

# Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Fall 2020

## Adapting and Making the Best of Challenging Times

Years from now, when we look back on 2020 it will have special meaning for everybody. No doubt 2020 is a year that everyone is anxious to see in the rearview mirror. Like everyone, **we have faced many challenges** since early spring and have tried to **make the best out of difficult times**. With the pandemic, services were closed in our Day Support Activity Services Program, and were reduced greatly in our Employment Services Program. We missed those affected and did a number of things to keep in touch with them including phone calls, video chats, home garden kits and summer fun bag activities for those at home to enjoy. Our Employment Services Program had over 20 individuals in competitive job

placements pre-pandemic, which was reduced to six once the pandemic hit. Today Employment Services has bounced back to 11 individuals we are supporting in competitive jobs. Very recently the state authorized providers in counties designated for phase 2 reopening during the pandemic to **reopen Day Support Activity Services on a limited basis** and we recently did so serving 13 individuals daily. While the numbers served in our Employment Services Program and Day Support Activity program is less than before, it is a step in the right direction which we are excited about. Please enjoy these pictures of **Kristine Jacobsen** and **Grant Canty** safely enjoying activities that this summer brought to them.



Kristine enjoying her Garden Kit! She said she loved doing it!



Grant enjoying being out and helping park cars for the Tillamook Backwards Parade







## Doing Things A Little Differently

Because of the pandemic and restrictions in place, to avoid large groups, it was necessary to cancel this year's Open House. We will use our Facebook page to recognize and honor our long time staff - Hallie McCormick for 15 Years of Service, Mike Jepson & Ellie Robertson both for 20 Years of Service and Ron Rush for his 40 Years of Dedication. If you haven't already, check out and follow Marie Mills Center on Facebook to see these special people.

Another casualty of the current situation is that we will not be having our typical 34th Annual Halloween Party. Instead, we will have a Virtual Halloween Costume Contest. Starting on October 14th we will be accepting admissions of your Original Artwork, Coloring Pages, or Photographs of you in your costume (or what you would love to dress

up as) by way of mail (1800 Front Street Tillamook, OR 97141), drop off (call ahead – 503-842-2539), or email (kim@mariemillscenter.com). We will be sharing your admissions on our Facebook page (with your permission). Then, on October 30th we will announce the winners of our contest! Good Luck Everyone!

We have also had to rethink our Annual Christmas Party & Dinner. This year we still want past participants to be able to say "Hi" to Santa and receive a gift, so we will be having a Drive Thru Christmas Celebration on December 18th. More details will be announced soon.

While this is not how we envisioned celebrating the Holidays we are making it work the best way we know how!

Thank you for your support and understanding!

## Meet Our Management Team

Contributing to the strength of Marie Mills Center is its staff. In that regard we are very fortunate. Our Bookkeeper/Office Manager, Linda Kay Widmer, was involved with Marie Mills Center as a Board Member before becoming an employee in March of 2007. Linda Kay has done a great job for us over the years. She will be leaving us in November to go live with her mother in Central Oregon. She was scheduled to move at the beginning of the summer but elected to stay longer to help us out during these uncertain times, which was much appreciated. Thank you for all you've done

Linda Kay, we wish you the best in your future adventures.



Our Residential Program Director, Barbara Lawrence, has been with us since November of 1983 and has worked in nearly every capacity within the Marie Mills Center Residential Program. She was a natural fit for residential director



position which she filled 4 years ago. One of Barb's many gifts is her attention to detail as well as her comprehensive knowledge about how residential programs should work.



Our Assistant Director, Cindy Green, started with us in October of 1986 and has worked in a variety of positions within the Marie Mills Center Vocational Program. Like Barb, Cindy is also a stickler for details and helps keep us all on track.

Our Executive Director, Ron Rush, has been with Marie Mills Center since January of 1980. Ron started out in the Residential Program and has been with Marie Mills Center through the merging of Residential and Vocational Services 36 years ago, as well as the tough years while we were out at the Port of Tillamook Bay. Ron is a great asset to our efforts in serving those with intellectual & developmental disabilities in Tillamook County.







# Marie Mills Foundation Update



The Marie Mills Foundation wants to give a big shout out and **THANK YOU** to all of those who support our efforts. The 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.mariemillscenter.com](http://www.mariemillscenter.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:

***Don & Linnea Burden in Honor of Loretta Landolt, Carol Nelson in Memory of Steve Trykar, Roger & Lorraine Zumwalt in Memory of Jill Carter, Linda and Larry Beyer in Honor of Loretta Landolt & in Honor of Jill Carter, Walt &***

***Marilyn Rigterink, Barbara & Salu Rodriguez in Memory of Derral Braden; Ed & Wilma Myers, Joan Trusty, Dr. Roy & Claire Peterson in Memory of Merle Lindley, Brent & Laurie Jacobsen in Honor of Kristine Jacobsen, Tillamook County Farm Bureau Marketing Assoc., Jeanette Werner, Loretta McFarland in Memory of Richelle Gollon, Brenda Wallace & Mark Wittwer in Memory of Jim, Bertha and David Coon, Ruth & Rudy Fenk, Phyllis Holmes, William & Virgie Lorenz, Dr. Helen Benschmidt in Memory of Ila Stewart, in Memory of Pat Compe, and in Memory of Diane Cottingham, Charles & Susan Hurliman, Anonymous donor, James & Diane Coon, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs, Judy & Hank Gollon in Memory of Daisy Roemisch, John Wassmer, Joan Hurliman in Memory of Derral Braden, Debbie Kelly, Tonya Hobbs in Memory of her father Tom Thompson, John & Kerma Lamkin, Tillamook Chiropractic Clinic, Anne Seeger, Nehalem Bay United Methodist Women***

***~Thank You All For Your Kindness~***



## 2019 ~ 2020 in Review



Our fiscal year ended on June 30th and was our **51st year of existence**. This past year, our **Day Support Activities Program served 34 individuals** and our **Employment Services program served 27 individuals** prior to the pandemic. Our **Residential Services Program served 32 individuals** through its group homes and Supported Living program. On an unduplicated basis (pre-pandemic), the total served was 72 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It was a **very busy year** on the aging and medical front for those served, with our residential program taking individuals to a total of 551 medical appointments during the year. In the past year **we employed 55 staff** who all deserve our gratitude for their service during a time of much uncertainty. On the technology side, this past year we installed a **new server to better support our technology needs**. This gives us multiple redundancies and levels of security. Much **thanks to the Marie Mills Foundation who funded this project** for us.

Our goals for 2020/2021 are simple and straight-

forward for obvious reasons. Our priorities are pandemic related. This includes **assuring the safety of staff and those served** during this period. It also includes developing **thoughtful plans to guide us as we reopen** towards normal levels of service, as well as **adapting to the financial impacts** that programs like ours are facing because of the current situation.







# Remembering Uldine and Daisy

We recently lost two individuals that we had served for many years to natural causes.

**Uldine Anderson** was 89 years old. She had been with Marie Mills Center for 25 years and will be missed greatly. Uldine was a delightful person who would always let you know what was on her mind. She loved stuffed animals and flowers! Uldine also loved her brother Elroy very much and talked about him daily.



**Daisy Roemisch** was 56 years old and was involved with Marie Mills center for 36 years. Daisy was an outgoing person who loved to dance and have a good time. She would often go on vacations with her boyfriend Justin.



Both of these individuals lived a full life and were loved by many. **Much thanks to Marie Mills Center staff especially those at the Nestucca House for the care and love they gave to these extraordinary individuals.**



# Board Membership Transition



We have a lot of transition going on with both the Marie Mills Foundation and the Marie Mills Center Board of Directors.

The **Marie Mills Center Board** welcomed two new members, **Patsy Weber and Gordon McCraw** this last summer. Also, longtime Board Member & **Chairman, Judy Gollon** will be leaving our board but staying on the Foundation Board. Thank you for your years of service Judy! **Linda Walker**

**will assume the chair position and Linda Beyer the vice chair position** on the Marie Mills Center Board.

The **Marie Mills Foundation** is welcoming **Dean McKibben and Darryl Carter** onto its Board of Directors.

**Thank you to all Board Members for their service** and a special welcome to all of the new board members coming onto the board.



# Justin and His Green Thumb



For the last several years **Justin Sparks** has been container gardening in the back yard at our Nestucca House Group Home where he lives. This year he grew beans, squash, onions, toma-

**atoes and strawberries.**

Justin loves to garden. So his efforts don't go to waste, they use the vegetables in the meals at the home. **He is very proud of what he is able to accomplish and he is very good at it.**



# New "Wheels" Coming - Bus Ordered



We recently ordered a new handicapped accessible bus through grant funding which should arrive in the spring or early summer of 2021. This

vehicle will replace our high mileage primary vehicle and will be used to transport individuals to jobs and to services we provide.



# Employees of the Month



October 2019  
Ken Randall



November 2019  
Teresa Palmer



December 2019  
Justin Sparks



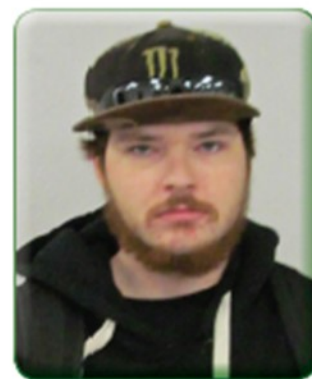
January 2020  
Barry Moffett



February 2020  
Deanna Walker



March 2020  
Richard Hatfield



April 2020  
Luke Kesterson



May 2020  
Loyd Noa

## HVAC System Excitement

Imagine heading into the summer with your **heating/airconditioning system down** and vendors not being able to make house calls because of the pandemic. Well that happened at our Front Street facility this past summer. Fortunately, most the summer had mild weather and it was manageable using fans and keeping entry doors open. Although, we did have some excitement during this time with a wayward rat from the slough adjacent to our parking lot deciding to pay our facility visit in the middle of our workday. He apparently was lonely and decided that he would

check out our administrative offices.... We kindly escorted him back out the door!

Thankfully, our HVAC system was replaced and we are comfy in our office again with no unwanted visitors!





# Staying Safe During Covid Times



## Mark Your Calendar

Open House  
Staff Recognitions  
View on Facebook Starting  
September 30th

Virtual Halloween  
Costume Contest  
Starting Oct. 14 - Oct 28th  
Winners Announced on  
October 30th

Drive Thru Christmas Celebration  
December 18th  
More info will be released  
as we get all plans  
in place!

## Visit Marie Mills Center

We invite you to tour Marie Mills Center.  
Call Ron Rush at (503)842-2539 ext. 1200 or visit us on the web at  
[www.mariemillscenter.com](http://www.mariemillscenter.com)

**Executive Director**  
Ron Rush

**Assistant Director**  
Cindy Green

**Residential Director**  
Barb McDonald

### Marie Mills Center, Inc.

#### Board of Directors

Linda Walker  
Linda Beyer  
Bob Weitman  
Susan Pulliam  
Mike Hanback  
Kyra Williams  
Kim Lyon  
Valerie Hill  
Jim Martin  
David Yamamoto  
Jim Huffman  
Terry Wright  
Gordon McCraw  
Patsy Weber

### Marie Mills Foundation, Inc.

#### Board of Directors

Ron Gienger  
Ken Bell  
Bob Weitman  
Linda Kay Widmer  
Dr. Helen Benschmidt  
Tammy King-Crossley  
Judy Gollon  
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