after school, instead she attends an independent living group on campus. The group focuses on a variety of skills that will be needed once the older youth are out on their own. Thursday evenings she has more time to spend with friends, clean or do her laundry at home.

The independent living group is led by CPS worker, Laura Beckett-Avery. She also assists Destiny with planning for the future. The two visited Miami Jacobs College together where Destiny plans to pursue a nursing degree. Beckett-Avery also assists with things like searching for an apartment.

One of the requirements when living at the independent living foster home is paying rent. The money is put into a savings fund that the youth get back when they leave. However,



**As an independent living foster child, Destiny now has more time to spend with friends. In addition to more freedoms, she also has more responsibilities.**

it teaches the importance of budgeting. "I put every single check into my savings account and keep my tips for spending money," she said.

In the minimal free time that she has, Destiny also spends time with her mentors Sue and Keith Bowersox. They have valuable conversations about budgeting and running a household, but also spend quality time together. Sue helped her set up her senior pictures and took her to have them done.

Destiny is confident that she has things in place to be successful when she leaves The Marsh. In addition to enrolling in school and finding an apartment, she will be transitioning

to a server job near college. Her home county also has an independent living caseworker on staff that will be available to help her to get on her feet and become settled into her new home.

Destiny admits that she didn't have a very positive outlook when she first came to The Marsh. "There's no way I'd be this far or ready to graduate if it weren't for The Marsh," she said. Destiny has worked hard to ensure that she'll graduate on time, but attributes it to all of the positive influences she now has in her life. "This place saved my life, definitely 100 percent," she said.

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## Marsh Foundation Video

In preparation for the 2010 Alumni Reunion, a video was produced for The Marsh Foundation. Two short videos profile the history of the organization as well as the current programs and services offered. Copies are available for \$10 each. If you are interested, please contact Dawn Berryman, marketing and public relations specialist at 419.238.1695 ext. 233 or [dberryman@marshfoundation.org](mailto:dberryman@marshfoundation.org).

## Marsh Foundation Alumni Wanted

We know that several Marsh Foundation alumni are not on our mailing list and do not receive newsletters or updates. If you are in contact with other former students of The Marsh Foundation, please encourage them to contact us. They can fill out the alumni form on our website, [www.marshfoundation.org](http://www.marshfoundation.org), or they can contact Dawn Berryman, [dberryman@marshfoundation.org](mailto:dberryman@marshfoundation.org), to be put on the mailing list. 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 2010 ~ April 2011

- December 22 - The Christmas Play and luncheon begins in The Marsh auditorium at 10:15 a.m.
- December 23 - 31 - Marsh Foundation School winter break.
- February 10, 7 p.m. - County Spelling Bee in The Marsh Auditorium
- March 18 and 19, 7 p.m. - Lincolnview Class Play in The Marsh Auditorium
- March 28 - April 1 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 1, 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).