

Spring 2025

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



We Build Abilities

Employment Path Solo

“Solo” offers opportunities for individuals to explore options and possibilities in the employment world with an employment professional on a 1:1 basis. We all know everyone is unique and this program is based on individual needs, each session is used to improve skills while exploring interests. After 60 days, preliminary exploration is revisited to determine whether the program is meeting expectations. The ultimate goal for each participant, of course, is to find a job. Our Employment Services team works in conjunction with this program to provide job coaching, creating a successful finale for both employer and the individual.

Services could include: Weekly Contacts/ Employment Visits/Exploration; Bus Training; Basic Skill Building; Communication Skill Building; Application/Resume Assistance and Interview Practice

While we have had several success stories, here are just a few:

Twinetta Frazer, after participating in this program, realizing she had skills beyond that of her previous janitorial experi-

ence; found independent employment at a quaint little antique shop in Rockaway Beach called **The Little Crow**. She is ecstatic about being part of the team and assisting with preparing the earrings that are sold in the store.

Congratulations Twinetta!

Nick Bailey, while volunteering in the community also started the Employment Path Solo service to hone his skills and look for employment. With his newly honed skills, he successfully applied and was hired at **Twin Rocks Friends Camp** to work in the kitchen.



Way to go Nick!

Juan Reyes Avalos, also chose to use this service and after completion, applied and accepted a job with the **Nehalem Valley Care Center** working with the residents. Juan is absolutely thrilled to be there, providing supports to the citizens of north Tillamook County.

Fantastic Job Juan!



Cindy Green, winner of ORA's "Leadership Excellence Award for 2025"

Oregon Resource Association presents this award to someone for significantly contributing to improving services and the quality of life for people with disabilities through their leadership, superior role modeling and guidance of their staff. One winner is selected from nominees all over the state of Oregon.

Cindy started as an Activity Center Aide in 1986 and has had many titles since; Facility Manager, Vocational Program Manager, Assistant Director and currently, Executive Director. She is innovative and was key in the development of the Employment Services Program referenced above. She



helped educate community partners on how these individuals could be a productive & valuable member of their team. Always engaged with employee training and education; mentoring of coworkers, always willing to provide constructive criticism when needed and continues to encourage others to think 'outside the box'.

Over her dedicated 39 years Cindy volunteered man hours for social events, being a role model for coworkers as well as people in the community. As a foster provider and adoptive parent, her patience and compassion were used at home as well as in the workplace.

Trask House—New Home and New Residents

Our **Trask House group home** got a **major upgrade recently!** Last

year we were able to purchase a home to relocate our program from a small 2-bedroom apartment to this newly renovated home with the capacity to increase from 2 to 3 residents. This home, located in a quiet neighborhood on the west side of town, was occupied in early December. As with our other homes, this home offers private bedrooms, a living room & family room to enjoy tv and other activities,

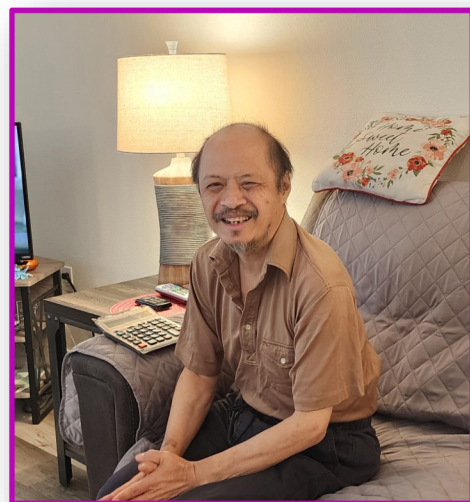


a fenced yard and close proximity to town.

With the increased capacity creating an opening, we were able to accept a **long time, Tillamook County resident, Jim Roberts**, into this setting. Jim is enjoying being in this home with his housemates and staff. Being in a

also a long time resident of Tillamook County, has been receiving vocational services from Marie Mills Center since 1988 and had entered into our Supported Living program in 2009.

Gary Mah, has been a part of our program for 40 years and one of the original Trask House group home residents when it was started in 2017. Just over 7 years



vicinity close to town, he is able to walk to the Senior Center to visit with his friends as well as access other businesses to fulfill his needs and desires.

Another opening occurred recently and we were able to facilitate a transfer from our Supported Living program for an individual who's care team had decided after many years of living on his own, he would be better served living in this group home, as his former apartment wasn't properly suited for his current needs. **Richard Hatfield**,



later, Gary was the first one to live in this new home! Gary loves to walk to town and this is the perfect location for him to do so.

Each of these residents is enjoying all of the features this home has to offer. Richard and Jim, being new to group home life, have expressed that they appreciate having the House Manager, Amy and all of the staff there to care for them and to provide the supports that they need.

Marie Mills Foundation Update

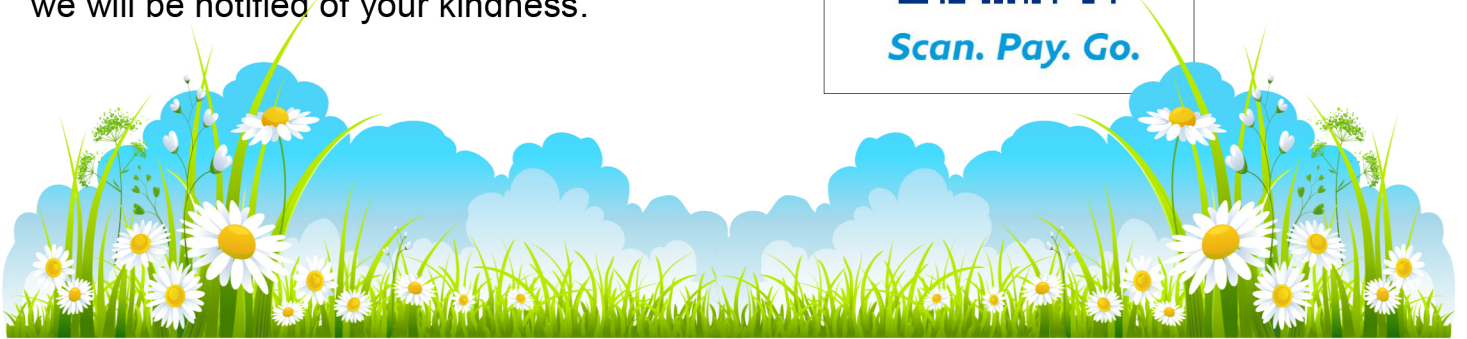
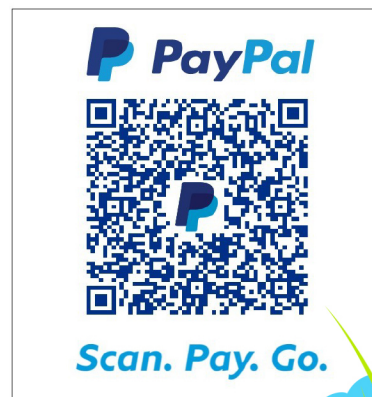
The **Marie Mills Foundation** continues to work towards their goal of supporting future needs of Marie Mills Center. If you would like more information about the Marie Mills Foundation please **contact Cindy Green at 503-842-2539 x 1400** or visit

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: ***Alice's Country House, Norma Anderson in honor of Carol Thompson and Memory of Tom Thompson, ARC of Tillamook County, Jo and Don Averill, Linda & Harry Backeberg in Memory of Jill Carter, Ann Batchelder & Barry Borin, Ron & Muriel Beeler, Dr. Helen Benscheidt in Honor of her 102nd Birthday, Mark and Susan Benscheidt, Bill Block Foundation, Boyd's Implement Service, LLC., Elizabeth Britt, Barb Burdick in Memory of Jim Burdick, Sue & Jeff Carr in Memory of Jeffery Carr Jr., Patrick Casey Foundation, City Sanitary Service, Coast Printing & Stationary in Memory of Joan Trusty, Tom & Annelle Connaughton, Lilian K Derington, Ruth & Rudy Fenk, Fraternal Order of Eagles, George N. & Paula D. Diamond Charitable Fund of Oregon,***

Bryan Gibson, Judy & Hank Gollon in Memory of Sue Hurliman and Ron Warren, Drs. Constance & Randall Green, Carolyn Hindman, Tonya Hobbs in Memory of Tom Thompson, Phyllis Holmes, Brad & Donna Hubbard, Brent & Laurie Jacobsen, Gladys Jacobsen in Memory of Jenny Lee Nufoll & Eugene Nufoll, Sharon Kaszycki, Jason Kehr, Tara Kottre in Honor of Jackie and Memory of Harol Kottre, La Mexicana, Bob & Laurie Lamb, Kerma Lamkin, Jim Martin, Moose Lodge No. 1260, Carolee North, Richard & Pam Obrist, Bob Ouzounian, P&L Heating & Sheet Metal/Roofing, Port Storage, R.H. Parker United Foundation, Carlo & Roger Raymond in Honor of Helen Benscheidt, Gloria Remington, Rob Trost Realty, Ron & Paulette Rush in Honor of Helen Benscheidt, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Dick & Leanne Spence, Carol Thompson in Memory of: Tom Thompson, Gary Anderson & Frank Bohanon, Tillamook Chiropractic Clinic, Tillamook Co. Transportation Dist., Tillamook Co. Pioneer Assoc., Tillamook Rental Center, Keith & Yvonne Townsend in Memory of Dianne Jacob, Terry Turcotte, John Wassmer, Betty Waud in Memory of Tom Waud, Waud's Funeral Home, Bob & Cindy Weitman, Brian & Julie (Taksdal) White in Memory of Marcus A Balmer, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs, Matt & Shiela Zerngast

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.



ORA's Private Employer of the Year Award—Rockaway Beach Resort

Oregon Resource Association accepted nominations for **Private Employer of the Year** from many businesses throughout Oregon. This employer is recognized by their partnership with an ORA member organization, employing individuals with disabilities and having improved the lives of people with disabilities.

Rockaway Beach Resort and Conference Center is the winner of the 2025 award. Marie Mills Center, Inc. nominated this business for having created an awareness in the community that all individuals willing to work are a valuable asset. Dallas Entwistle-Jewett was hired as part of the Maintenance Flex Team and her supervisors realized she was capable of so much more!

James Coke, President/CEO of Rockaway Beach Resort created an environment that is willing to embrace the culture around I/DD individuals. Amanda Rodriguez and John Johnson are supervisors in Housekeeping and Maintenance at Rockaway Beach Resort. Amanda and John are nurturing supervisors. Amanda is patient and thorough. She takes time to model new tasks for Dallas and works with her until the tasks are conquered. Amanda creates lists for Dallas to follow which, in turn, helps Dallas develop more independence. John also works side by side with Dallas,

teaching her new skills and giving her the positive feedback necessary to give her pride in the work she does. He has provided her with opportunities to support the Housekeeping Team and learn more about the business. They are currently working together with this individual, helping her gain experience and possibly



ness. They are currently working together with this individual, helping her gain experience and possibly

a career in the hospitality industry. They provide her with immediate feedback on the quality of her work, retraining when necessary and flexibility with her schedule that meets her needs.

James has opened their business to the public and created an inviting place for everyone to enjoy. James leads by example and creates a friendly and supportive environment, fostering a culture of open-mindedness, compassion and inclusion. He provides learning experiences where everyone can learn, ask questions without ridicule and feel accepted. They welcome people to their team without regards to possible extra needs, make necessary accommodation without objection and provide the natural support necessary for people to be successful. They are always helpful, sharing ideas and trying to make the workplace comfortable for the entire team.

We have enjoyed partnering with the company for over eight years. They welcome our culture and we respect them for that.

Congratulations to Rockaway Beach Resort and Conference Center!

Christmas Luncheon 2024

On December 13th we enjoyed a ham dinner with all of the fixings, including pumpkin pie. The most anticipated guest of course was Santa who was there to hand out presents to everyone.

We would like to say a special thank you to everyone who helps out during this busy time of year. We appreciate all of you!

WE APPRECIATE YOU ALL!



Upcoming Activities

MMCI Picnic

July or Aug

Halloween Party

October

**Christmas Luncheon
with Santa**

December

Watch for Fliers



Marie Mills Center, Inc. Management Team

Cindy Green,
Executive Director

Holly Rico,
Vocational Program
Director

Barbara Armstrong,
Residential Program
Director

Paula Remington,
Office Manager/
Bookkeeper

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We invite you to tour Marie Mills Center.

You will observe different aspects of our programs in action!
Call Cindy Green at (503)842-2539 x 1400 to arrange a time

Visit Us At:

www.mariemillscenter.com and find us on Facebook