

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Fall 2014

Working for the Pelican Brewing Company

Gary Mah, long time participant of Marie Mills Center programs recently started a **new job working at the Pelican Brewing Company in Tillamook**. At his job Gary works on the bottling line as well as helping out in a number of areas. Gary is a person of few words but by the smile on his face and the level of his excitement, one knows that he is very happy with his new job. Gary previously worked on our crews at the



Gary Mah

Tillamook Country Smoker so working in the community is nothing new to him. Wherever Gary works he is considered a valued employee by those who work with him. With a very good worth ethic and the fact that he strives to do the very best possible job he is a great asset to any team.



Much thanks to the Pelican Brewing Company for giving Gary this opportunity.

Grants Provide Transportation

Marie Mills Center was recently the recipient of a **PUD Community Support Grant of \$6,000** to help in the purchase of a new bus. The total cost of this bus is nearly \$60,000 with the balance being covered by a grant from the Public Transit Division. **Much thanks to the PUD and the Public Transit Division for their assistance with this project.**



May We Help You?

Marie Mills Center has a willing and able work force. Give us a chance! 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 and we can discuss how Marie Mills Center could 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

Since 1969 we have served individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities through meaningful life experiences that are integrated within the community, and opportunity filled. Last year, **our residential program served 38 individuals** through our Madrona House & Nestucca House group homes, and our Supported Living program. **Our vocational program served 69 individuals** providing opportunities such as job training, supported employment services, and Alternatives to Employment services for individuals who no longer desire to work due to age and other factors.



As those in our programs age, they become increasingly medically involved. Because of this, it is easy to understand the **need to prioritize medical care for those served**. In our program, last

year alone, **we took individuals to 343 doctor visits**.

Staff members are **our most valuable asset**. **The list of what our caring staff does for those served is very lengthy, often going beyond the call of duty or a job description**. We are extremely fortunate to have **a stable staffing compliment that is experienced in serving those with special needs**. As an example, the average tenure in our agency is 11 years. Our management team of 5 individuals has a combined 125 years of tenure with Marie Mills Center. This is not a common occurrence in our field. The stability, tenure, and experience within our agency directly contributes to quality services provided to those we serve.

As an agency, our biggest strength is that we continue to have no long term debt. We own all of our facilities. This allows us to focus our resources on client services. The “great recession” impacted everyone greatly, in particular non-profit social service agencies. Since that time, **we had operated with a 6% funding reduction from the State of Oregon** as well as not having funding provided for staff COLAs. Within the past year **we saw the restoration of the 6% funding cut** from the State allowing us to provide staff wage increases which was most welcomed.

Integrating individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities into the community for jobs and life experiences are the guiding principles for programs like

ours. For this to happen, transportation resources are key. **The scope of transportation services provided by MMCI is large, with 10 vehicles we travel nearly 100,000 miles annually**.

To keep our facilities in shape, **we have a very active maintenance program** spending nearly \$50,000 annually. Highlights from the year include building a ramp at our Nestucca House Group Home.



We replaced many of the cedar siding panels at our Front Street facility that were worn & cracked, and also finished interior painting. We also replaced a section of siding on our Madrona House Group Home.

New priorities at the State level (see “A Changing Service System in Oregon” on page 3) virtually assure that every individual with an intellectual or developmental disability in Oregon receives some form of service. Because of this we have seen many more requests for services from families & individuals who had not previously been served. Also changing priorities at the State level stress development of employment for those with disabilities. We have been focusing on enhancing our responsiveness to all requests as well as our overall flexibility in providing traditional and non traditional services to meet these priorities.

During 2013/2014 we updated all of our agency computers to Windows 7 and we also implemented a telephone time keeping system. It was a busy year.

Priorities for 2014/2015

Adapting to new priorities will be our major focus. It is important for us to broaden outreach to community employers to generate employment opportunities for those with disabilities. As well as to prepare ourselves to serve more referrals for various services as **we anticipate continued increases** for such. **Both areas of change indicated above encompass non traditional approaches that will be required of programs like ours. This will be our top priority in 2014/2015.**

Marie Mills Foundation Update

The Foundation continues to make strides 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 organizations at www.mariemillscenter.com**. Also, in remembering the Foundation in your estate planning, you can help to assure the future of Marie Mills Center and its services for 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 continue to the move forward in meeting their goals:

Paul & Susan Adcock, Vic Affolter in Memory of Helen Affolter, Albright & Kittell in Memory of Bud Gienger, Linda & Harry Backeberg, Kim & Dave Baertlein in Memory of Joelle Mohr, Helen Benschmidt in Memory of Judy Strejc, Coast Printing & Station-

ary, Ruth & Rudy Fenk, Jim Frank, Cindy & Jeff Green in Memory of Robert Rasmussen, Janice & Ed Haye in Memory of Richard "Red" Rivers, Gladys Jacobsen in Memory of David Gillis, Debbie Kelly, Patricia Keser, John & Kerma Lamkin, William Mah, Gary Malsbury, Bob & Mary Mann in Honor of Mollie Nuppenau, Linda Kay & Tim Marshall in Memory of Joelle Mohr, Ann Morlan in Memory of Eric "Rick" Nelson, Eddie & Judy Murray, Ed & Wilma Myers, Jim & Carol Nelson in Memory of Bud Gienger & Dee Wester, Francis "Sue" Niemi, Robert Olsen, Walt & Marilyn Riggerink, Brian Seaholm, Bonita Smulski-Bizeau, Nicholas & Myrna Steiner in Memory of Joelle Mohr, Tillamook Chiropractic Clinic, Tillamook Duplicate Bridge Club, Tillamook High School Charity Drive, Tom & Betty Waud, Sally & Rory Willis in Honor of Helen Benschmidt, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs

~Thank You All For Your Kindness~

A Changing Service System In Oregon

Many changes were recently ushered in by the State of Oregon for individuals receiving services from programs like ours. These include the **Employment First Initiative which prioritizes employment opportunities for individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities**. Many system changes have been implemented to make this a reality in programs like ours. While we are no stranger to placing individuals into community based employment opportunities, with this initiative, we and others like us will **increase our emphasis on finding community based and integrated jobs for the individuals we serve**. Key tenants to this initiative are the belief that everyone can work with supports, and employment opportunities should be the first choice for all individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities. We look forward to continuing and enhancing our efforts at placing individuals into community based employment opportunities.

Also the State has initiated another initiative called Community First Choice Option (The K Plan). This provides the State with the authority to **expand person centered and community based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities**. This plan provides a 6% increase in Federal matching funds to

the State to go towards its implementation. The Community First Choice Option will allow programs in Oregon to continue breaking down barriers to keeping people in

their own homes. Some of the new services that will be funded by this include helping individuals maintain a safe and clean living environment and expanded use of technologies to facilitate independent living. It will also allow programs like ours to **develop new community based care options that meet the needs of these individuals**. In the

past, to receive residential services individuals often needed to be in a crisis in order to get comprehensive services from a program like ours. The Community First Option allows programs to provide more supports to individuals without going through the crisis process as well as having services uniquely tailored to their needs.

These two initiatives represent a major increase in service levels and opportunities for those with special needs in our state and is a major evolutionary step in Oregon's history of integrating individuals within their communities.



A Very Busy Summer



It has been a very busy summer for all, in particular our vocational program with our **Cape Lookout Park contract** being implemented as well as the normal increases in work opportunities. Additionally this summer we were awarded the contract for cleaning the **Forest Interpretive Center**, which will be a major contract that provides more steady work opportunities for those we serve. Adding to our busy summer is the fact that individuals in our vocational program as well as staff take summer vacations making it a very exciting time for manning various crews. All in all, we have done well in meeting the needs out there during this very busy time. Also this summer, we **purchased a riding lawn mower** for our lawn maintenance crew to use in maintaining our contracts which will enhance our abilities.

Nestucca House Generator Project

Marie Mills Center recently received a grant for **\$5,000 from the Samuel S Johnson Foundation** to help in the purchase of a whole house generator for our Nestucca House Group Home. As you may recall, several years ago we engaged in a similar campaign to have such

a generator installed at our Madrona House Group Home. The cost of the new generator will be \$32,000. With this grant in hand we are half way to our goal of funding with confidence that we will succeed in raising the remaining amount by the end of this year.

Summer Time Fun Picnic

This year, as in others, our annual picnic was well attended and enjoyed by all. On August 16th under a beautiful sunny sky, many smiling faces enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs along with potato and macaroni salads, chips and cookies.

Again we would like to give a **special thanks to the Widmer Brothers, Gene and George along with George's wife Joanne for their grilling expertise and for use of the BBQ!**

After everyone filled their bellies games were played. We had whip cream pie eating contests, bean bag toss, and attempts at shooting & catching water from squirt tubes to buckets!



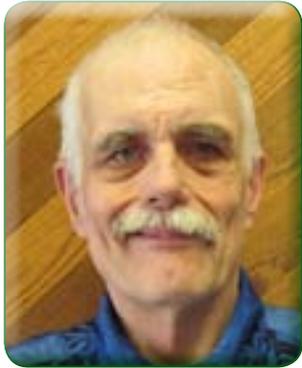


Forever In Our Hearts

Joelle Mohr was involved with the Marie Mills Center since 2001. In the early years she read books to others, she enjoyed doing puzzles, and giving greeting cards. Joelle had a strong faith in God and the goodness of people. Her favorite job at Marie Mills Center was helping with the big mailings that we do a few times a year (such as this newsletter). We miss her smiling face and will always remember her caring nature.



Employees of the Month



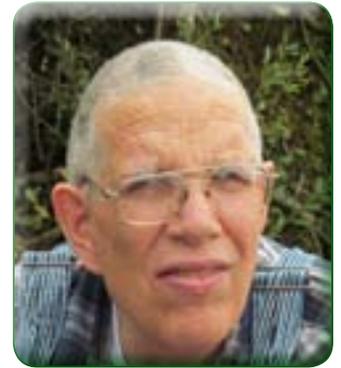
May 2014
Terry Crump



June 2014
Jack Buchanan



July 2014
Barry Moffett



August 2014
Frank Fisher



Tillamook County United Way

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

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



Wish List

* Economic Vehicle
for Supported Living
Program



Mark Your Calendar

Open House
October 24th
5:00 - 7:00 PM
1800 Front Street

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28th Annual  
Halloween Party & Dance  
October 25th  
6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Swiss Hall

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

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Staff Christmas Party  
December 15th  
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](http://www.mariemillscenter.com)

**Executive Director**  
Ron Rush

**Residential Director**  
Bob Ouzounian

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