Fall
2026

Marie Mills Center, Inc.

We Build Abilities

2026 Brought Some New Faces to Our Group Homes

In January of this year, Clinton Nelson made the choice to move into the Madrona House group home where he enjoys having 4 housemates and staff to talk to whenever he wants. Clint isn't a new face entirely as he has been involved with other Marie Mills Center programs since 1991.



He originally moved to Tillamook and joined our RTF Group Home out at the Port of Tillamook Bay. Over the years Clint had been involved in our Employment program, worked on the janitorial crews and had lived on his own through the Supported Living program. Clint enjoys retirement and living close to town so he can walk to the library and other local spots. His former program coordinator, Mary Rose Reynolds said that this move seems to be a great thing for Clint!

In February, Andrew Krumenaker, moved into our Nestucca House group home. Andrew had previously lived with his family and attended Neah Kah Nie high school. Ready for his next adventure in life as he finishes out his last year of high school, he enjoys playing guitar and the drums, both of which he taught himself. Andrew brings with him a young energy and a kind smile to brighten everyone's day.



Most recently, Gabriel Welch, who has been involved in other Marie Mills Center programs since 2003 also made the choice to take advantage of an opening at our Nestucca House group home. Gabe has participated in Marie Mills Center's Employment Program, worked on the janitorial crews and had lived in his own apartment with support from the Supported Living program. This move gives Gabe comfort in knowing there will always be someone around to talk to and to make sure his every day needs are met.



Gabe also plays guitar so hopefully he and Andrew can have jam sessions and entertain the whole house with their love of music!

Glad to Have You All Here!

Knowledge Quest

Marie Mills strives to be an employer that encourages individuals to want to come to work and be here for those we support. We want employees to feel like they are an important part of the team and they feel good about the accomplishments they are a part of every day. Even in the best companies, there are times when we might forget about what is important and get caught up in the day-to-day "busy-ness" and frustration of everyday life. This can cause negative impacts even when we don't realize it is happening.



The Knowledge Quest program was developed to help employee's see the "BIG picture" of our agency by: Challenging individuals to look at MMCI differently, helping them to know other parts of our agency, explore areas they are interested in knowing more about, providing information about other agencies that we work with, and seeing the impact that MMCI has on our community. It is designed to help with self-reflection, observe peers and management staff, and have a better understanding of how we are all an important part of a team.



It's a great program that opens the eyes to what really happens within the services provided at Marie Mills Center. Participants average two months to complete the program and receive 12 in-service credits. This is a morale booster, which helps management staff create a better bond with employees and develops a better understanding of the entire organization. Eleven employees have completed the program and enjoyed it. Pictured are a few of the individuals who have completed their Quest!



Comments from participants:

"I had no idea we do that much"

"Wow! that person does way more than I ever thought"

"I didn't know we provided that service"

"I think everyone should do this; it's an eye-opener!"

"Now I understand what that is"

Our goal is to have all our staff go through the Knowledge Quest program which will continue to strengthen our team.

WANT TO BE NEXT? If you would like to participate and are a current MMCI employee: reach out to Holly Rico 503-842-2539 ext. 2200

Remembering Her Legacy—Dr. Helen Benscheidt

Dr. Helen Benscheidt, was one of the founders of the grassroots effort (1969) to provide local meaningful services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Tillamook County. These efforts were the driving force behind the creation of the Marie Mills Center. Helen's passion for those with disabilities served as a catalyst behind what is now a very diverse program covering services in every corner of the County.

Helen recently passed away at the age of 103 (nearly 104). Helen's infectious passion has been felt by many individuals. Her involvement in the early years in the start of programs for the disabled and her knowledge & dedication to the Boards of both Marie Mills Center and the Marie Mills Foundations is unmeasurable.

Helen and her family have made huge difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Tillamook County.









Marie Mills Foundation Update and Thank You!

The Foundation continues to build on their funding support base for the long term security of Marie Mills Center's efforts to support individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. The Board Officers for this fiscal year are Judy Gollon, Chairperson; Tom Connaughton, Vice Chairperson; Bob Weitman, Treasurer; Linda Kay Widmer, Secretary.

Both the Foundation and the Marie Mills Center would like to extend many thanks to the following individuals for their kindness the past several months. 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**.

Consider remembering the Foundation in your estate planning to help assure the services provided by Marie Mills Center go on for many years to come.

The Foundation and Marie Mills Center would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the following supporters:

Linda & Harry Backeberg in Memory of Jill Carter, Bill Block Foundation, Boyd's Implement Services LLC, Elizabeth Britt in Honor of Kristine Jacobsen, Sue & Jeff Carr in Memory of Jeffery Carr on his 51st birthdate, Coast Printing & Stationary, Elite Car Wash, Ghost Hole Public House, Bryan Gibson, David & Cheryl Hantke, Tonya Hobbs in Memory of Tom Thompson, Linda Hofman, Brad & Donna Hubbard, Sharon Kaszycki, Kerma Lamkin, Sharon Lighthill in Memory of Molly Nuppenau, Loren E Parks Foundation by Jerry Dove for Housing Project, Teresa Malarkey, Loretta McFarland in Memory of Mary Schriber, Pam Mendenhall in Honor of Gregg Carter, Moose Lodge No 1260, Nectar Markets LLC, Richard & Pam Obrist, Marilyn Rigterink, Rob Trost Realty in Honor of Steph Poppe, Rotary Club of Tillamook for Communication Devices, SOAR 4 Inc., Mark & Dianne Stewart, Tillamook High School Charity Drive, Mahlon & Pat Wirfs in Memory of James H Vogt, Raymond & Joan Yost.

~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.

Annual Picnic at Carnahan Park

Marie Mills Center's Annual Picnic was held on July 18th at Carnahan Park on 5th Street in Tillamook. This year we had scavenger hunt, facepainting, and prizes for every one who attended thanks to all items and funds donated by local community partners and individuals.

























Upcoming Events

Halloween Party

& Dance

Tillamook High School Cafeteria

October 31, 2023

2:30-5:30 pm

December 11, 2026

Christmas Luncheon with Santa

Tillamook Swiss Hall

Noon-1:30 pm



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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Luke Stahle
Bob Weitman
Cindy Green

We invite you to tour Marie Mills Center.
You will observe 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