

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Fall 2018

New Job Placements

A big pat on the back and congratulations to those individuals recently getting hired by local businesses. **Scott Otto** recently got hired by the Tillamook Country Smoker; **Shauna Harrison** was recently employed at Tillamook Early Learning Center; **Shannon Haron** got a job at Fred Meyer, **Gaige Cassen** and **Patrick Byrd** got jobs at Bear Creek Artichoke. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work! Also, a big thank you to those local businesses providing these opportunities for employment.



Memorial Plaque

An organization like Marie Mills Center is not possible without the past efforts, commitment, and dedication of board members that cared deeply about the lives of those with disabilities. Recently we decided to **commemorate former board members** that have passed away with a memorial plaque. These individuals spent many years of service, through thick and thin, on the Marie Mills Center board of directors: **Carl Benschmidt**, **Brad Barclay**, **Gwen Roemisch-Walker**, **Carl Peters**, **Mollie Nuppenau**, **Tom Thompson**, and **Bud Gienger**. Because of these individuals, and many others, Marie Mills Center is what it is today - an agency serving many with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is important that we remember our past and those that were an influential part of it so that we can continue to carry forward their vision, care, and commitment to those with disabilities. By doing so, these individuals will continue to play an active role in what we do and those we serve.



The End of Sheltered Employment in Oregon

Sheltered employment traditionally was in a sheltered setting for individuals with disabilities. In these settings work occurred in a centralized location that disabled individuals performed as a large group. Examples include a program like ours having a woodshop, a small packaging operation, confidential record destruction or other employment for individuals with disabilities.

Over the years **there has been an evolution and change in thinking about how to best serve those with disabilities.** Sheltered employment tends to group individuals



with disabilities together isolating them from the community. Over the past several years' **the State of Oregon has been transitioning programs like ours away from sheltered employment services to community**

based competitive employment services where programs like ours teach individuals job skills and place them into competitive jobs, and support them in these competitive jobs in the community. As of September 1st Marie Mills Center, like other programs, were required to end sheltered employment services. Fortunately, sheltered employment was a very small part of our program as we have always



focused on employment services occurring outside of a sheltered setting such as a workshop. Individuals previously in our sheltered employment program have made choices to continue with our services. Some have elected to be involved in our Employment Services program and have gotten jobs in the community where we support them in their success. Others have decided to be involved in our Day Support Activity program.



New Marie Mills Center Board Member



Marie Mills Center welcomes **Linda Walker** onto to its Board of Directors. Linda is a Tillamook native and was the long time teacher for the ESD Preschool and Early Intervention Program before her recent retirement. Linda provides a nice fit for us since many of the individuals that Marie Mills now serves as adults were previously in Linda's program many years ago. **Linda replaces retiring board member Dave Hollandsworth. We express our thanks to Dave for his service to Marie Mills Center over the years and wish him the very best.**

A Hog for Marie Mills Center

A big **thank you to State Senator Betsy Johnson!** Betsy purchased a hog from the FFA program at this year's Tillamook County Fair and donated it with cutting and wrapping to us. There will be much bacon, pork chops, and ham in the future for our residential program participants.



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 1200 or visit our web site at www.mariemills-center.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:

Catholic Daughters of the Americas; Tanya Hobbs In

Memory Of Tom Thompson; F.E. Sue Niemi; Dr. Roy & Claire Peterson In Honor of Ron & Paulette Rush; THS Charity Drive; Norma Anderson In Memory Of Tom Thompson; Linda & Harry Backeberg; Dr. Helen Benschmidt In Memory Of Susan Herron; Max & Elizabeth Hurliman; Debbie Kelly; Norm & Ruth Lehman In Honor of Max Lehman; William & Virgie Lorenz; William Mah; Mary Mann In Memory Of Mollie Nuppenau; Brian & Sheryl Seaholm – DMD; Suzanne & Bob Stewart; The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation; Tillamook County United Way; Gladys Jacobsen In Memory Of Tom Thompson; John & Kerma Lamkin; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hall In Honor of Mark & Deidre Schneider; Sydney Elliott; Tillamook Kiwanis Club;
~Thank You All For Your Kindness~



Our Year In Review



The end of June signified completion of our **48th year serving those with disabilities**. Like previous years, it was a very busy year. During the year we took individuals to **438 medical appointments**. In the past five years alone individuals were taken to a total of 2055 appointments. In serving those with disabilities **we travelled 101,000 miles**. We continued serving individuals in three different programs, our Day Support Activity program, Employment Services program, and Residential program. Our Employment Services program had a very active year **placing five individuals into competitive jobs**. By years end we were providing job support services to 20 individuals in competitive employment.

The **Marie Mills Foundation continued its support of Marie Mills Center** by contributing funds for the startup of the Trask house as well as contributing to our client recreation and social fund. In the fall of 2017, we finally had a **30,000 watt generator installed at our Nestucca House group home**. We were able to do additional upgrades to our Front Street facility and **converted**



all of our facilities to LED lighting systems through the PUD program. As our year moved forward, it got

even busier. In December we downsized our Madrona House from 10 individuals to eight individuals moving two into a **staffed apartment setting that we call the Trask House**. This and the many other activities occurring during the year would not be possible without our valued staff, they are heroes who tirelessly support those we serve.

In the past year we were saddened by the passing of two longtime board members – **Mollie Nuppenau and Tom Thompson**.

Now that we are in a new year we start all over again. Obviously, **our most important priority are those we serve**. Other things we will focus on in the new year include upgrading our technological capabilities. Keeping pace with the evolving landscape in services for the disabled, continued growth in our employment services program, and enhancing our transportation capability. Like previous years, our 49th year should be a very exciting year.



Summer Time Fun Picnic



On August 18th 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!**

This year was full of helpers from across the program as well as their spouses lending a hand. Thank you to each and every one of you who helped make this year an enjoyable event!




Employment Services Program Expansion

With all of the changes that have been happening in the Employment Services we have had to expand our staff of employment coaches from 2 to 6! Most recent additions to that program are **Zac Dennis, Celia Williams, Samora Simpson, and Holly Rico!** These individuals play a key role in ensuring the success of intellectual/developmentally disabled employees being successful

in jobs in the community. If you are interested in being part of that team we are looking for another member! Or, if you are interested in possibly employing an individual with disabilities at a local business please **contact Cindy Green at 503-842-2539 x 1400** or email cindy@mariemillscenter.com. We also encourage you to check out our website: www.mariemillscenter.com.

Employees of the Month



April 2018
Terry Crump



May 2018
Mary Armstrong



June 2018
Barry Moffett



July 2018
Dawn Babbitt



August 2018
Markeeta Morgan



Remembering Ron Rymer



We were all saddened to receive the news that one of our own had passed away on Sunday, September 30th. **Ron Rymer** had been in our program for over 30 years. He has been an icon in Tillamook for many years, **touching the lives of all he met**. Ron's crazy cow jokes, bigger than life karaoke songs, and his sense of humor made him a well known and loved part of our community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his girlfriend Dawn and all of those who loved and will miss him and his big smile! There will be a service held on Nov. 3rd at 11:00 am - Waud's Funeral Home.

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

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

Hanging Out & Having Fun



Mark Your Calendar

Open House
 Marie Mills Center
 October 26th
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Halloween Party & Dance
 October 27th
 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Tillamook Air Museum

Ron Rymer
 Memorial Service
 November 3rd - 11:00 am
 Waud's Funeral Home

Christmas Dinner
 December 7th
 12:00 - 1:30 PM
 Swiss Hall

Staff Christmas Party
 December 8th
 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. 1200 or visit us on the web at www.mariemillscenter.com

Executive Director	Assistant Director	Residential Director
Ron Rush	Cindy Green	Barb McDonald

Marie Mills Center, Inc.

Board of Directors

Judy Gollon
 Jill Carter
 Bob Weitman
 Susan Pulliam
 Mike Hanback
 Kyra Williams
 Linda Beyer
 Helen Gienger
 Kim Lyon
 Valerie Hagan
 Jim Martin
 David Yamamoto
 Jim Huffman
 Linda Walker
 Terry Wright

Marie Mills Foundation, Inc.

Board of Directors

Tom Waud
 Jill Carter
 Bob Weitman
 Linda Kay Marshall
 Ken Bell
 Helen Benschmidt
 Frank Bohanan
 Tammy King-Crossley
 Ron Gienger
 Judy Gollon
 Ron Rush
 George Wilson
 Leigh Wilson