

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Spring 2010

Fall Happenings - 40 Year Anniversary

On October 23rd, Marie Mills Center and the Marie Mills Foundation held their annual Open House in conjunction with the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce Business

after Hours. This event was well attended and celebrated 40 Years of existence for our agency as well as recognizing long time employees of Marie Mills Center; **Bob Ouzounian for 25 years**

of employment and Therese Jenck for her 10 years. Programs like ours rely heavily on **dedicated employees like Bob and Therese** and we feel fortunate that our employees are committed to those with disabilities through their long tenure with our agency. **Again, thank you both!** We also honored the **Tillamook**



Ron Rush, Exec. Dir. with Open House Honorees: Bob Ouzounian, and Tina Meyers OR Dept. of Forestry with Jodi Bradley

Branch of the Oregon Department of Forestry for their long time dedication to Marie Mills Center through janitorial contract services.

Not to be outdone, the following night, October 24th, Marie Mills Center held its **23rd Annual Halloween Party** with support from TARC



and the **Developmental Disability Council Recreation Committee.** Nearly 300 individuals attended this year bringing in **250 lbs. of canned food to be donated to the Tillamook Food Bank.** Over the years we have donated a total of **3,800 lbs. of foods to help those in need in our community.**

Many thanks go to all of the Marie Mills Center employees and other volunteers who helped make this party a success. Thank you **TARC** and the **DD Council** for your kind donations to help make this event a huge success!



Marie Mills Center “Business of the Year”

The **Tillamook Chamber of Commerce**, on January 16th at its annual banquet, presented **Marie Mills Center** with its “**Business of the Year**” award “**for dedicated service and generous contributions to the citizens of Tillamook County**”. We were proud and honored to have received this recognition. In receiving this honor, we realize that we cannot meet our mission and be what we are without the support of our community, our business community, our valued staff and board, and individual supporters within our community such as you.

Thank You All!

Marie Mills Foundation

The efforts of the **Marie Mills Foundation** are essential at ensuring the future of Marie Mills Center's services for those with developmental disabilities. This is underscored when one considers the challenges that have been placed on programs such as ours due to the current economy. There are a number of ways to remember the Marie Mills Foundation in your estate planning and supporting the future of Marie Mills Center. For further information please contact Ron Rush at 503-842-2539 x 12.

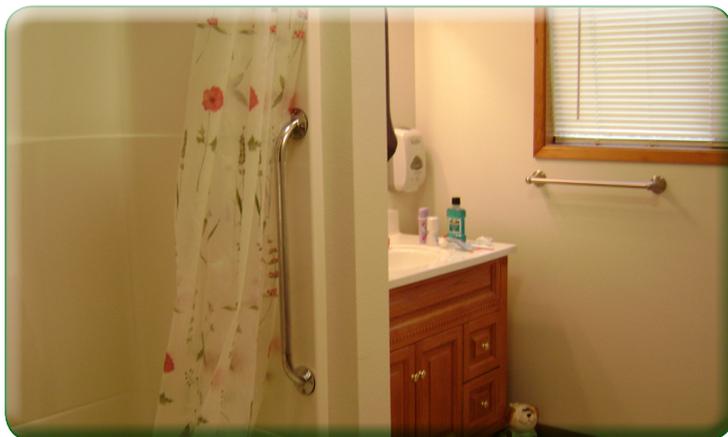
The Marie Mills Foundation would like to thank the following for their recent contributions towards our 2009 Annual Appeal: **Hines Properties, Carol Thompson, Hank & Judy Gollon, Steve Darling in Honor of Mollie Nuppenau, Cecilia Dwigans, Larry Kiser, Pat Keser, Linda & Harry Backeberg, Laurie & Brent Jacobsen, Burden's Muffler and Towing in Memory of Clare Edner, James Ehrlich, James Frank, Henry**

Beard in Memory of Margaret Beard, Walt & Marilyn Rigerink, Nancy & Richard Jones, Thomas Lindseth in Honor of Clark Wong, Michael & Robin White, Mrs. Edward Haye, Tillamook Pharmacy, Patricia Rinehart, Evelyn Milner in Honor of Mollie Nuppenau, Bob & Laurie Lamb, Richard Rivers, Helen Benschmidt in Memory of Vivian Stangle, Charles & Mary Huber, Tom & Betty Waud, Bud & Helen Gienger, Rockaway Lions Club, Chuck & Sue Hurliman, Dick & Leanne Spence, George & Myra Wilson, Reinhold Heckel, Robery & Suzanne Stewart, Daryl & Jill Carter, Ron & Muriel Beeler, John & Carol Steele Trust, Eddie & Judy Murray in Memory of Joe, Ethyl & Ronnie, Gloria Slusser, Linda Kay & Tim Marshall in Memory of Kathleen Huffaker, Nehalem Bay Methodist Men, and Pacific Source.

Again, Thank You All!

Bath and Office Remodel

As part of our facility maintenance program this past fall, much needed **remodeling occurred at our Nestucca House** group home involving the **staff office, hallway access to bedrooms, and a bathroom overhaul**. The staff office served as a passage way for residents residing in the north end of the home making it difficult to ensure confidentiality or privacy when staff needed to do their work. To solve this issue an unused closet located next to the front door was removed creating a larger and separate access to that hallway with the former passage way in the office being eliminated. Additionally, another entry way into that office was created with a Dutch door. This new configuration also created better air circu-



lation for the bedrooms, and easier access to bedrooms and bathrooms located on that side of the home. Also as part of this remodel, one of the bathrooms on that end of the home was completely "guttled" and refinished with new fixtures, flooring, and bath/shower unit. This makes two of the three bathrooms in the home having been remodeled in the past two years. In the coming year we will do a total remodel of the last of that home's bathrooms. Both residents and staff are very pleased with the changes that have taken place in their home.

The Economy and Marie Mills Center - Holding Our Own During Challenging Times

We all know that the economy has impacted every individual and business, presenting numerous challenges. In our case, within our vocational work program, we have seen the loss and reduction of a number of contracts due to the economic impacts upon businesses that we have relationships with. In spite of it all, we continue to “hold our own” and provide work opportunities for those in our programs during times that are difficult. We have focused upon gaining new work contracts for those in our vocational program to replace what was lost or reduced. In fact, over the past several months we have picked up **4 new contracts for our Janitorial Services Program. These include The Garibaldi City Hall, CARE, NWR Senior and Disabled Services, and the Tillamook Adventist School. We thank them for the opportunity to serve their needs while providing work opportunities for those in our program!**

In January, Marie Mills Center “got hit” with a **2% state funding reduction** to our vocational program. This reduction impacted all programs in Oregon similar to ours. In fact, we were fortunate as other programs like

ours in the state were impacted much more severely. Not surprising, this reduction was due to State Budget shortfalls caused by the economy. While not a devastating reduction, it did impact our program. In order to avoid service reductions to those we serve, like many, we have had to be more **conservative with spending and do some re-configuring of some services** to make up for this loss. One change that we were forced to make was the closure of our recently opened operations based in South County. In our last newsletter we reported that we opened up a small satellite location in Pacific City for vocational services. We were very excited about this and the possibilities it would bring for Marie Mills Center and those with disabilities in the South County area. Unfortunately due to these reductions it was necessary to close that service site and relocate these individuals services to our vocational facility on Front Street in Tillamook. While changes that are forced upon us are never easy, we are pleased with the outcome and the positive opportunities we are able to provide for these individuals and their family.

Christmas Gift Fund Raising

In late 2009, Marie Mills Center employees and other volunteers worked diligently to raise money to purchase Christmas gifts for those involved with the Marie Mills Center. With the balance carried over from the prior year’s fund raising, **a \$500 donation from the “Catholic Daughters” of Sacred Heart Parish**, and funds

raised from candle sales and a bazaar in the amount of \$1,020, we were able to again purchase Christmas gifts for those in our program. “Santa” handed out many gifts at our annual Christmas dinner that was held on December 11th at the Swiss Hall.



This years efforts are set to begin with a **Spaghetti Cook Off and a dance with the “Oyster Shooters” on May 15th at the Fairview Grange**. Also planned are a Quilt Raffle and Christmas Bazaar. If you would like to help us with our efforts, please contact Cindy Green or Kim Armitage at 503-842-2539.

Emergency Preparedness and Generator Project

Anyone who has read previous newsletters from Marie Mills Center knows that we often face weather related emergencies such as flooding and severe wind storms. In fact, **Tillamook County holds the dubious title of being the natural disaster capital of Oregon.** This past fall Marie Mills Center management staff reviewed its **Emergency Preparedness Plan** and updated it to assure that in emergency situations we were prepared to take all steps necessary to assure the safety of those we serve. Many thanks go to the staff that helped with this review and resulting update of our plan.

As mentioned in previous newsletters we have been working hard to raise the funding needed for our **Madrona House Generator Project.** Our goal was to raise the necessary funding to have a **48 Kilowatt whole house generator installed at our Madrona House Group Home** that would power most functions of this facility in the event of a power outage. We are most excited and happy to report that the **final funding piece to this project has been realized through a grant of \$8,000 provided by the Collins Foundation.** When this project and its fund raising initially started, it was thought that we would only need \$23,000 to complete the project. However, upon further review and final bids being submitted from contractors, **it became apparent that this project would cost \$30,000.** In addition to being better able to meet emergency needs for those in our programs, with this capacity our Madrona House Group Home will also

be able to provide emergency shelter for others with disabilities in our community, who may not be receiving services from our program. Activities for the installation of the generator were started in early March and were completed in April. **Much thanks to everyone who contributed to this project!**



Employees of the Month



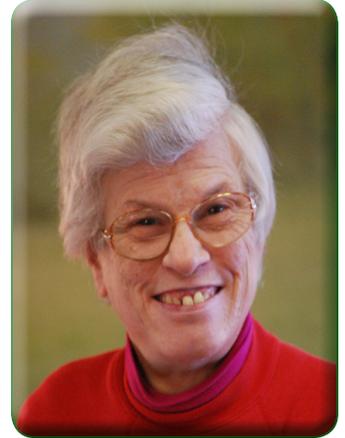
August 2009
Candy Taylor



September 2009
Barry Moffett



October 2009
Steve Everett



November 2009
Dianne Jacob



December 2009
Mike Otto



January 2010
Gregg Carter



February 2010
Jami Ramsey

In Memory



Recently we have had to say goodbye to someone who had dedicated many years to the service of those with developmental disabilities. **Judy Lewis** was employed at Marie Mills Center for over 20 years before retiring in January 2008. Judy passed away in November 2009 and will be missed by all.

More recently the passing of **Dale Tinknell** was felt by all on March 13th. Memorial services were held at the Methodist Church on March 27th for those in our program to honor Dale's life and his time spent with us in Tillamook.



Vacationing Our Way



Up Coming Events

Spaghetti Cook Off
and "Oyster Shooters"
Dance
May 15th
Fairview Grange

Cruise In - May 21st
Down Town Tillamook
&
Law Enforcement Torch Run
Show and Shine Car Show
Tillamook Cheese Factory
May 22nd
(Proceeds Benefitting
Special Olympics)

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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