

Fall 2023

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



Much Needed Improvements

Our Nestucca House property has been going through some updates in the last several months.

We had the front flowerbed redone, it has made a big difference on the area's curb ap-



peal as well as feeling more welcoming to residents and guests.

We are scheduled to have laminate flooring laid throughout the house in October. The current carpet and vinyl is very old. This new flooring will provide a cleaner environment as well as give cohesive look and feel to the home.

The biggest update so far has been the removal of part of the very large front lawn to create a parking area. This will give staff the certainty of having a place to park as well as en-

suring their safety. This change was a necessity as our current parking area on the north end of the apartment complex was a communal use space with it's residents as well. Having staff cars safely parked in our new area will allow for easier pass through for our bus when dropping off and picking up our group home residents.



Staff Spotlight—Debbie Reynolds, Madrona House Manager

Debbie Reynolds has been an employee of Marie Mills Center for 25 years. Debbie started working for Marie Mills in May of 1998. She was first hired to supervise one worker while selling Firewood at the county parks on a seasonal basis. When the summer season was over, a Direct Care position became available at the RTF group home at the Port of Tillamook Bay. After the Madrona House was built, Debbie continued to work directly with the house residents. She eventually started assisting the House Manager, Genine McDonough, with office duties. In 2020 Debbie was promoted to House Manager of Madrona House when Genine retired.



Debbie worked through the pandemic covering many shifts to meet the needs of the residents. As House Manager, Debbie oversees the care and well being of the 5 residents that live in the home. She orients new staff to Madrona House, she provides site training and assists with scheduling her new staff to fulfill their training needs. This all can be a challenging undertaking as well as very fulfilling.

In her off time, Debbie loves being able to hang out with her grandchildren, spending time with family, going camping in her tent trailer with her 3 little dogs, and cooking,

Client Spotlight—Kelly Couch

Kelly knows everyone in Rockaway, as many residents will tell you. Kelly's outgoing social demeanor happens to be a perfect fit for his job.

At Dollar General he's an excellent greeter, although that's not his official title, he is a store clerk. He loves his job and his coworkers, but Kelly is always spotting a face he hasn't said "Hi" to yet today and or shared his smile with. The surprising element is how many people say "Hi Kelly" before he can offer his name.

Although Kelly shines in the social atmosphere, it's his work ethic and quality that has him labeled as one of the best employees at Dollar General by a previous manager. His current manager, Erin is thrilled to have him



as part of the team. His coworkers enjoy his presence a great deal. They are always ready to point Kelly in the right direction, as well as throw a well timed joke in the mix.

During his time off, Kelly enjoys chats with his neighbors as they walk by his house. He looks forward to watching cartoons and old TV shows after work. The Jetsons and Yogi Bear are two of his favorite. Kelly enjoys any social outing he's able to attend, and was very pleased with this year's MMCI picnic in August.

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 Cindy Green at 503-842-2539 x 1400 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: **Bill Bennet in Memory of Dee Wester, Dr. Helen Benschmidt, Linda & Larry Beyer in Memory of Bub & Fay Simmons, Jerry Bristow, Sue & Jeff Carr in Memory of Jeffery Carr Jr., Darryl Carter, Tom & Annelle Connaughton,**

Steve & Linda Darling in Honor of Ron Rush, Ruth & Rudy Fenk, Cindy Green, Connie Green, Hampton Lumber Corporate, Tonya Hobbs in Memory of Tom Thompson, Brad & Donna Hubbard, Jim & Margot Huffman, Bob & Laurie Lamb, John & Kerma Lamkin, Sharon Lighthill in Memory of Mollie Nuppenau, Teresa Malarkey, Loretta McFarland in Memory of Bub & Fay Simmons, Kelly Miller in Memory of Bub and Fay Simmons, Moose Lodge No. 1260, Marilyn Riggerink, Rob Trost Realty, Rotary Club of Tillamook, Tracy Rourke in Memory of Bub & Fay Simmons, Ron & Paulette Rush in Memory of Marj Nord, The Smile Studio in Memory of Joelle Mohr, Tillamook High School Charity Drive, Linda Walker, Patsy & Chris Weber, Linda Kay Widmer, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs in Honor of Ron Rush

~Thank You All~

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.



Scan. Pay. Go.

New Foundation Board Member—Teresa Malarkey

Teresa is a native Oregonian living in Scappoose with 2 horses, 4 dogs, 2 cats and a parrot.

Teresa is the niece of Helen Benschmidt, a founder of the Marie Mills Center and the younger sister to Marie Mills. Teresa has been employed as a Direct Support Professional for the past 7 years in part time/relief position with Lifempowered formally known as Riverside Training Centers located in St. Helens Oregon.



Through her experience working as a DSP she has come to better understand the importance of independence and inclusion in the community with the people that Marie Mills Center supports. Teresa is Looking forward to using her experience and knowledge as a member of the Marie Mills Foundation board, helping to continue the legacy of her sister and the Marie Mills Center.

Welcome Aboard!

Enjoying the Outdoors and Vacations!

Thought we would share some happy faces! These pictures are from outings and vacations over the past few months!



New MMCI Board Member—Marilyn Diego

Marilyn grew up in Grants Pass, Oregon. After graduating high school, she went to work for Walmart, spending 7 years as a Customer Service Manager and 10 years as an Asset Protection Manager. This is also where she met her husband, Rob Williams. They later moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where she and Rob spent 8 years running Walmart stores. Rob had a crazy idea of semi-retiring, so she quit her corporate job of 17 years and they spent the next 5 years dedicating 100% of their time to raising their family just outside Atlanta, Georgia in rural Gwinnett County. They spent much of their time traveling the



eastern seaboard and the southern United States admiring its rich history with their children.

In 2020 they decided to move back to the Pacific Northwest so they could join Grocery Outlet. After completing their training program and working at 2 different locations the Tillamook store became available. They immediately put in for it. They moved to Tillamook last year in August and took ownership of the store on October 8, 2022.

Their family of 9 includes 6 daughters, Jade 23, Reagan 22, Linzey 21, Jordyn 13, Amory 7, Alyena 3, and 1 son, Robby 6.

They love it here and enjoy helping out in the community!

Welcome Aboard!

Annual Picnic at Kilchis Park

Our annual picnic was a wonderful success story. Many families joined us from around the county to celebrate at the Kilchis County Campground on August 19, 2023. Each person was met at the sign in table where they were greeted, offered a gift and a ticket to enter in our prize drawings.

Our event planning committee arranged meals and activities that everyone could enjoy. The weather was beautiful for a BBQ. We were fortunate that the Tillamook County Creamery Association let us borrow their portable grill. Tom and Andy Dierking grilled burgers and hot dogs like professionals! We had many volunteers set up to serve all the sides for the hot food, potato and macaroni salad, baked beans, fresh cut fruit, cookies and bagged chips. Beverages were also available. Attendees enjoyed

the face painting and chances to win at the basketball

challenge. They could enjoy a stroll around the park, down to the river or just sit and chat with old friends (or make new ones) while waiting for a chance to win one of the prizes donated from our many sponsors. A huge thank you to the following: Carson Oil, Chamber of Commerce, Coliseum Theater, Denny's, Dutch Bros., East on West, Elite Car Wash, Fern Café, Garibaldi Market, Garibaldi Portside Bistro, Hurliman CPA, Hush Salon, Kitty's, Mainstreet Pizza, Papa Murphy's, Pelican Pub, The Schooner, Upstairs Bar and Grill, T.C.C.A, Valvoline, Werner Meats, Therese's Avon, Mike Fossbind, Lori Davidson, Brenda James, Holly Rico, Dana Urrey, Connie Chitwood, Amy Dennis and the MMCI Recreation Fund. These sponsors were so generous we wanted to share all their names with you so that you may feel free to thank them also!



Upcoming Events

Halloween Carnival
Nazarene Church
October 28, 2023
1-4 pm

December 2023
Christmas Luncheon with
Santa
To Be Announced



Marie Mills Center, Inc. Management Team

Cindy Green,
Executive Director

Holly Rico,
Vocational Program
Director

Barbara Armstrong,
Residential Program
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 Cindy Green at (503)842-2539 x 1400 to arrange a time
Visit Us At:

www.mariemillscenter.com or find us on Facebook