

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Fall / Winter 2015

We would like to take a moment to express how thankful we are for each and everyone of you who have supported our efforts throughout the years. With the Christmas Season approaching we want to wish you all the happiness and joy that the season brings and pray that it follows you into the new year.



In Full Pursuit of Her Dreams

Tasha is a 22 year old woman who lives with her family on a small farm in Tillamook. She has been involved with the Marie Mills Center working at the Tillamook Country Smoker two days a week since February 2014. She is learning valuable job skills that will benefit her ultimate path to competitive employment.

Tasha is a very active person in our community. She started volunteering at Tillamook Early

Learning Center (TELC) when she was in high school and continues to do so as she likes being around babies, helping them, and holding them. Tasha is also working on qualifying for a Congressional Award, with her mother's help. This is a Personal Achievement Award that includes exercise and volunteerism in the community. This project takes several years to complete and requires dedication by a participant, and Tasha certainly has a lot of that.



Tasha Webster



May We Help You?



Marie Mills Center has a willing and able work force. We provide janitorial services, subcontract labor, confidential record destruction, individual job placements; the list goes on and on. If you have a need, give us a call!

We will discuss how Marie Mills Center can help you meet that need. **For further information contact Cindy Green at 503-842-2539 x 14 or for Janitorial Services, Jodi Bradley at 503-842-2539 x 15.**



The Year in Review

On July 1 we started a new year. It is always interesting to reflect back on the prior year's accomplishments and challenges. Last year was certainly exciting with many things happening. **We served 77 individuals in our vocational program, 16 individuals in our two group homes, and 24 individuals in our Supported Living program.** On an unduplicated basis, we served a total of 80 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As individuals age, more medical needs occur. Our residential programs took individuals to 432 medical appointments. **Today, those with disabilities live a longer and fulfilling life** because of the care they receive. Meeting those needs and supporting these individuals remains a top priority. In the last year we were



able to provide respite and crisis services, to those in our community totalling 171 days at our Madrona House group home.

By year's end, **we employed 49 staff** serving individuals in our vocational and residential programs. Staffing sustainability is crucial in services like ours and we have been very fortunate in this area with many staff who have been with us for a long time. The average tenure of our staff is about 10 years.

In the past year we have seen a **rapidly changing service system** and an evolution in how community-based services are provided. An example of that being the **increased emphasis on development of competitive employment opportunities** for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As it is every year, transportation remains a crucial element for us in meeting the needs of those we serve. **We traveled 97,348 miles in serving individuals in the past year.** We anticipate this increasing to over 100,000 miles during this year. Helping us last year was the acquisition of a new bus that was paid for through grants, as well as the acquisition of a vehicle for our Supported Living program. This vehicle was purchased through donations and a contribution from the Marie Mills Foundation.

Maintaining our infrastructure also kept us busy in the past year. Staffing is a crucial part of our infrastructure,

and with massive system changes that came from the state we saw as an increased workload for all of our staff. We began increasing staffing to meet this need.



We were also very busy last year **maintaining our facilities** through a number of physical improvements and repairs. We repaired siding rot and installed a sidewalk at our Madrona House group home. We addressed improvements

and repairs in the bathrooms at our Nestucca House group home, to name a few.

It was a very busy year as you see, and our current year promises to be just as busy. Goals for the coming year include continued enhancement of our staffing infrastructure, continuing to focus and build upon the development of competitive employment opportunities in our vocational program, continued development and enhancement of our residential program, and continuing to advance and embrace technology to make our jobs easier.

Fixing Things

Anyone who has ever owned a home knows that a lot of time, effort, and money goes into keeping it in good repair. Every summer Marie Mills Center has a planned maintenance program to address facility needs. This past summer **we replaced gutters, downspouts, and fascia wraps at our Nestucca House group home.** Often times when you dig into a project you find unanticipated problems and this was the case with this project. Upon removing fascia wraps, the contractor found rotten fascia which had to be replaced. This problem was addressed and new gutters, downspouts and fascia wraps were installed at that home. Another project this summer included **having all three facilities thoroughly pressure washed.** And, our largest project this summer was **removing old and degraded concrete in the parking lot of our vocational facility on Front Street.** Several panels of concrete had aged and degraded to the point that they had become a safety hazard to anyone walking on it. In all, three large concrete panels requiring about 27 yards of concrete were replaced.



Marie Mills Foundation Update

The *Marie Mills Foundation* continues to strive towards their goal of generating support and funding for the future of Marie Mills Center.

If you would like to find out more about the Marie Mills Foundation please **contact Ron Rush at 503-842-2539 x 12 or visit our web site at www.mariemillscenter.com**. Also by remembering the Foundation in your estate planning you can help assure the future of Marie Mills Center and its services to the intellectually and developmentally disabled in Tillamook County.

The Marie Mills Foundation and the Marie Mills Center would like to express a heartfelt thank you to those who are helping them to continue to move forward in meeting their goals: *Cindy & Jeff Green in memory of Frank Fisher & Mary Fry, Debbie Kelly, Tillamook Chiropractic Clinic, Tillamook County United Way, Ron & Muriel Beeler, Barb Burdick in memory of James Burdick, Cecilia Dwigans, Ruth & Rudy Fenk, Max & Elizabeth Hurliman, Brent & Laurie Jacobsen, Pearl Kiser, Justin & Darby Lasley, Norm & Ruth Lehman in honor of Max Lehman, William Mah, Eddie & Judy Murray in memory of Joe, Ethel & Ronny Murray, Ed & Wilma Myers, Suzanne & Bob Stewart, The Samuel S Johnson Foundation, Tillamook Chiropractic Clinic, Brenda Wallace & Mark Wittwer in memory of David*

Coon, John Wassmer, Vic Affolter, Charles Benschheid in memory of Florence Benschheid, Evelyn Milner, F.E. Sue Niemi, Walt & Marilyn Rigerink, Rockaway Lions Club, Bill & Gail Sargent, Pat & Pearl Ireton, Loren Parks, Tillamook County United Way, Tillamook Pharmacy, Farmer's/Fitzsimonds Insurance, John Wassmer, Bryan Gibson, Lisa Phipps, Albright & Kittel, Linda & Larry Beyer, Patricia Wirfs, John Tuthill & Associates, Robert Mann, Loretta McFarland in memory of Wayne & Randy McFarland, Jean Bailey, Christopher Opdahl, Tom & Betty Waud, Sharon Lighthill in honor of Mollie Nuppenau, Brian & Sheryl Seasholm, Mary Walker in memory of Jill Shelly, Jack Street in memory of Bud Gienger, Joan Trusty, Sarah Sole, Steve Darling in honor of Mollie Nuppenau, Phyllis & Larry Holmes, Vista House Vacation Rentals, Tillamook Eagles, Tom & Carol Thompson, Kerma Lamkin, Lee Long - Classic Dentistry in memory of Joelle Mohr, Bonita & David Bizeau, Gladys Jacobsen in memory of Frank Fisher & Alex Hauser.

In Memory of Alex Hauser: Linda & Harry Backeberg, Janice & Ed Hays, Mary Overby, Gloria Slusser, Pam Mendenhall, Owen & Ann Nicholson, Earl & Mary Rogeness, Robert & Suzanne Stewart

~Thank You All For Your Kindness~

Getting The Word Out About MMCI

We have been very active of late about getting the word out to our community about Marie Mills Center, the services we offer, and the changes we have been undergoing. Community outreach is extremely important to an agency like ours. Some of the things we have done



lately include **starting a Facebook page** to better inform individuals and reach out to them on a real-time basis. Check us out and "like us" on our Facebook page. Another thing we recently did was **create a new website**. Upon reviewing our old website it was obvious it was tired, outdated and in need of change. Our new website is modern, interactive, and better describes the Marie Mills Center of today and what we do.

Additionally, our new website has a section in it to communicate our upcoming events and post position openings

with easy access to our employment application. Our new website has our video about Marie Mills Center and a contact option so individuals can email us. Check us out at www.mariemillscenter.com. Additionally, we've **updated all program and agency brochures** describing the Marie Mills Center of today.

A project we will be entering into this winter is having a **professionally produced video promoting competitive employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities**. Our hope is that this video will serve as a good marketing tool with local employers encouraging the hiring of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





Summer Time Fun Picnic



On August 22nd we all gathered at Kilchis Park to enjoy the sunshine and each other's company and celebrating the conclusion of our busy summer season.

While some came to enjoy the hamburgers and hotdogs, others come ready to try their hand at winning one of our many games. Again **we would like to express our appreciation to the Widmer family for their support with the BBQ and grilling!**

Open House & Halloween Party

MMCI celebrated its 45th year at this year's Open House on October 23rd. As in years past we also took the opportunity to recognize longtime staff members for years of service: **Rose Godwin (not pictured) for 10 yrs., Hallie McCormick for 10 yrs., Ellie Robertson for 15 yrs., Mike Jepson for 15 yrs., Genine McDonough for 15 yrs., Richard Biggs for 20 yrs., Jodi Bradley for 25 yrs. and Ron Rush for 35 yrs.** Without employees that are dedicated to serving those with disabilities our agency would not be what it is today --- Again, thank you all for your dedication!

The next day, many volunteers created a fun filled **Halloween Party and Dance** for our 29th year. With the admission cost of 2 cans of food for the food bank this year we were able to donate 310 pounds of food bring our total for the last 10 years up to around 2000 pounds.



New Board Members

We would like to take a moment to thank our newest Board Members, **Connie Green & Valerie Hagan** for joining us and helping lead Marie Mills Center into the future. We would also like to thank our current and past Board Members for all the years of their dedication,

working towards a bright and secure future for individuals with developmental disabilities in Tillamook County. Because together, "We Build Abilities"



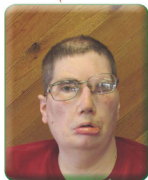


Hanging 10 in Hawaii

Deanna Walker and her mom **Denice** decided to do a family vacation this year and since they had never done anything like this before they decided to go all out. They hopped on a plane, first time for both of them, and flew to **Hawaii** where they hung out in the bright blue water and watched the dolphins swim! We were happy they were able to do this!



Employees of the Month



June 2015
Jim Taksdal



August 2015
Tasha Webster



September 2015
Jody Cecil



October 2015
Teresa Palmer

Tillamook County United Way

Marie Mills Center encourages support of the Annual
Tillamook County United Way Drive in October, November & December

The Tillamook County United Way's Vision for a Better Community includes:

- Caring for Kids
- Strengthening Families
- Assisting People in Crisis
- Promoting Self-Sufficiency
- Promoting Health and Wellness

On average, **the United Way touches 16,000 lives in Tillamook County.** Giving through the United Way allows your donation to become a helping hand to someone right here in our community!

Visit the Tillamook County United Way at www.tillamookcountyunitedway.org

Fun Stuff on Vacations



Wish List

* Funding for a whole house Generator System for the Nestucca House Group Home!



Mark Your Calendar

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Christmas Dinner  
December 11th  
12:00 - 1:30 PM  
Swiss Hall

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Staff Christmas Party
December 12th
6:00 - 9:00 PM
Swiss Hall



Visit Marie Mills Center

We invite you to tour Marie Mills Center. You will observe individuals at work and see our programs in action. Call Ron Rush at (503)842-2539 ext. 12 or visit us on the web at www.mariemillscenter.com

Executive Director
Ron Rush

Residential Director
Bob Ouzounian

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