

The Marsh Messenger

• Spring 2017 • www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Marsh Foundation to Host Event to Raise Funds to Fight Child Abuse

In an effort to raise awareness and funds to fight child abuse, The Marsh Foundation is teaming up with the Family and Children First Council of Van Wert County to host the first annual 'Run to End Child Abuse.' All proceeds of this event will be donated to the Van Wert FCFC to help end child abuse in Van Wert County.

"We see the after affects of child abuse daily in the youth that we serve and are passionate about helping to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services. "April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we are hoping we can raise some awareness and help combat this serious issue."

The event will feature a 5K walk/run as well as a one mile fun run for kids. It will be held on Saturday, April 29 on The Marsh Foundation's beautiful campus in Van Wert. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the fun run beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the 5K at 10 a.m. Registration will be held at the Recreation Hall on the northeast side of campus.

For more information, see the flyer and registration form on page 3 of this newsletter. Questions regarding the event can be directed toward Melissa Gearhart, foster care supervisor, at 419.238.1695 ext. 307.



Pictured above is the design that will be featured on the T-shirts given to participants in the Run to End Child Abuse. If you would like to register, see page 3 of this newsletter.

Guest Panel Held During Women's History Month



The cultural diversity committee at The Marsh Foundation organized two guest panels during the month of March; Women's History Month. The focus was women in the workforce and featured females in traditionally male dominated fields. Panels included; Officer Brandi Dershem, Erin Patterson, Beth Runnion, Judge Jill Leatherman, Eva Yarger and Cindy Hurlless.



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

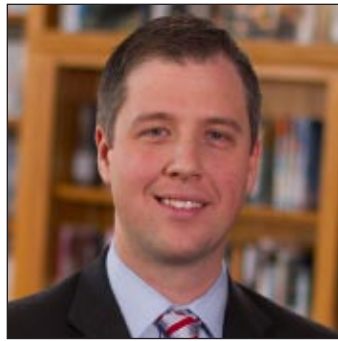
The Marsh Foundation
1229 Lincoln Highway P.O. Box 150
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

From the Executive's desk ...

I have been principal of The Marsh Foundation School for three years. During that time, I have received many compliments relating to our school and the progress we are making. We continue to make great strides in integrating technology, delivering individualized instruction, implementing innovative behavior strategies, offering opportunity for creativity and the list goes on.

As proud as I am of this progress and improvement, and as much as I would like to take all of the credit, I must give credit where credit is due. I am fortunate to work with a group of people that are forward thinking, student-centered and consistently go above and beyond for our students. In stressful work environments, it's easy to become complacent or to "work to get through the week," but I am surrounded by the opposite.

It's truly amazing to sit back and observe a typical school day. The energy and excitement combined with high expectations and structure, the high level constant communication and collaboration, the professionalism and drive to improve given by the school staff makes the school a fun, conducive educational environment. Most importantly, the school staff is a group of people that care. They care about each other, and most importantly they care about our students.



Robbie Breese

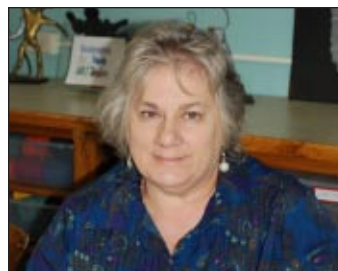
I would like to use this entry as an opportunity to introduce these great people to you. Being surrounded by this wealth of experience is truly a blessing for me. If given the opportunity, please thank these individuals for the service and dedication to The Marsh Foundation and the youth we serve.

Robbie Breese

*Director of Education/Principal
The Marsh Foundation School*



Mrs. Audrey McClure
Music Teacher - 46 Years Service



Mrs. Karla Hoying
Art Teacher - 26 Years Service



Mrs. Holly Myers
Secretary - 24 Years Service



Ms. Suzie Hall
Social Studies Teacher -
22 Years Service



Mrs. Val Dunn
Math Teacher - 17 Years Service



Mrs. Mandy Looser
Science Teacher -
13 Years Service



Ms. Tonya Mitchell
School FT- 13 Years Service



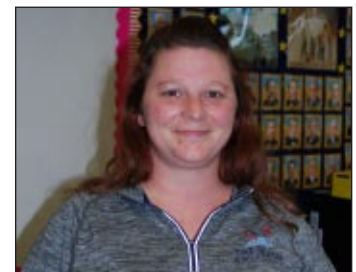
Mrs. Michele Bird
School FT - 12 Years Service



Mrs. Joy Caldwell
Librarian - 11 Years Service



Mr. Tom Mayes
Music Teacher - 8 Years Service



Mrs. Mackenzie Basil
School FT- 8 Years Service

A commitment to excellence



Run to End Child Abuse



**CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH**

**5K and 1 Mile Kids Fun Run
Saturday, April 29, 2017**

**THE MARSH
FOUNDATION**
Serving children and families since 1922

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Van Wert Family and Children First Council to help end child abuse in Van Wert County.

Registration Form

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Age: _____ Gender: Male Female

I am registering for the: 5K Run (\$20) 5K Run without a t-shirt (\$15) 1 Mile Fun Run (\$10)

Please make checks payable to The Marsh Foundation.

Registrations received before **April 17** are guaranteed a t-shirt. Please select your size.

Youth S Youth M Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Location: The Marsh Foundation, 1229 Lincoln Highway, Van Wert, Ohio

Event Details: The 1 mile Kids Fun Run begins at 9:30 a.m. 5K Race begins at 10 a.m. Registration and packet pick-up begins at 8:30 a.m. in front of the Recreation Hall (northeast side of campus). Course details and parking information will be emailed prior to the race. Event will be held rain or shine. Overall and age group winners will receive award medals.

Waiver (Read before signing): I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run in the Run to End Child Abuse unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also assume any and all risks associated with running or attending the race including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants or volunteers, the effects of the weather and the course conditions, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry fee, I hereby discharge The Marsh Foundation and any employees, assignees or anyone acting on their behalf, or anyone else associated in any way with the race, from any or all claims of liability for death, personal injury, or property damage of any kind of nature what so ever arising out of, or in the course of, my participation in this event. This waiver extends to all claims of every kind and nature what so ever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS WAIVER: (if under 18 a legal guardian must sign). PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE: I grant and convey to The Marsh Foundation all rights, title and interests in any and all photographs, images, video or audio recordings of me or my likeness or my voice, made in connection with my participation in this event. Incomplete or unsigned forms will not be accepted.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Participants under 18 years of age require signature of parent or legal guardian.)

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



Project Believe continues to make a positive impact on the youth at The Marsh Foundation. In December, the organization delivered a box of Christmas gifts for each youth on campus for the fifth year in a row. The gifts are always a welcome surprise for the kids and they get a great deal of joy knowing that someone is thinking of them during the holidays. 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. Their call to have individuals donate cards was overwhelming and they received more than 14,000 donated Valentine's cards this year alone. Pictured above left is Tammie Rafferty, Project Believe founder with Dawn Berryman, Marsh Foundation Marketing/PR Specialist with donated Christmas boxes. At right is Rafferty with Valentine bags.

Closest 1:27 Connects with Marsh Foster Care Program

Closest 1:27 is an initiative operated by Woodburn Missionary Church in Woodburn, IN. The ministry provides support and supplies for Christian adoptive and foster families. They learned of The Marsh Foundation's need through one of our

own foster families.

Closest 1:27 provides two main services for adoptive and foster families: foster journey bags and its resource closet. They recently delivered 28 journey bags to give to Marsh foster youth. The bags are filled

according to gender and age and include things like pajamas, blankets, books, toiletries, a Bible and much more.

"We are thrilled that Closest 1:27 has reached out to The Marsh Foster Care Program," said Melissa Gearhart, foster care supervisor. "Our kids often come into care with little that belongs to them and this program gives them something that they can call their own. Plus, the items in the bags are quality, useful items that are very much appreciated by our kids and our foster parents."

According to Closest 1:27, the foster journey bags are meant to help foster children feel the love and concern of others, and introduce them to, or remind them of the love of their Heavenly Father.

The Marsh Foundation is looking forward to distributing these bags to foster children. The Marsh is currently placing children ages 0-18 in local foster homes. Families that are interested in becoming licensed as foster or adoptive homes, can contact Gearhart at 419.238.1695 ext. 307.



Pictured is Melissa Gearhart (left) foster care supervisor, with Kayla Bagley from Closest 1:27 and their donation of foster journey bags.

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff members:

- Fallan Maunz - Family Teacher
- Spencer Germain - Family Teacher
- Jill Sheaks- Family Teacher



Clockwise starting above: The Marsh Foundation staff, youth and families had the opportunity recently to attend a Fort Wayne Komet Hockey Game. The group enjoyed a fun night out. The Marsh Grown Garden Program had another successful poinsettia sale this past December. Several Marsh youth have recently been volunteering at The Van Wert Humane Society. They have been able to help walk and care for the dogs in the shelter. It has been a rewarding experience. In December, a talent show was held before the holiday break. Several staff and Clymer Hall youth teamed up to present a new twist on the 12 Days of Christmas. Independent Living aged youth continue to learn practical life skills. The group recently held a 'Chopped' themed cooking challenge.



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, June 1, 2017

9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Romer’s Catering, 1100 S. Main Street, Celina, Ohio

Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD presenting on trauma, the effects on the brain and what can be done to promote healing

If you parent, work with or develop policy regarding children this training is a must in understanding how trauma impacts children and what can be done to help them heal.

Dr. Perry’s trainings are informative, easy to understand and the information can easily be transferred to “every day” life.

Dr. Perry has conducted both basic neuroscience and clinical research. His clinical research and practice has focused on high-risk children. This work has examined the cognitive, behavioral, emotional, social, and physiological effects of neglect and trauma in children, adolescents and adults. This work has been instrumental in describing how childhood experiences, including neglect and traumatic stress, change the biology of the brain – and, thereby, the health of the child.

His clinical research over the last ten years has been focused on integrating emerging principles of developmental neuroscience into clinical practice. This work has resulted in the development of innovative clinical practices and programs working with maltreated and traumatized children, most prominently the Neurosequential Model®, a developmentally sensitive, neurobiology-informed approach to clinical work, education and caregiving. This approach to clinical problem solving has been integrated into the programs at dozens of large public and non-profit organizations serving at-risk children and their families.

His experience as a clinician and a researcher with traumatized children has led many community and governmental agencies to consult Dr. Perry following high-profile incidents involving traumatized children such as the Branch Davidian siege in Waco (1993), the Oklahoma City bombing (1995), the Columbine school shootings (1999), the September 11th terrorist attacks (2001), Hurricane Katrina (2005), the FLDS polygamist sect (2008), the earthquake in Haiti (2010), the tsunami in Tohoku Japan (2011) and the Sandy Hook Elementary school shootings (2012).

This is a **FREE** training to residence and providers in Mercer, Paulding and Van Wert Counties.

There will be a \$100 charge to those outside this area. Space will be limited. A free box lunch will be provided. CEUs are pending for Counseling, Social Work and Teaching. Registration will open April 3, 2017 (more information will be forthcoming).

Sponsored by:





Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall is currently full with 10 girls. There have been consistent referrals and a waiting list at Clymer Hall in recent months.

The girls have kept busy throughout the winter months. Some have enjoyed spending time with their Bigs through 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 girls have also enjoyed several activities. They recently took a day trip to the Columbus Zoo. Another day they were able to go ice skating in Fort Wayne. The girls are looking forward to warmer weather and more fun activities.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall currently has one opening in their JSO program. The boys at Marsh Hall have been enjoying some of the unseasonably warm temperatures and have been outside a great deal. They have already been spending time fishing at the pond.

Springtime also 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.



Senior Stuff

Senior Hall currently has two openings. The program at Senior Hall is specific to boys over age 15 that are in need of independent living skills. If you would like to make a referral, please contact Kelly Gross at 419.238.1696 ext. 360.

The boys at Senior have had several positive experiences recently. One boy was awarded a renewable scholarship from Defiance College totaling \$60,000 over the course of a normal, four-year bachelor's degree period. Congratulations on this significant accomplishment!

Another youth has been busy working at the YMCA and was recently asked to participate in a promotional video for Ohio Means Jobs. It was a great experience for him. Watch our Facebook page for when the video is released!



Vance Voice

Vance Hall is currently full with 10 boys. The group home thoroughly enjoyed the recent outing to the Komet Hockey game, one youth even caught a puck!

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. Please plan to join us on May 24 to see their efforts come to life!

2016 Annual Report

Did you receive a copy of the 2016 Annual Report released last month by The Marsh Foundation? If you did not, please contact Dawn Berryman, marketing and public relations specialist, to request one. She can be reached at 419.238.1695 ext. 233 or dberryman@marsh-foundation.org.

You're Invited: Please Join Us May 24

This year's Spring Celebration and Graduation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 24 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 Marsh Foundation
1229 Lincoln Highway
P.O. Box 150
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Address 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 2017

- March 20 - 24 - Marsh Foundation School Spring break.
- April 7, 7 p.m. - Peony Pageant in The Marsh Auditorium.
- April 14 - 17 - No School (Good Friday and Easter Break).
- Saturday, April 29, 8:30 a.m. - Run to End Child Abuse, 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run at The Marsh Foundation.
- The Marsh High School Spring Formal is May 13. If you are able to donate snacks or supplies, contact 419.238.1695 ext. 301.
- May 24, 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.