

Marie Mills Center News

Fall 2008

Tillamook, Oregon

Nearly 40 Years of Local History Serving the Disabled

Marie Mills Center is very proud of its history of serving individuals with developmental disabilities in Tillamook County.



LeiLani—Learning “Living Skills” while living in original group home in the late 1970s.

Marie Mills Center started in 1969 through a grass roots effort by concerned individuals and parents of disabled individuals desiring a future for their children.

Marie Mills Center started with a vocational program initially serving 9 individuals with disabilities and was manned by parents and volunteers. We are very grateful for these individuals pioneering efforts in 1969. Their initial efforts paved the way for today’s services for those with disabilities in Tillamook County.



Donald, Daisy, & Kenny at original group home in 1980.

The Marie Mills Center of today serves 73 individuals with disabilities.

Marie Mills Center’s first facility in 1969 was a former WWII mess hall, located on the Port of Tillamook Bay. While at this facility, Marie Mills Center operated a wood shop that

manufactured pallets, grade stakes and sold mill ends for firewood. Not satisfied with only having a vocational program, Tillamook Association for Retarded Citizens and other concerned individuals held an auction to



James—Making kindling bundles at original vocational facility in 1993.



Packaging “Cookies” in the early '90s

raise funds for the purchase of our County’s first group home for developmentally disabled adults in Tillamook County in 1977, also located on the Port of Tillamook Bay. Shortly thereafter Marie Mills Center started an independent living program for individuals moving into their own homes and apartments. In 1983 Marie Mills Center opened a second group home located in the city

of Tillamook. **In the mid 1990s recognizing that current facilities were old, not suitable, or accessible to our community an effort**



Cardboard Recycling Crew at original vocational facility in 1991.

Continued on next page...

Nearly 40 Years ... continued

began to replace these facilities.

Through grants from foundations and much local support Marie Mills



TARC Auction in mid '90s

Center was able to build a new primary residential facility located within the City of Tillamook which was moved into in January 2001. Two years prior to this, through a capital campaign and generous

local support the Marie Mills Center Vocational Program exited its long time



Picnic at Kilchis Park in mid '80s

home on the Port of Tillamook Bay to occupy its present facility located on Front Street in downtown Tillamook. **In a period of four years Marie Mills Center facilities were all upgraded and located within the City of Tillamook.**

Because of these capital projects and local support making them possible we looked toward the future and established the Marie

Mills Foundation in 2002 with its goal being to promote the efforts of Marie Mills Center programs, increase local awareness of disabilities and to generate financial support to meet needs of Marie Mills Center and those it serves.

When reflecting on the past many years, much has happened because of the efforts of that initial grass roots effort in 1969 that cared enough to invest their time developing services for those with developmental disabilities.



Assembly work at original vocational facility in late 1970s.

Marie Mills Foundation News

The Marie Mills Foundation remains active in its efforts to support the Marie Mills Center and those with disabilities that it serves. The Foundation welcomes **Tammy King** onto its Board.

Additionally the Foundation would like to thank the following individuals who made contributions in the past several months:

Nehalem Bay United Methodist Women, Pacific Source, Morris & Nancy Cheney, John & Carol Elms, TARC, David Bizeau, Rip's Mixer Shop, Roy & Claire Peterson, John & Alison Moore, Gladys Jacobsen, Pat Wirfs, Lu Ann Darling, Laurie & Bob Lamb, Ed & Wilma Myers, Chuck & Sue Hurliman, Harry & Linda Backeberg, Robert & Suzanne Stewart, Steven Darling

Again, Thank You!

Client Spotlight

Heike Huber, a long time resident of Tillamook, entered into a Marie Mills Center group home in 1989. It was quickly realized that with a little training, Heike could soon **learn the necessary skills needed to live on her own.**

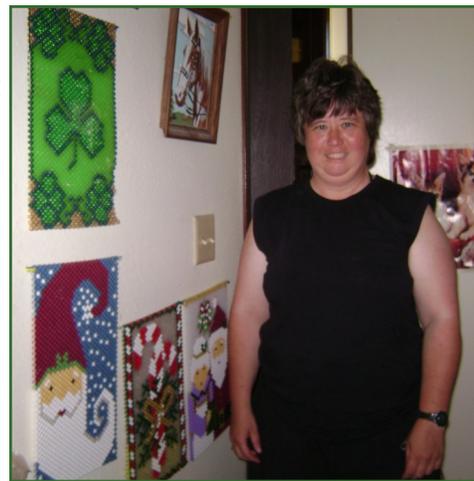
After receiving this training, Heike soon moved into her own apartment receiving help and support from the Marie Mills independent living program.

For the past 18 years Heike has been **living on her own** with support from **Barb McDonald**, her Marie Mills Center independent

living support worker helping her manage her medical, money, and safety needs. Heike is a very independent person who likes taking care of herself. Working at **Safe-way**, helping customers to their cars with their groceries, makes Heike happy.

At home, five cats keep Heike company while she enjoys making “bead banners” that she sells at craft fairs, doing paint by number kits, and crossword puzzles.

Keep up the good work Heike, we are all proud of your success!



Heike Huber with her “Bead Banners”

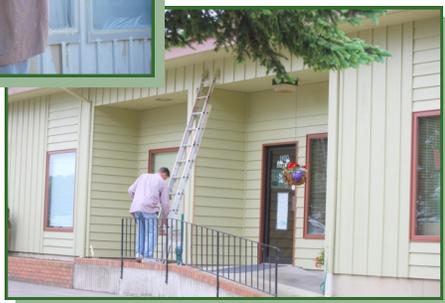
Sprucing Up after Repairing Storm Damage

After a damaging and severe windstorm in our county this past winter our **Front Street Building** was in need of some major structural repair. Its west exterior wall was shifted by the wind causing some wall supports to split. While this repair was being complete it was also necessary to replace all of the storm damaged windows on that end of the building.

Just finishing meeting these unplanned storm repairs we realized that summer would soon be on its way



and that our planned facility maintenance needs would need to be addressed. Severely



Madrona House group home receiving fresh paint and having a roof installed over its back patio.

needing a paint job, our Front Street Facility was painted with a splash of green and a dab of brown, followed by our



An Opportunity to Learn Work Skills

TARC's Kit & Caboodle Thrift Store in Tillamook has been in operation since the 1970s and is fully manned by volunteers. When it came to our attention that "The Kit" was in need of help



Learning "The Kits" Processes

on Thursday afternoons, we came up with a plan that would provide the help the Kit needed as well as create a job training opportunity for those we serve.

Richard Biggs, MMCI's Employment Specialist and client trainees from the Marie Mills Center's vocational program are currently being trained

on operation of the store so that they can cover this open shift. This opportunity will provide developmentally disabled workers **Integration** through helping customers, **Independence** through the work skills acquired, and **Productivity** through the work being done for "The Kit"; all of these being the goals of the Marie Mills Center Vocational Program.

This opportunity benefits many—those learning job skills, and sales from the Kit & Caboodle allow TARC to provide financial and other assistance to developmentally disabled individuals and their families in our community.



Dianne Organizing the Clothing Racks

Tillamook County United Way Drive

Marie Mills Center encourages support of the Annual Tillamook County United Way Drive in October.

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

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

On average, 16,000 lives are touched in Tillamook County by United Way dollars every year. 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

Give the United Way. Thanks to YOU, it works for all of us!

Wedded Bliss

On August 16, 2008 **Debbie Reynolds**, a long time employee of Marie Mills Center’s residential program married **Fredrick Flood** of Juneau, Alaska. The two now reside in Tillamook along with Fredrick Flood Jr., the groom’s son.

The wedding was a small intimate outdoor affair at the home of the bride’s brother.

Congratulations & Best Wishes To You All!



Employees of the Month



Shauna H.—April



Ken R.— May



Scott O. — June



Sandy H.— July

Marie Mills Center, Inc.
1800 Front Street
Tillamook, OR 97141
(503)842-2539
Fax (503)842-8028

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Up Coming Events

Benefit Dance
October 4th—Elk's Lodge



MMCI & MMF
Open House
October 24th 5:00—7:00



Halloween Party & Dance
Swiss Hall
October 25th 6:00—9:00



MMCI Christmas
Party
Swiss Hall
December 12th Noon

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

Assistant Director
Bob Ouzounian

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