

Fall 2022

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



A Personal Message from Ron Rush

In December of 2021 I notified our Board of Directors that after nearly 43 years with Marie Mills Center that ***I will be retiring on January 25, 2023.***



In 1980, when I started, I had no idea what lied ahead. I viewed this as a short-term endeavor before moving on with my life. Needless to say, I am still here,

and like others I fell in love with our mission and a community that was so supportive of that mission. As they say, sometimes the best things that happen to a person are the things they did not want to happen. That was certainly the case with me, and I am glad they did. So much has happened in the past 43 years, it is hard to know where to start. We faced the usual challenges which we overcame and we had many opportunities that led to better services and lives for those that we serve. Which, in the

end, is what it is all about. ***As I head into the next phase of my life, I want to thank all of those wonderful people that I had the pleasure to work with over the many years and our wonderful community which has been so supportive of Marie Mills Center.***

The Marie Mills Center Board selected our Assistant Director, ***Cindy Green, to become our next Executive Director.***

She has been with us for 36 years and is very knowledgeable about the needs of those with disabilities and our agency. She is highly respected in our



field and by our staff. She is also very passionate about what we do and is well connected to our community. She was ***an excellent choice by our board and Marie Mills Center will continue to move forward with her able leadership.***

New Vocational Program Director

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Vocational Program Director, ***Holly Rico.*** Holly has been working in the Employment Services program for the last 4 years, she has worked with Marie Mills over 10 years as she returned to us after working in Law Enforcement for many years. She is training now

and will start her new position in December. We are all looking forward to the exciting time ahead as she is already a valuable asset to our team.



CONGRATULATIONS HOLLY!

Remembering Tom Waud

Tillamook **lost a valued community member, and we lost a longtime friend** this summer who played a critical role in our history. Tom began on **the Marie Mills Center board** in the 70s when we were in our infancy and on the **Marie Mills Foundation board for many years**. Many of the years on these boards he served as chairperson providing leadership in some difficult times. When he “retired” from Marie Mills Center in 2019 he was our longest tenured board member. Even though “retired” from Marie Mills Center and Foundation boards he was a welcomed



presence with us often dropping by our offices to visit to see how things were going. That was the type of person Tom was. Those with developmental disabilities in our program benefitted greatly from his commitment to our cause. He was one of a kind and a very special person. He was a devout U of O Duck with a great sense of humor and eager to “rib” his many OSU Beaver friends. When around Tom you would always feel better about things, have a smile, and he would always give you a good chuckle. While his passing is a great loss many, he left his mark on all of us.

Happy 100th Birthday to Helen Benschmidt

Helen is **the founder of Marie Mills Center**. In fact her niece Marie Mills is our namesake. Helen has been a stalwart supporter over the many years serving as a friend and board member. It was hers and others vision years ago that is why we are here today and why many with disabilities have benefited.



Marie Mills Center Welcomes New Faces

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed on board a few new staff. **Theresa Greene** was hired to replace former long-time administrative assistant Kim Stockwell who moved to the Stayton area. Also, joining us as new Direct Support Staff are

Sarah Cople-Blum, Faith Kelly, Natasha Slater Nixon, and Hallie Thompson. We are also pleased to welcome back former staff **Therese Jenck, Dana Urrey, Jennifer Johnston, and Darilyn Tuiolemotu.**

Thank You to Our Staff

Most are aware of **hiring challenges faced by employers today**. Our field faces these same challenges. Perhaps even more so. We send a **big thank you to the staff of Marie Mills Center for their hard work during these challenging times** and their extra effort. They have been stalwarts often working under challenging situations. Also, a **big thanks to the Oregon Office of Developmental Disability Services** for

its support during the last year. They provided **Hiring and Retention Grants** to providers in the State enabling us to provide employment bonus and wage incentives, recruit employees, and acquire Covid supplies such as testing kits and protective equipment. We still have a number of open positions to fill. **To find out more check us out at**

www.MarieMillsCenter.com.

Marie Mills Foundation Update

The **Marie Mills Foundation** continues to work towards their goal of supporting future needs of Marie Mills Center. If you would like more information about the Marie Mills Foundation please **contact Ron Rush at 503-842-2539 x 1200 or visit www.mariemillscenter.com**. Also, by remembering the Foundation in your estate planning you can help assure the services provided to intellectually and developmentally disabled in Tillamook County continues. The Foundation and Marie Mills Center would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the following supporters: **Albright & Kittell, Ron & Muriel Beeler In Memory Of Loretta Landolt, Bill Bennett In Memory Of Dee Wester, Sue and Jeff Carr In Memory of Jeffery Carr Jr., Steve & Linda Darling, Tonya Hobbs In Memory of Tom Thompson, Jennifer Jacob In Memory Of Dianne Jacob, Gladys Jacobsen In Memory Of Dolly Boquist, Tim Josi, JTMF Foundation, Pat Kehr In Memory Of Elaine Durrer, Bob & Laurie Lamb, John & Kerma Lamkin, Sharon Lighthill In Memory Of Mollie Nuppenau, William & Anna Mah, Naveen & Nidhi**

Malhotra, Nehalem Bay United Methodist Women, P&L Heating & Sheet Metal, Walt & Marilyn Rigterink, Robert Riggert Family Foundation, Brent & Barbara Seaholm, Phyllis Sisco, Carol Thompson In Memory Of Tom Thompson, Tillamook Chiropractic, Tillamook County Farm Bureau Mktg Assn Foundation, Tillamook High School Charity Drive, Keith & Yvonne Townsend In Memory Of Dianne Jacob, John Wassmer, Betty Waud, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs

In Memory of Tom Waud:

Dr. Helen Benschmidt, Charles and Diane Cowen, Leilani & John Crowston, Kathy Devlin, Michael Devlin, Corrine Dumas, Judy & Hank Gollon, David & Cheryl Hantke, Linda Hofman, Hooley Building Supply, Mark & Kim Hopkeys, Susie Johnson, Steven & Jacelaine Macy, Loretta McFarland, Dawn Meiklejohn, Neil Morfitt, Roberta Olson, Nancy Power, George & Lois Prince, Robert & Alicia Reed, Anne Seeger, Crawford Smith, John & Sandra Smith Carol Thompson, Betty Waud, Bob & Elva Weeks, Linda Kay Widmer, Raymond & Joan Yost

Happy Fall y'all!



Marie Mills Center Company Picnic

Because of the unique times we have had with Covid we have not been able to do many of our traditional social events. However, this summer we did have our annual company picnic on a smaller scale which was enjoyed by all.



A Greek Vacation

Cindy Green got herself ready for her new position as Executive Director by taking a much needed vacation to Greece with family. This vacation had been in the works for nearly 3 years but had been delayed because of Covid. It was well deserved!



New Marie Mills Center Grandmas



Our staff make fantastic grandmas! A huge congratulations to Mary Rose Reynolds, grandson Wyatt Preston was born on July 2nd to her son Joseph & Faith



and to Kim Stockwell, granddaughter Ember Fern was born on August 31st to her daughter EmaLea and Jacob.



Wedding Bells Rang

Congratulations to Barb and Jim Armstrong who recently “tied the knot” in Houghton, Louisiana. We wish you both all of the happiness that life can give!



Remembering Dianne Jacob



Dianne, a Tillamook native, recently passed away from natural causes. She was involved for many years in our day program and was a

delight to everyone she touched. Diane was loved by her family and many friends in her life. She graced us all with her smiles. She cared deeply about other people, their lives, loved to give cards and chat with anyone who had a minute or 10 to spend with her.

She will be greatly missed.

Covid Update

We continue to operate under **State restrictions due to Covid** but look forward to getting back to normal. Most individuals we serve often have compromising medical needs making them very vulnerable. Most

affected of Marie Mills Center programs as our Day support activity Services program which is operating on a limited basis for the time being. ***Our top priority remains the safety and health of those we serve.***

Upcoming Events

**MMCI Drive Through
Christmas**
To Be Announced

Foundation Donations Made Easy

If you are interested in donating to the Marie Mills Foundation we have made it really simple. If you have a PayPal account and a smart phone or tablet, this link will take you directly to our donation page and we will be notified of your kindness.



Marie Mills Center, Inc. Management Team

Ron Rush,
Executive Director

Cindy Green,
Assistant Director

Barbara Armstrong,
Residential Director

Rene Straessle,
Office Manager

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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 x 1200 to arrange a time
Visit Us At:

www.mariemillscenter.com or find us on Facebook