

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Spring 2020



Extraordinary Times for All



Like everyone else, Marie Mills Center has been impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. Instead of focusing on our normal day-to-day activities, everything has been put on the back burner with our **top priority being the safety of those we serve** in all of our programs, many who are among our most vulnerable citizens.

Because of the current situation, Marie Mills Center and programs like ours implemented large reductions in services and staffing in day programs such as day support activities and employment services to reduce the risk of exposure to staff and those served in those programs. Our top priority during this crisis has been our residential programs which include our three group homes and our supported living program. Many safeguards and procedures have been put in place to support the health and safety of individuals in these programs and staff during

this trying time. In doing this, a number of staff in our day programs that were furloughed were inserted into our residential programs to provide support. As you can imagine, individuals losing their day services and having to stay home has been a **huge disruption in their lives**. Much credit goes to individuals we serve who are adapting to this new situation with their usual determination. Also, **even more credit goes to our staff that have faced their own major life disruptions because of the present situation and continue to show dedication in serving those in Marie Mills Center programs.**

We look forward to the present situation ending. Once that occurs, there will obviously be some rebuilding in store for us all. However, **Marie Mills Center is a strong agency and we look forward to that challenge - we owe that to those that we serve.**

Employment Spotlight - Michael Fry

Michael Fry has worked at the Tillamook Creamery (the Cheese Factory) as a Sanitation Technician since October 2018. Michael's duties include cleaning and sanitizing the plant office building. Michael does a super job and has gained a plethora of new skills including specialized knowledge for cleaning IT rooms and Research/Development Areas. **Michael's direct supervisor, Cody, says that she loves having him there and enjoys working with him. Michael says "I like my job but I really like how friendly everyone is". Great job Michael, keep up the good work!**

As the present situation starts to subside, the Marie Mills Center Employment Services program will be very busy reestablishing individuals into former jobs or helping them find new ones. So far, 4 individuals have returned to positions they formerly had, there are 11 still waiting to return to their jobs or find a new ones.



Celebrating 50 Years!

We spent the last year celebrating our 50 year Anniversary! This past fall our Annual Open House was an event to remember! We had a "house full" helping us honor our matriarch and founder Dr. Helen Benscheidt. Helen was presented with a plaque of apprecia-

tion by Tom Waud for all of her years of dedication and laying the ground work 50 years ago that assured we are still here today. People like Helen and Tom are the reason we were able to start serving those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Tillamook County. 50 years is a long time and we would not have been successful without the support of our community, staff, board members and individuals like you. We also recognized long time employee Therese Jenck for her 20 years of service and Patsy Steinbach for her 10 years of dedication to those we serve.

Below you will see a look back on 50 years of activities and services that those in our program have been able to enjoy over the years including last fall's Halloween & Christmas Parties!





Marie Mills Foundation Update



The **Marie Mills Foundation** continues to strive towards their goal of generating support and funding for 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 the following supporters: *Pat & Pearl Ireton, Dr. Roy & Claire Peterson, Linda & Harry Backeberg, James Garling, Charles & Susan Hurliman, Sunset Worldwide, Inc., Charles Benschmidt (multiple), Ron & Muriel Beeler, Joan Trusty, St. Albans Episcopal Church, Coast Printing & Stationary, Debbie Kelly (multiple), John & Kerma Lamkin, John & Carol Elms, Hampton Lumber Corporate, Ed & Wilma Myers, Ruth & Rudy Fenk, Gladys Jacobsen, Pelican Brewing Company, Drs. Constance & Randall Green, Nick Hahn, Dr. Helen Benschmidt, Scott & Linda Farnsworth, Tonya Hobbs in Memory of Tom Thompson (monthly), Phyllis Holmes, Bob Ouzounian, Patricia Reinert, Walt & Marilyn Rigterink, Tom & Betty Waud, Tillamook Veterinary Hospital, William & Virgie Lorenz, Tillamook Motor Company, Joan Hurliman, Sharon Lighthill in Memory of Mollie Nuppenau, Jenny & Gene Nuxoll in Memory of Greg Jacobsen, Max & Elizabeth Hurliman, Carol & John Steele in Honor of Carter Family, Anne Seeger in Memory of Roger Hurliman, Mario & Alma Pastega Family Foundation, Cecilia Dwigans, Mark*

& Susan Benschmidt in Honor of Helen Benschmidt, Bryan & Julie White in Memory of Marcus Andrew Balmer, Gladys Jacobsen in Memory of Greg Jacobsen, Jim Martin, Eddie & Judy Murray in Memory of Ethel Murray, Carol & Roger Raymond in Honor of Helen Benschmidt, Carol Thompson, Tillamook F.O.E. Ladies Auxiliary #2144 (multiple), Tillamook County United Way (multiple), Waud's Funeral Home, Norma Anderson in Memory of Tom Thompson, Barb Burdick, Bonita O'Brian, Matt & Shiela Zerngast, Vic Affolter, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs, Bub & Dolly Boquist, Wayne & Kathy Jacobsen in Honor of Kristine Jacobsen, Dr. Helen Benschmidt in Honor of Roy & Claire Peterson's 68th Anniversary, Laureen Lamb, Tammy King-Crossley, Tracy Riggert-Arthur (multiple), Robert Riggert Family Foundation, Dr. Helen Benschmidt in Memory of Felini Workman Chin, THS Charity Drive, Bob & Cindy Weitman, Anne Seeger, Sue & Jeff Carr in Memory of son Jeff's 45th Birthday, Bethel Underhill in Memory of Charles Huber, Tillamook County United Way – Dutch Bros Covid Support, Steve & Linda Darling in Memory of Mollie Nuppenau

In Memory of Richelle Gollon: Tom & Betty Waud, Dr. Helen Benschmidt and Kevin & Susan Pulliam

In Memory of Jill Carter: Dr. Helen Benschmidt, Jim & Patty Dougherty, Pam Mendenhall, Linda Hofman, Mary Boase, John & Retta Matthews, John & Katheryn Myers, Gladys Jacobsen, Mary & Earl Rogness, Norma & Lloyd Seely, Tom & Betty Waud, John & Elaine Hanby, Carol & John Steele, Kevin & Susan Pulliam, Sarah Smyth-McIntosh, Carol Thompson and Linda & Harry Backeberg

~Thank You All For Your Kindness~



Server Project

This winter we completed a **major tech project, upgrading our capabilities with a new server and firewall/VPN connections**. While this was an involved and time-consuming process, it was a necessary one which enables us to more securely manage data and improve our data backup capabilities. This project entailed developing

capacity for administrative staff to work from home if necessary. We have seen an increasing shift every year with the State requiring providers like us to rely more and more on technology for the administration of our services. **Much thanks goes to the Marie Mills Foundation who funded this project.**



Recent Staff Retirements



This year we have had a three staff retire from Marie Mills Center. First off was **Patsy Steinbach** who worked at our Madrona House Group home for **10 years as a direct care staff**. Patsy was always ready to jump in and get things done!

Genine McDonough retired after working for our agency for **20 years**. Genine held many positions throughout these years including being in charge of medical appointments for our residential program participants. Genine retired as the **House Manager of our Madrona House Group Home**. Genine's quick wit will be missed!



Rose Godwin retired in January after almost **15 years working as our Enclave Supervisor** for our Tillamook Country Smoker Crew. Rose always had a beautiful smile on her face!



Rebecca Babb will retire at the end of June as **House Manager of our Nestucca House Group Home**. Becca has worked for us for 8 years. She started out as a direct care staff before taking over as house manager just over 4 years ago. Becca's quiet demeanor will be missed!



Thank you all for all your years of dedication to those we serve. We wish you all the very best in retirement and thank you all for your many contributions and memories that you have left with all of us!



New House Managers

Starting last September, there have been many changes in our House Manager Roles for our group homes. Along with the House Managers mentioned above we also had a sudden need for a new person to take the helm with **Amy Willison now managing our Trask House**. Amy hit the ground running and has done a great job!



Debbie Flood is now managing our Madrona House. Debbie has been assisting with this role for a while and she has transitioned into her position quite well! And lastly, **Maria Benedict will take over managing our Nestucca House**.



Community Based Day Support Services

In June of 2019 we started a **new service for individuals who did not receive Day Support Activity services** at our Front Street site. These **individuals can receive supports to access the community for activities they are interested in**. A few examples of this type of service include going to Monday Musical productions, hiking, shopping, exploring the beach, attending other local activities offered to community members. We continue to evolve and change with the times to meet the needs of

individuals that we support.

Once Covid-19 subsides we plan on expanding this service and look forward to adding more individuals who desire to take part in their community's offerings.

If this type of service interests you please contact your services coordinator and let them know that you would like to find out more about this opportunity. **If you have any questions regarding this service call Andy Dierking at 503-842-2539 x 1900.**

Employees of the Month



October 2019
Ken Randall



November 2019
Teresa Palmer



December 2019
Justin Sparks



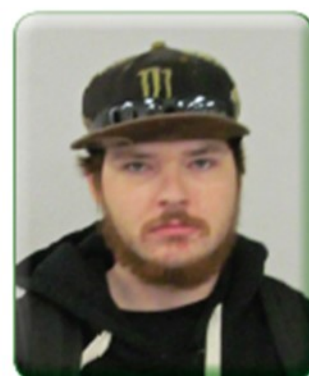
January 2020
Barry Moffett



February 2020
Deanna Walker



March 2020
Richard Hatfield



April 2020
Lukas Kesterson-
Lindsley



Remembering Deb & Jill



Deborah Delaney passed away on April 2, 2020 at the age of 60. Deb was part of our Marie Mills Center family for 38 years. After coming to Tillamook in 1982, Deb was able to start working in 1988 on a MMCI Crew at the Tillamook Country Smoker where she worked for 22 years before retiring. During her time she made many new friends and lived a happy and fulfilling life.

Jill Carter passed away on April 9, 2020 surrounded by her family at her home. Jill was a great advocate and inspiration for those with disabilities in Tillamook County. She spent 30+ years serving on the Marie Mills Center Board, mostly as Chairperson. She also helped start the Marie Mills Foundation where she also served on the Board.



Enjoying Our Staycations



Mark Your Calendar

MMCI Picnic
Cancelled

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED:

Open House
Marie Mills Center
October 23rd
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Halloween Party & Dance
Location: Swiss Hall
October 24th
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Christmas Dinner
Swiss Hall
December 11th
Noon - 2 pm

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 Ron Rush	Assistant Director Cindy Green	Residential Director Barb Lawrence
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