

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Spring 2012

Crystal - Helping Others to Help Others

In 2009, **Crystal Tupacz** became part of Marie Mills Center's vocational program. Like many others she is very active, balancing work with community volunteer activities. She volunteers at **Habitat for Humanity recycling cans and bottles** – Since July of 2010 she has processed over **\$4,300 worth of**



Crystal Tupacz at Habitat Office

cans and bottles. The money that she helps them collect is used to purchase flooring and other home building supplies and materials to build the homes that Habitat provides for low income families in our area. According to **Kathleen Tyler, Executive Director of Tillamook Habitat for Humanity**, "Crystal's efforts have been very helpful to them." Volunteers are the backbone of Habitat for Humanity and **Crystal is a valuable part**



Crystal Recycling Cans

of the team. By helping others to help others, Crystal is giving back to the community that she lives and works in. Other parts of Crystal's life include working on Confidential Record Destruction and Janitorial Services at Marie Mills Center, Inc. Last summer she worked at Cape Lookout State Park 3 days a week and is scheduled to do so again this summer. Crystal enjoys keeping busy.

We are proud of all of our program participants who choose to volunteer. Pictured top left (below) is **Dianne Jacobsen and Melanie Hamblen** with **Teressa Schwend** displaying their certificates they received for helping at the Kit and Caboodle thrift store (below that: Dianne at work). Pictured center is **Shirley Hiatt** who enjoys volunteering for the Wild Flower thrift shop. **Twinetta Frazer**, top right, reading to the kids at the Tillamook Bay Child Care Center.

And most recently our program participants started making hats that were given to the CARE program. They also make little hats for babies born at the Tillamook County General Hospital.

Great Job Everyone!



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.**

Fall and Winter Activities



Gwen Roemisch-Walker
with Ron Rush

Again this was a busy time for us. On October 28th we held our Annual Open House. In spite of the stormy weather that day the event was well attended. During this year's event we recognized the **longtime president of Tillamook Association for Retarded Citizens (now called The Arc of Tillamook County), Gwen Roemisch-Walker**, who recently retired as the Board Chairperson after serving 40 years in that capacity. We also recognized the **Kit and Caboodle Thrift Store who helps to meet the needs of people with disabilities in our community**. The "Kit" is operated by the Arc of Tillamook County, and is manned by volunteers. Sales Proceeds from the "Kit" go to meeting a variety of needs for individuals with disabilities. **Carol Pippenger was honored after her retirement for her 24 years of service to**



Award Recipients and Honored Employees

Marie Mills Center. Also recognized for their longevity and continued service to Marie Mills Center were **Andy White for 10 yrs., Jenny Byrne for 15 yrs., Kim Armitage for 20 yrs., Cindy Green for 25 yrs.** Without the dedication and commitment from individuals such as these, our agency would not be what it is today.

The following night our **25th Annual Halloween Party and Dance** was held at the



Madrona House Residents as the
Gang from Oz and Waldo

Swiss Hall for those we serve as well as community members who join in our fun. As usual it was a smashing success enjoyed by all. **Between 250 and 300 individuals attended** this year's event with **351 pounds of food being donated for the local food bank**. Many thanks go out to all who donate their time to make this event a success.

On November 19th staff, community, and family members embarked upon the **5th annual holiday shopping day** for all those individuals served by Marie Mills

Center. The gifts acquired on this trip are possible through donations received from community members and fund raisers held throughout the year benefitting our

Christmas Gift Fund. This was a long yet enjoyable day for all. Even more enjoyable was the Christmas Dinner Party held at the

Swiss Hall where attendees enjoyed a holiday ham dinner and pumpkin pie, followed

by **Santa Clause** distributing gifts to all participants of Marie Mills Center programs.



Marie Mills Foundation Update

The Foundation remains active in generating support and funding for the future of Marie Mills Center. This past fall the Foundation conducted its **annual appeal raising a total of \$6,220**. 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 us at www.marie-millscenter.com. Also in remembrance of 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 Foundation wishes to thank the following individuals** who contributed to our efforts: **Capt. David & Mary DeCook, Bob & Laurie Lamb, Reinhold Heckel, Tom & Betty Waud, Rudy & Ruth Fenk, Walt & Marilyn Rigterink, Ron & Muriel Beeler, Orella Chad-**

wick, George & Myra Wilson, Paul & Susan Adcock, Patty Rinehart, Hank & Judy Gollon, Coast Printing, Jean Bailey, Lions Club of Rockaway, Harry & Linda Backeberg, Lisa Phipps, Gloria Slusser, William & Geraldine Berg, Michael Benschmidt, John & Carol Steele, Walt Newberg, Albright & Kittell, Charles & Sue Hurliman, Tillamook Veterinary Hospital, Tom & Carol Thompson, Karol & Dennis Wagner, Cecilia Dwigans, Robert Mann, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Haye, Dr. Roy & Claire Peterson, Marvin Re'voal, Patricia Keser, Bud & Helen Gienger, LuAnn Darling, James Frank, Sally Wallace, Linda & Larry Beyer, Gary Bohms, Aaron Dunn Ins., Ena Gayer, Anne Osborn Coopersmith, Robert & Suzanne Stewart, Anne Seeger Trust, Kathryn Cain, and Brian & Billie Hines

Rest Area on Hwy 101 South Saved

Tillamook County motorists very nearly lost usage of the South 101 rest area due to budget cuts. This rest area is located just south of South Prairie and was administered by the **Oregon Department of Transportation**. Because of budget shortfalls they had slated for closure this and other rest areas in Oregon. Action at the legislative level resulted in administration of this rest area being transferred to the **Oregon Travel Experience** on April 1, and remaining open. Marie Mills Center daytime janitorial crews have cleaned this site for over 20 years and are grateful that it will continue to do so through the Oregon Travel Experience.



Melanie Hamblen Helping State Senator Betsy Johnson at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Hwy 101 Rest Area

State Budget Update

As reported in past newsletters, programs like Marie Mills Center have been under constant threat of state funding reductions. Over the past several years we all have taken major cuts in funding for services provided to those with disabilities. **Good fortune recently occurred**

in the February special session of Oregon Legislature in which funding was made available to **prevent further planned funding cuts for programs like ours through the 2011/2013 Biennium**. These cuts were slated to occur in April, we feel very fortunate at this time.

3rd Annual Spaghetti Sauce Cook-Off

On April 14th we held our 3rd annual event at the Swiss Hall. Again this year our celebrity cooks and their secret weapons provided their specialty sauces for everyone to taste. **Mario Venti with Anna Venti-McCall, Tommy Boye with Commissioner Tim Josi, and last year's winner Gordon McCraw with Nelia Serapion of the Pacific Restaurant.** This year's event was largely

sponsored by **Gunnar at the Food Basket in Garibaldi, by TillamookCow.com and Lucy's Bakery.** All of the sauces were excellent with **this year's winner being Mario Venti and his sister Anna.** Thanks to our gracious sponsors we were able to put the **\$420.10** in proceeds of this event into our Christmas Gift Fund. **Congratulations Mario and Anna!**

Changes, Transitions, and Bits & Pieces

Did you know that **TARC (Tillamook Association for Retarded Citizens) has changed its name to the "ARC of Tillamook County"**? In spite of the name change, the Arc of Tillamook County will be the same entity as the former TARC, and **will continue forward in supporting activities such as Special Olympics, individuals with disabilities, and programs for individuals with disabilities.** The ARC of Tillamook County has existed in one form or another for over **40 years serving those with disabilities,** and will be here for many more years.

During the last 6 months we have had a number of staff changes at Marie Mills Center. Long time employee, **Celia Williams** left her position of Janitorial Job Coach to drive bus for the Tillamook County Transportation District. We also lost a vocational Direct Care staff member, **Michelle Koskella** who moved with her family back to the Walla Walla area. And, former residential Direct Care staff employee, **Vicky Osterlund,** is now volunteering with our residential program. Because of these changes to our staffing team and the fact that we are entering into our busy summertime activities in our janitorial program, we have brought on 5 new team members: **Rebecca Babb, Desiree Brotherton, Laurie Myers, Wendy Smith, and Jennifer Arthur.** In addition, **Alexis Orozco** transferred to residential Direct Care staff from our vocational program. Along with these staff changes we have also had a few changes

with our high school volunteers from the Tillamook Options Program (TOPs - Alternative High School). **Sara White,** who has been helping at our Front Street facility for the past two years is graduating and will no



longer be with us. While **Cody Sampson** (above) and **Kelli Orvis** (left) just started volunteering their time with us in April. These students

get credit for working through an internship program the school offers to work with children or the disabled.

Welcome To The Team Everyone!

Congratulations

Congratulation to **Jon Carnahan, Board Member of Marie Mills Center,** on his recent selection as **Tillamook's Business Person of the Year.** Also, congratulations to our **Office Manager, Linda Kay Marshall** for her selection as **Tillamook's Volunteer of the Year.** These honors were bestowed on them at the Tillamook

Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet held in January. Tillamook is very fortunate to have the contributions of individuals like these. Also, Marie Mills Center is extremely fortunate to have individuals like these involved in our efforts.

Again, **Congratulations to you both!**

Employees of the Month



September 2011
Mary Armstrong



November 2011
Dale Otto



December 2010
Derek Backmann



January 2012
Don Leake



February 2012
Whitney McCraw



March 2011
Lisa Mastriano



April 2011
Kristyn Ireton

Improvements

Recently we were able to replace all of the old aluminum framed windows at the **Nestucca House Group Home** with new energy efficient vinyl windows. This project was made possible through a **PUD weatherization program** that offered a rebate on a portion of the cost of these windows. We are excited that this update will **make the home more cozy and comfortable for its residents** as well as making the home look more up to date. This will also help conserve energy allowing Marie Mills Center to focus expense of needed dollars on serving those in our program.

Also recently, Marie Mills Center purchased a **trailer to be used in its landscape maintenance service**. This trailer will haul landscape equipment to various work sites. **We are excited about this and are looking forward to the coming landscape season.**



Up Coming Events

Marie Mills
Center, Inc.
Summer Picnic
Date to be Announced

~~~~~  
Open House  
Marie Mills Center  
October 26th  
5:00 - 7:00 PM  
1800 Front Street

~~~~~  
26th Annual
Halloween Party & Dance
October 27th
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

### Marie Mills Center, Inc. Board of Directors

Jill Carter  
Judy Gollon  
Bob Weitman  
Linda Beyer  
Mollie Nuppenau  
Bud Gienger  
Mike Hanback  
Dave Hollandsworth  
Mark Labhart  
Carl Peters  
Susan Pulliam  
Terry Wright  
Jim Martin

### Marie Mills Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

Helen Benschmidt  
Carl Peters  
Jill Carter  
Bob Weitman  
Mollie Nuppenau  
Tom Thompson  
Leigh Mills Wilson  
Linda Kay Marshall  
Tom Waud  
George Widmer  
George Wilson  
Tammy King-Crossley  
Ron Rush  
Bonita Smulski-Bizeau