

The Talebearer

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A Letter from the CEO

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disability (ODODD) conducted a licensure review at the Thomas Edison Group Home facility in Van Wert. This year the review was a little different. Due to COVID, the review was completed virtually. MRSI Director of Operations, Emily Hoelscher; Program Director, Jessica Grunden and Registered Nurse, Shannon Heindel spent a lot of time gathering and organizing many documents for the review. All of this had to be submitted electronically to the surveyor prior to the review date. This was not an easy task to complete; hours were spent gathering and organizing the information. During the day of the actual scheduled review, Emily Hoelscher and Jessica Grunden provided virtual tours of the Thomas Edison Group Home as well as our Van Wert ADS. The reviews are regularly held to determine the facility's compliance with State regulations. At the end of the review, we were notified there were no deficiencies. Based on the outcome of the review the home received a three year license.

I am very proud of all of our staff at MRSI. Staff have a very difficult and challenging role to fulfill. We have dedicated and caring staff. They do what it takes to ensure individuals receive high quality care. The TEGH receiving a deficiency free survey goes to show how much work staff put in every day as it is not easy to receive a deficiency free survey.

Congratulations to Jessica and her team for an outstanding review!

- Janelle Wehrman, CEO





Gay St.

Gay St. ladies have been busy with the Easter holiday. We stuffed plastic eggs and "egged" the Van Wert Manor, along with Hearth and Home. We also egged a couple other houses, Park and Linden.

Recently with everyone being vaccinated we

have made a trip to the cinema and the drive in to watch movies and the ladies have been getting some steps in walking the bike path.

- Amy Bennett, Home Coordinator

WSGH



Wayne Street Group Home has gone through many changes over the last year due to COVID-19, but we are getting back to a more normal routine. Residents have even been able to return to ADS completely and home visits have started for a few hours at a time. We are still being very

diligent doing everything we can to keep the residents safe and healthy. We had a Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day party via Zoom with Mercer ADS, Van Wert ADS and TEGH, as well as celebrated several birthdays. Being able to keep the residents

connected with friends and family via Zoom has been wonderful. We at Wayne Street Group Home would like to thank all of our DSPs for all of the hard work and dedication they have shown during this difficult time. THANK YOU!!!

- Tacey Blakeley,

Park St.

The ladies at Park Street filled Easter eggs for an Easter egg hunt at the house. Children of staff and former staff came to find the eggs. Also present was a special surprise guest, the Easter

bunny! Children and residents all had a great time.

- Heidi Leindecker, Home Coordinator



Mercer ADS

Mercer County ADS clients have stayed very busy this winter time. We have spent time with friends with zoom parties to celebrate the holidays. Also we have had several guest speakers to talk with us about everything

from heart health to animal rights. After listening to our heart health speaker we have also started working on our fitness goals by introducing 2 new fitness classes to the ADS. During the winter months

everyone also enjoys spending time decorations the ADS with new crafts and paintings.

- Jennifer Bishop, ADS Director



Get Active

If parents lead a sedentary lifestyle, their children tend to also lead a sedentary lifestyle. Stay active-even, if only for a few hours a week, will have great health benefits for all! Here are a few tips:
-Limit TV, phone, internet etc. time to 2 hours a day.
-Buy gifts that encourage activity. Balls,

skates, active yard games.
-Have a family night that everyone participates in. Bike riding, walking, bowling, softball.
-Take on flower or vegetable gardening as a family.
-As a family, sign up for a charity walk or run.
-Let the kids choose an activity for the family. Offer going to the pool, playing in the park, taking a hike. Let

them invite their friends as a bonus!
Some great tips to being active without realizing it.



Individual Spotlight

Lee started attending Mercer ADS in September in 2020. Lee loves to bowl, make new crafts and lunch in the park with his friends. He is a very kind and fun loving individual who is always helping out his friends and making them laugh. We all enjoy getting to spend our days with Lee.



Van Wert County Staff Spotlight– Deb Hitchcock

Deb has been working with MRSI since October of 2016. Deb is an extremely nice and caring person. She cares very much for the people we serve. Deb has a special way about her and everyone enjoys working with her. She is trustworthy, dependable, and always willing to help where and when she can. The clients love her. She has a special connection with each one of them. Deb can take any bad situation and turn it into a good one. She helps make the days run smoothly. Outside of work, she loves her children and grandchildren very much.



Mercer County Staff Spotlight– Renee Moniz

Kelly “Renee” Moniz joined MRSI in October 2020. She is a DSP at Mercer ADS and Wayne Street Group Home. She is kind, funny, hardworking, and dependable. She is a valued team member who has adapted to all the changes that have come with the pandemic and offers to work extra shifts when needed. Renee not only works at 2 MRSI locations but she also teaches piano in her spare time. Renee brings an upbeat attitude each day and helps the clients to have a good day too.

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