

The Marsh Messenger

• Summer 2018 • www.marshfoundation.org

Serving children and families since 1922

Marsh Foundation Hosts 2018 Graduation and Spring Celebration

The Marsh Foundation School held its annual spring celebration on Wednesday, May 23. The day included piano recitals, a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, academic award presentations, a graduation ceremony and a luncheon. Five students were honored for receiving their high school diplomas, three of which gave speeches.

More than 40 students participated in the day's festivities and many of their friends and family members were in attendance. The honorary guest speaker was Corey Budd, a student at The Marsh from 1995-1997.

Following the program, a luncheon was enjoyed by all.



Above: Marsh Foundation graduate Bryce Hoskins receives an academic award from Marsh Principal Robbie Breese.

Marsh's Downtown Foster Care Office Now Open



The Marsh Foundation held a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony at their new Foster Care and Adoption Center.

As The Marsh Foundation Foster Care and Adoption division continues to grow, a grand opening and ribbon cutting was held recently at their new location downtown. The Foster Care and Adoption Center, 102 W. Main Street in Van Wert, will now house office space as well as a training and visitation area.

"We are so grateful to the Van Wert community for their ongoing support," said Melissa Snyder, foster care supervisor. "There are so many children

continued on page 6 ...



THE MARSH
FOUNDATION

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Inside

- Letter from the Executives **Page 2**
- Special Edition: Letter from The Trustees **Page 3**
- Photo Book **Page 5**
- Generous Donors Make Easter Even More Special **Page 4**
- House Happenings **Page 7**
- Calendar of Events **Page 8**

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 ...

Remember what it was like after graduation from high school? Did you have a plan to enter the workforce or go to college? Were there people there to support you by guiding and helping you prepare?

Often times your parents, grandparents or other family members help you get ready for this critical transition in life. Now, imagine if they weren't there to call, or help with finances, or teach you how to do "adult" things like pay bills, schedule appointments, or find living arrangements.

You might feel overwhelmed, intimidated, and hopeless. That is how many of the young adults aging out of the foster care system feel.

The Marsh Foundation is excited to be a part of a new program called Bridges. This program is managed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and serves young adults who are emancipating from the foster care system up until their 21st birthday.

The goal is to provide support services to the young adults in order to facilitate their success in transitioning to adulthood.

The statistics for youths aging out of foster care have been daunting. According to the Fostering Change

Statistics for those aging out of Foster Care

Only 3-4% will earn a college degree by age 26

1 in 5 will experience homelessness

Only half will be employed

7 of 10 females will become pregnant by the time they are 21

1 in 4 will experience PTSD

** Statistics According to the Fostering Change Network*

Network, only three to four percent of young people who are foster care alumni earn a college degree by the age of 26. One in five will experience homelessness. Only half will be employed. Seven of ten female foster youth will become pregnant by the time they are 21, and one in four foster youth will experience PTSD.

Bridges is a way to combat those statistics within the state of Ohio. 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 is serving young adults that live in the Northwest Ohio region of

the state. Some of the young adults will be attending college or vocational school, some will be working.

There are a variety of housing options available for funding. The most common options available are apartment living or host homes. The type of support varies depending on the needs of the young adult. Minimal involvement may simply be renting a room to a young adult.

If you are interested in opening up your home to a young adult, please contact me at 419-238-1695 ext. 350.

Kathleen Davis
Director, Residential Services
The Marsh Foundation



Are you leaving foster care at 18?

OR

Are you aged out and under 21?

You may qualify for resources to help you build the future you want!

- Housing
- Financial assistance
- Help with medical coverage
- Community resources
- Life skills instruction
- Help finding employment
- Help continuing your education

Bridges is VOLUNTARY, and you can opt in or out at any time. Best of all, YOU determine which available services you will receive.



Special Edition: Letter from The Marsh Trustees

This letter is partially in response to questions that arose from the recent announcement that The Marsh Foundation will gather everyone together one more time to celebrate the 100 years of The Marsh Foundation in the late summer of 2022. This is planned to be the final Alumni Reunion.

When people drive by The Marsh Foundation they are always impressed with the beautiful campus and the stately buildings. But to the thousands of young people who have lived there, The Marsh Foundation is much more. It is the place where they received an education or were taught a skill. It was a place that gave them an opportunity to succeed in life, but most of all it was the place they all called home.

These young people grew up to become adults and today are a living legacy to benevolence of George H. & Hilinda Marsh.

It is not unusual in a small town for a person to create a legacy for themselves, however for most people that legacy fades away as time passes on. That is however not the case with George H. Marsh. It has been almost 100 years since The Marsh Foundation was created from benevolence of George H. & Hilinda Marsh. During his life Mr. Marsh was well known for his philanthropy, giving a hospital and nurses home to Van Wert County, erecting the Y.W.C.A. and contributing generously to several local and national charities. However, in his last years he concluded that he was merely a trustee of his wealth and he wanted to leave something that would be of benefit to others.

That is when Mr. Marsh left his entire estate to establish The Marsh Foundation. While the official opening date of the Marsh Foundation is somewhat debatable, an excerpt from the October 21, 1920 Van Wert Times stated that: "According



to the executors it will probably be a year before actual work is started on the buildings for the children's home and school which was left to the county by Mr. Marsh. The building will be known as The Marsh Foundation."

Children today are different from the children who first attended The Marsh Foundation almost 100 years ago, but the purpose and mission of The Marsh Foundation has not wavered over that time period. For nearly 100 years the Marsh Foundation has continued its mission of extending a helping hand to youth, "who by reason of misfortune or any other cause are denied the opportunity for secure home training, education and instruction."

While the mission of The Marsh Foundation has remained the same, the methods used in achieving these goals have changed. As society has changed the Marsh Foundation has

evolved and changed our approach to how we help children. The original Marsh Foundation was organized as an orphanage, but today's Marsh Foundation is much more.

Today, the Marsh Foundation uses the Teaching Family Model in the group home concept, in addition to Foster Care, and a Foster to Adopt program to help children achieve the best care and training possible. The Marsh Foundation continues to provide on campus instruction through the Marsh School but has also added additional clinical services to address the total needs of every child who enters the Marsh Foundation.

As we look to the future, the trustees of The Marsh Foundation are excited about our potential to reach and help more children. We have purchased additional space on Main Street in downtown Van Wert to house our foster care program. The trustees are also considering the

possibility of adding additional facilities to the current Marsh Campus. This construction project will be the first addition to campus in numerous years and will help the Marsh Foundation better prepare for the future. We invite you to be part of this program by making a contribution to our building program and hopefully we will have the opportunity to use this facility at our next Marsh reunion.

Mr. Marsh stated in the conclusion of his will, "I depart this life in the hope that the Foundation shall become an instrument of enduring and ever-increasing benefit to mankind." We believe the Marsh Foundation is fulfilling the expectations of Mr. Marsh.

Gary Clay

*The Marsh Foundation Board
of Trustees*



Get real-life help for real-life problems.

Your journey is just beginning. As you transition to adulthood, Bridges can work with you to:

- Reach educational goals.
- Maintain rewarding employment.
- Secure stable and safe housing.
- Achieve healthy well-being.

We support former foster youth as they build a bridge toward a brighter future.

Building brighter futures.

Visit bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov

Or call 1-866-503-1895

Clockwise starting at top right: During May, which is Foster Parent Appreciation Month, each foster family was presented with a gardening gift to show our gratitude. Corey Budd, former Marsh resident ('95-'97) was the honorary guest speaker at this spring's graduation ceremony. After graduation, Budd pursued professional boxing before a career-ending injury. The grand opening of the new downtown Foster Care Office was very well attended. Principal Robbie Breese and The Marsh Trustees presented five students with their high school diplomas and a dozen students with academic awards at this year's spring celebration. The Marsh Grown garden program had a successful spring flower sale in May.



Marsh Foundation Grateful to Easter Celebration Donors

Again this year, an egg hunt was the highlight of Easter weekend on The Marsh Foundation Campus. It was all made possible by the Shirley Haight family, who sponsored the festivities for the eighth consecutive year.

The Easter egg hunt has become an annual tradition on The Marsh campus that youth and staff both anxiously anticipate. The youth enjoy and the staff appreciates the extra smiles it brings to the youths' faces. "The donations we receive from the Haight family are a double blessing," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services at

The Marsh Foundation. "The special day has an inspirational impact on our kids and the sizable, generous donation helps our resources to go even further."

Haight's daughter, Cindy Henderson and her family, went above and beyond again this year to make Easter even more special for youth currently residing at The Marsh Foundation. The family's generosity and creativity are extremely thoughtful, even down to the smallest details.

"They think of all the details and their generosity each year makes Easter an extra special holiday on our campus." In



the 1940s, Shirley Haight came to live at The Marsh. Now, her daughters and grandson continue to give back to the campus at Easter time. The family provided eggs, baskets and gifts for all of the youth on campus.

Although Haight passed away in 1988, her family has made a tradition out of donating. It was a memorable day and enjoyed tremendously by Marsh Foundation youth.

Foster Care

Continued from Page 1

needing help and our community has really stepped up to help us meet that need." In the past year, The Marsh has licensed an additional 10 foster families. "This is incredible, and crucial to our mission," Snyder added.

Throughout May, the agency celebrated National Foster Care Appreciation Month. "We are so appreciative of our foster families, their dedication, and the sacrifices they make in order to give kids a loving home," said Kim Mullins, executive director of Child and Family Services at The Marsh. "The month of May gives us an extra opportunity to show them our appreciation."

Each foster family was presented with a gift as a small



token of appreciation during May.

The Marsh Foundation is continuing to grow. In addition to their consistent effort to recruit more foster families, they are also hiring another licensed social worker for the downtown Van Wert office. For more information, visit www.marshfoundation.org.

New Staff Members

The Marsh Foundation would like to welcome new staff members:

- Mackenzie Basil - Vance Hall Program Manager

Family Teachers:

- Jason Gremling
- Kayla Hertel
- Lindsay Bailey
- Roger Wurst
- Michael Heffner
- Briana Welker
- William Heffner
- Cody Brinkman
- Alassane Ba

2018 -19 Marsh School Calendar



Clymer Chat

Clymer Hall currently has one opening following a recent successful completion. The girls are enjoying the flexibility and freedoms of the summer schedule.

Summer school and credit recovery is offered each morning as well as reading and library time. Each group home also has designated time with the horses each weekday morning. Then, the afternoons feature free time and the opportunity to go to the pool.

The girls enjoyed participating in the spring celebration and the opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments.



Marsh Matters

Marsh Hall currently has an opening for one boy. The boys have been enjoying summer so far. Some of the boys have spent extra time shooting baskets or fishing at the pond.

In addition to credit recovery and library, summer school also offers technology time which the boys enjoy. Also on the summer schedule is 4-H and many of the boys at Marsh Hall have chosen to participate.

The flexible schedule during the summer offers time for extra field trips. Recently, Marsh Hall toured the Spangler Candy factory in Bryan, Ohio.



Vance Voice

Vance Hall currently has one opening with nine boys currently in the program. They have been busy adjusting to the summer schedule.

Several boys on campus are participating in the on-campus 4H club and have started their summer projects in anticipation of the Van Wert County Fair in August. Participants are able to choose projects that reflect their personal interests with hopes of showing and earning ribbons at the fair.

The boys have also been enjoying activities such as fishing, riding bikes and playing outside.

Thursday, Aug. 16

Faculty Work Day

Friday, Aug. 17

Faculty In-Service

Monday, Aug. 20

First Day for Students

Monday, Sept. 3

Labor Day (No School)

Friday, Sept. 28

Staff In-Service (Dismiss at 1:08 for students)

Friday, Oct. 26

Staff In-Service - No School

Saturday, Nov. 10

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wed. - Fri., Nov. 21-23

Thanksgiving Vacation

Friday, Dec. 7

Staff In-Service (Dismiss at 1:08 for students)

Mon. - Fri., Dec. 24 - Jan. 4

Christmas Vacation

Monday, Jan. 7

Classes Resume

Monday, Jan. 21

MLK Day - No School

Friday, Feb 15

Staff In-Service - (2 hr. delay for students)

Monday, Feb. 18

President's Day - No School

Mon. - Fri. March 11 - 15

Spring Break - No School

Saturday, April 13

Parent- Teacher Conferences

Thursday, April 18

Easter Break - No School

Friday, April 19

Good Friday - No School

Monday, April 22

Easter Break - No School

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day - No School

Wednesday, May 29

Last Day for Students

Thursday, May 30

Faculty Work Day

IDL Program Teaches Job Skills

The Independent Living Group on campus (for youth over age 15-and-a-half) has been busy concentrating on job skills. They have had two guest interviewers attend the group sessions to practice interviewing skills. Not only did they practice interviewing, but they also practiced preparation.

This included completing an application, dressing in appropriate interview attire and preparing resumes and references.

In addition to the many group activities facilitated, The Marsh is also proud to offer actual, hands-on job skills. At



different times throughout the year, and especially in the summer, there are on-campus jobs available to help prepare youth for off-campus, community employment. These jobs

are posted, hold interviews and offer paychecks to the part-time employees. They are held accountable and learn what it will be like when they apply, interview and work off-campus.

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

Address Service Requested



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

June ~ September 2018

- Summer school started at the end of May and is in session through July 6.
- The Business and Child and Family Services Offices on campus will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- Friday, July 13, representatives from The Marsh Foundation will participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual golf outing at the Mercer County Elks.
- First day of school - Monday, August 20. Faculty will have in-service and work days on the 16th and 17th.
- The Business and Child and Family Services offices, as well as the school, will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3 for the Labor Day holiday.
- School will dismiss early (1:08 p.m.) due to faculty in-service on Friday, Sept. 28.



For more information about any event, visit www.marshfoundation.org.