

The Marsh Messenger

• Winter 2015-16 • www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

A Year in Review: 2015 at The Marsh Foundation



The five-year Alumni Reunion was held on The Marsh campus in August. More than 400 people returned to campus for food, fellowship, tours and memories.

2015 was a full and exciting year at The Marsh Foundation. The highlight of the year was the Alumni Reunion.

Once every five years, The Marsh Foundation celebrates its history and invites back the hundreds of alumni who once called the campus home. In August, more than 400 past students, employees and their families visited The Marsh campus for a memorable weekend.

Established as an orphan-age and children's home in 1922, The Marsh Foundation programs have evolved over the past 90+ years. The Marsh continues to serve children who need a home but has expanded its services to include counseling and a more comprehensive treatment program.

Reunion events are reserved

for former students, employees and their guests. A public open house was also held a few weeks afterwards to showcase the campus and services. The open house was very well attended and will be repeated again in 2016.

Several other notable events happened throughout the year. In July, CARF International announced that The Marsh Foundation's clinical services received another three-year accreditation. This latest accreditation is the fourth consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to The Marsh Foundation.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's

substantial conformance to the CARF standards.

Again this year, the Shirley Haight family donated Easter baskets, eggs and gifts for all of the youth on campus. This annual event is something that the youth very much look forward to.

2015 was also a year of new experiences. A spring formal was implemented and the evening of music, dancing and snacks was enjoyed by all. Before graduation, the seniors also implemented a 'Senior Week' and participated in activities set aside for those who were graduating.

We hope that 2015 was a wonderful year for you and yours and we look forward to what 2016 has in store!



THE MARSH
FOUNDATION

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Inside

- Letter from the Executive **Page 2**
- Deceased alumni and former employees **Page 3**
- Holiday Greeting from The Trustees **Page 3**
- Letter from the Alumni Association **Page 3**
- House Happenings **Page 4**
- Photo Book **Page 5**
- Youth Credits Marsh with Success **Page 6**
- Marsh Foundation Honored **Page 7**

Leadership

The Marsh Foundation Board of Trustees:

Gary Clay
Gary Corcoran
Robert Gamble

The Marsh Foundation Executive Team:

Robbie Breese
Kim Mullins
Jeff Grothouse

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

From the executive's desk ...

I wish to thank all the Marsh Alumni and Staff who participated in the August 1 - 2, 2015 Marsh Alumni Reunion. It was a great celebration of family. The reunion included storytelling and dining along with the gathering of Marsh alumni and past and current employees of The Marsh.

Mr. Ron Bagley was recognized by the Alumni Association with a special plaque thanking him for his care and support during their school days and keeping in touch with alumni students over the past years. Being acknowledged by your former students is the highest form of recognition someone can receive. Congratulations Mr. Bagley, very well deserved.

The past wet spring 2015 has exposed maintenance issues with the brick buildings on campus, built in the early 1900's. The brick and mortar are hard, but the moisture has exposed leaks in the mortar and cracks in the brick. This is causing moisture to leak into the building in areas not already repaired and sealed. The maintenance on these areas should be complete by the beginning of the winter season.

The Marsh Foundation began selling brick pavers to be placed in a Memorial Patio during the Alumni Reunion Weekend. The patio, located on the west side of the Administration Building, is designed for



Jeff Grothouse

The Marsh students and staff to have an outdoor seating, quiet area and a place to memorialize loved ones. 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 pavers may be inscribed with the donor's name, business name or to honor or memorialize a loved one. Please contact The Business Office if you are interested in the purchase of a paver.

The Long-Term Capital Improvement Project for the campus, which includes the construction of a new school wing attached to the Administration Building along with a gymnasium for our kids to enjoy physical exercise activities, has taken a few steps forward

in the planning and construction phases.

The Marsh Foundation Trustees have requested a building size and location cost estimate. The Marsh Foundation is looking into ways to fund the construction of the building, which will provide larger class rooms, open spaces, fitness opportunities for our students and staff, the introduction of current technology, handicap assessable areas and tighter security for our students.

The Marsh Foundation year end June 30, 2015 audit was completed in October with a few changes in the allocations of the income and expenses of The Marsh Foundation. The revenues for the campus are made up by the following percentages to total income: Portfolio Investments 25 percent, Rental and Farm Income 15 percent, Child & Family Services 52 percent and Foster Care 8 percent. The expenses for the campus are made up by the following percentages to total expense: Total School & Administration 28 percent, Child & Family Services 62 percent and Foster Care 10 percent.

A question I am always asked is "What roles do each division play in the function of The Marsh Foundation Campus?"

The Marsh Foundation is divided into three separate divisions contributing to achieve the same goal.... to care for children and families. The Child

and Family Services Staff – care for the day-to-day needs, home, transportation, food, time and praise, nurturing or discipline of the children. The School provides the students their educational needs. The Business Office provides the support for the campus; such as paying the bills, payroll, maintenance issues, food preparation and cleanliness.

The three separate divisions provide their own budget to follow for The Marsh fiscal year ending in June. Once the Trustees approve the individual budgets, the entire Marsh budget comes together to form The Marsh Foundation Income and Expense Budget.

According to the visions and the mission of The Marsh Foundation, which is to inspire hope, to teach and to care for children and families, this campus must employ quality compassionate staff, continue to care for the campus grounds and seek out ways to help children and families. With the endowment of George and Hilinda Marsh and the vision of the Trustees, directors and staff, this mission will be accomplished for many, many years to come.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank all The Marsh Foundation Trustees, staff, employees and teachers for their professionalism and dedication to the Mission of George H. Marsh.

Jeff Grothouse

*Executive Secretary and Treasurer
at The Marsh Foundation*

A commitment to excellence

A Note From The Board of Trustees

This holiday season, join The Marsh Foundation in ...

GIVING THANKS!



From left to right; Marsh Foundation Trustees; Bob Gamble, Gary Clay and Gary Corcoran.

In today's busy world, we sometimes forget to stop and say "thank You for all you do." This holiday season, The Marsh Foundation Trustees give thanks.

Thanks to you for your continued partnership and thanks to our teachers, employees and foster parents for their valuable

contributions.

Every day, our teachers, employees and Foster Parents help children and families in their time of need by compassionately guiding them back into relationship and a promise of hope.

We invite you to join us in recognizing the individuals who

help The Marsh Foundation accomplish great things throughout the year.

Christmas is an occasion to express our thanks to the Lord. That's why we offer a sincere prayer of gratitude for all God's blessings before the celebration begins.

From the Alumni Association Vice President: Dave Newland

Happy Holidays!

I wanted to send out Christmas Greetings to all Marsh Alumni, Staff, Trustees and current Students residing at the Marsh.

It seems that another year has gone by so quickly. My hopes are that it was a great year for all of you.

When I think of the Christmas Season, my thoughts go back to a time in my life when there was much uncertainty and indecisiveness; then I smile and think back of all The Marsh em-

ployees and students that were there for me and helped make all the difference, - from my past to my present, and ongoing toward my future.

Remember back when we were in elementary school? Just before Christmas we were going into the auditorium a lot to rehearse for the plays; which we ended up sharing with all of our fellow students and staff. Mrs. Koch, Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Smith's imaginations worked overtime each year, to come up with a good storyline for the

upcoming Christmas party.

Looking back, I now realize how much time, effort and love went into this whole production. There were costumes to be made, which required the magic from those talented and skillful ladies from the sewing room, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Rarhig and Mrs. Rhoades.

What an exciting time of year!! With schedules to keep, a good movie to watch after the play, and packages for us to open.

Continued on page 7 ...

Deceased Marsh Foundation Alumni and Former Employees

Alumni:

Mr. Robert 'Bob' Welling
Deceased: 3/10/2015

Mr. Gerald Richey
Deceased: 6/25/2015

Mr. Donald Camburn
Deceased: 7/6/2009
Notified: 9/21/2015

Ms. Jan Rose Camburn Sandoe
Deceased: 9/20/2012
Notified: 9/21/2015

Ms. Martha Lee Camburn Smith
Deceased: 2010
Notified: 9/21/2015

Dorthea Tozzier Baker
Deceased: 8/6/2015

Robert Dean Thomas
Deceased: 10/9/2015

Former Staff:

Ms. Alta E. Zinn
Deceased: 1/17/2015

Mr. Donald C. Sutton (Trustee)
Deceased: 3/15/2015

Ms. Wilma J. Snyder
Deceased: 5/23/2015



Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently full with 10 girls, who are busily preparing for the upcoming holidays. School has been going well and several girls made the first nine weeks honor roll.

The older girls who are part of the Independent Living Garden Crew have been working hard on their annual poinsettia sale. They took orders throughout the month of November and had pick up at the greenhouse's holiday open house the first weekend of December.

The girls are looking forward to extra activities and fun planned for the holiday break.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall has three youth who have completed the program successfully and will be leaving during the month of December. There will be openings available for male clients, ages 10 to 17, who have been adjudicated or have a history of sexual offending.

Marsh Hall was the host of the campus Thanksgiving meal. On the holiday, all of the youth and staff gathered at Marsh Hall for a delicious meal and fellowship. The boys are looking forward to Christmas time when they host the Trustees for a progressive dinner on campus.



Senior Stuff

Senior Hall currently has one opening in its Independent Living Program. The home accepts boys ages 15 1/2 and over who are working on skills they will need upon emancipation.

The boys have been busy working at their off campus jobs. They keep a full schedule with school, work and activities.

The group spends a lot of time developing skills such as budgeting, grocery shopping and cooking. Different youth take turns planning and preparing meals. This is helping them learn skills that will be very valuable when they transition to adulthood.



Vance Voice

Vance Hall is also at capacity with ten boys. Recently, Ben Marsee was named program manager for the house. He's been at The Marsh Foundation since 2008, working primarily at Marsh Hall, as a family teacher and lead family teacher.

The boys have handled the transition well and have kept busy with various outings and activities. They especially enjoyed SPIRIT week and the fall festival, when they had the opportunity to dress up in costumes, sing karaoke and decorate pumpkins.

Thanksgiving Poem and Essay Contest

Each year, The Marsh Foundation School has an acrostic poem and essay writing contest at Thanksgiving time. Below is this year's poem winner and at right is an excerpt from the winning essay.

T is for the Thanks that my family has always given me
H is for the Happiness that we all love and share
A is for the Appreciation that we show while we're passing the turkey
N is for the Natural cooking coming from all the women in my family putting in work on the food
K is for the extra Kisses that you get when your grandma comes around to say "Hi"
S is for the people that Slump on the couch after eating so much
G is for the blessing we give to GOD before we eat
I is for the Insane kids that run around until dinner
V is for Vegetables that taste nasty everyday even on holidays
I is for how In tune we are with this holiday
N is for No school for the week
G is for the Good times we all have spending that time with the people we love with the thanks of God.

"I have many things to be thankful for in my life, and during this holiday I'll make it a point to keep conscious of the privileges I have that sometimes go unnoticed. I'll put effort into thinking more about my blessings apart from the holiday season as well. It may be hard to see at times when you feel stuck or hopeless, but despite whatever hardships are endured, there's always good in any and every situation. This is something I know that as human beings we have a tendency to overlook, so I'm personally going to pay more attention to positive things and point out the good in tough situations. Sometimes it's hard to see the good in the moment, but there's still always hope for a better future.



Clockwise from the top left: During October, a Fall Festival was held. It included a costume contest, chili cook-off and pumpkin decorating contest. This fall, State Representative Tony Burkley visited The Marsh Campus and toured our grounds. Several staff recently represented The Marsh in Indianapolis at the annual Teaching-Family Association national conference. Pictured is family teacher Lisa Whitling. The Marsh youth were thrilled when a local resident, Wesley DeLong, donated an air hockey table for the recreation hall. One recent art project was a spray painting workshop with art instructor Karla Hoying. During SPIRIT week, staff and youth participated in crazy hair day, mismatch day, and costume day among others.



Young Adult Credits Marsh with Successes

At the annual PCSAO conference, the organization honors young men and women who have emancipated from foster care and overcame adversity in their lives. The “Rising Up and Moving On” awards are always a highlight of the conference.

This year, Dakota was one of the award recipients honored. He spent time in Vance Hall at The Marsh Foundation and credits The Marsh with making a difference in his life.

Here is an excerpt from what was read during the awards luncheon.

“Dakota entered foster care at the age of 10 with what his caseworker describes as an all-too-understandable chip on his shoulder. Reluctant to trust anyone, he moved from foster care to juvenile detention and then to a group home, separated from his older sisters. He felt the stigma of being in the foster care system and rebelled against its restrictions.

But something changed. At the group home, Dakota became a leader, mentoring other children, making up school credits, and returning to the school from which he had been expelled. Completing the group home program early, Dakota returned to his original foster home and was reunited with his sisters. At school, he joined the football, wrestling, and track and field teams, lettering in each. He took first place in 4-H and became the first male in his family to

graduate high school. Dakota volunteered for the summer food program, works part-time, and can fix almost anything with his hands. Today, this 18-year-old is enrolling in the United States Marine Corps.”

Dakota spent eight months at The Marsh completing our program. He admits that he was struggling. “I was an unruly child who never cared what other people thought, until I came to Marsh,” he said.

He, however, took the program seriously and was able to make great strides with his behavior and attitude. He credits The Marsh’s Teaching Family Model with influencing him. “I believe that your behavioral point system is what helped shape the person I am today.”

Dakota said he is grateful for what he learned while at The Marsh and to those who helped him turn things around.

“I remember my staff members always being there for me when I needed it,” he said. “I would like to thank everyone who ever helped me through my rough times.”

Now, Dakota is doing well living on his own and holding down a job. He will be enlisting in the Marines very soon in order to serve our country.

The Marsh Foundation is excited to see Dakota making a positive impact on his community!



At the annual PCSAO conference, the organization honors young men and women who have emancipated from foster care and overcame adversity in their lives. Dakota was one of the recipients of the “Rising Up and Moving On” awards. He had spent time in The Marsh Foundation group home and credited The Marsh with making a difference in his life.

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation recently hired new staff members:

- Codie Gribble ~ Family Teacher
- Jason Horstman ~ Family Teacher
- Angela Beck ~ Family Teacher
- Jalen McGill ~ Family Teacher
- Patrick Flanagan ~ Maintenance Staff

Congratulations to our recently promoted Family Teacher:

- Ben Marsee ~ Program Manager, Vance Hall

Marsh Foundation Honored by the Van Wert Chamber of Commerce

The Van Wert Chamber of Commerce recently held their annual Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon. For the tenth year, small businesses in the community were honored at the event.

The Marsh Foundation was honored to be nominated in the Charitable, Non-Profit category. After being nominated, the nominees were required to turn in entry forms which were the sole basis for the judging. The Salute to Small Business Committee then did the judging, determining the top entries in each category.

The Marsh Foundation was thrilled to be selected as the top award winner in the Non-Profit category this year. Other nominees included; Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, the Pregnancy Life Center, Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio and the Van Wert Area Performing Arts Foundation.

“Most importantly, I would like to thank all of our employ-



The Marsh Foundation received the first place award in the Charitable, Non-Profit category at the recent Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon. Ray McCoy and Jeff Grothouse (far left) are pictured with the other category recipients.

ees. Everyone at our organization from the Trustees, to management, to front line staff is committed to the mission of helping children,” Said Jeff Grothouse, executive secretary/treasurer. “Without the hard working family teachers and foster parents, who work tirelessly, day in and day out with our kids, we would not be here today. We are fortunate to have a group of compassionate and dedicated individuals who inspire hope,

teach and care for children and families daily.”

Other category winners included; Northwest Ohio Welch Trophy, Spirit of Entrepreneurship; Mercer Landmark of Ohio City, Agriculture Business; Stahl Stoller Meyer Insurance Center, Service Industry Showcase; Laudick’s Jewelry, Retail Champion; Collins Fine Foods, Palate Pleaser; and Teem Wholesale, Manufacturing Excellence.

Continued from page 3 ...

All of this needed the organizational skills of Ron Bagley, who was very much involved, to keep the program running smoothly. Most of the school staff, maintenance, carpenters were all called to help, making this a very special event for us all. And most importantly, with about thirty-five students in each house (remember that’s 4 houses), someone had to do one heck of a LOT of Christmas shopping for ALL of us!! Now that would be a challenge to test the patience of anyone!! Let’s not forget about Ma Schaffer. She made all the iced sugar cookies among other refreshments served at the Christmas Party.

So much was done for us and so many people involved in making this a special Christmas for us all. I remember looking around after the play, sitting in the auditorium, looking at all my friends and fellow students and seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter. It was a very special time with very special people and friends, creating magical moments that I will treasure forever.

Recently, I have heard so much said about how everything has changed at the Marsh, not like it used to be; but bottom line is that nothing is like it used to be. I think as part of our culture, there are still many children in need of love and understanding, support and acceptance, just as we needed at that time in our lives.

So for this Christmas Season, I challenge my Marsh Siblings to join in, get involved, help put smiles and add laughter to faces that need acceptance. None of us asked to be in the position that we were put in, but in this time of giving, we have the opportunity and ability to help now in any way that we can.

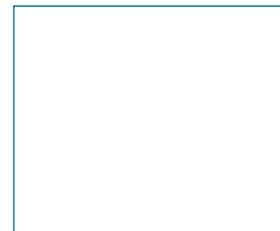
Merry Christmas to all!!!

Dave Newland
Marsh Foundation School Alumni



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Have You Liked Us Yet?

Did you know that The Marsh has its own Facebook page? Have you liked us yet? You can stay atop of current happenings, get updates about events, or connect with friends you used to live with.



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

December 2015~ April 2016

- December 21 - January 1 - Marsh Foundation School winter break.
- No School Monday, January 18 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- February 1, 7 p.m. - The Van Wert County Spelling Bee will be held in our auditorium.
- No School Friday or Monday, February 12 or 15 because of staff in-service and President's Day.
- March 25 - April 1 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- Saturday, April 23 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- April 1, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.



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.