

THE TALEBEARER

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A LETTER FROM THE CEO

It has been a while since we put out a newsletter. We are back on track and will be publishing them on a quarterly basis again. The year 2021 came and went very fast. MRSI employees continue to work hard at keeping everyone safe. Hopefully the COVID-19 pandemic is winding down so everyone can continue to work on resuming somewhat of a normal life. Luckily the individuals have been able to resume many of the activities they enjoy with safety precautions in place. Activities such as bowling, golfing, playing bingo, planting flowers, attending the fair / zoo, volunteering and fishing are just a few of the unending activities that have been occurring. It has been wonderful seeing the individuals out and about and the smiles on their faces. None of this would be possible if it wasn't for the wonderful staff we have. Thank you to all of our employees. Each one of you work hard every day.

Unfortunately, in 2021 we received some sad news. MRSI also had to say goodbye to our Board of Director member, Jim Mustard. Jim had been on our Board since 2016. Many of you knew him and know what a wonderful, brilliant, caring person he was. Jim was a very active Board member who enjoyed attending various events MRSI held. Jim would also stop in frequently at our home office to chat and to see how we were all doing. When I say he would check to see how we were doing, not only was he interested in how the agency was doing, but he cared about how staff was doing. I recall the day Jim came to the home office and not only sang happy birthday to me, but he also videotaped it and post it to his Facebook page. As embarrassed as I was, it is now a memory I will cherish forever. Rest in Peace Jim. We will never forget you.

- Janelle Wehrman, CEO

GAY ST.

The ladies at Gay Street have started the year off with a BANG! We have gone to the NPAC to watch a comedy, The Church Basement Ladies, and our recent trip to Port Clinton to the African Wildlife Safari and of course we need to have some good food like Big Boy. We have also had some good weather where we packed up a picnic lunch and went to the park and played some wiffle ball and frisbee. The ladies have been riding bikes and getting some steps in when they can. We have celebrated a couple of Birthdays, Miss Kathy and Miss Beth, both with some special cakes they personally requested, spice for Kathy and German Chocolate for Beth. Our very own Paige got engaged last year and they have finally set the date and location of their destination wedding, 10/02/2022 in the lovely state of AZ. We wish them well and look forward to seeing some great photos of the big day. Congratulations Paige and Sage (too cute).

- Amy Bennett



PARK ST.

January and February always last so long... we play Yahtzee to pass the time when it's too cold to enjoy going out. March brought some days of short sleeve weather, and we were so excited!! We all joined in the "wearing of the green" for St Patrick's Day and showed off our spirit for the neighborhood.

- Heidi Leindecker



WSGH

Wayne Street Group Home has been up to a lot of fun things in March, April, and to come in May. The Wayne Street Residents have gone to the circus, the Mack Arena to watch bull riding, had picnics at the park, colored Easter Eggs, gone bowling and so much more. The residents at Wayne Street are looking forward to their future outings such as the Air and Space Museum, a Garth Brooks concert, Hopefest and Eldora Speedway. We would like to thank all of our DSP's for stepping up and covering shifts as needed. I would also like to welcome all the new staff we have at WSGH and thank all of our veteran staff for all of their hard work.

- Anna Rigney

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Van Wert County

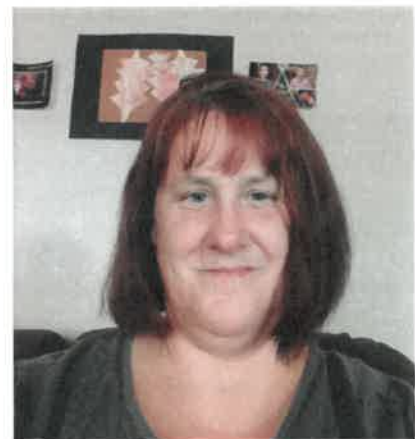
Heidi Leiendecker is the Home Coordinator over our Park St home. She cares for 4 ladies. Heidi has been with MRSI since May of 2007. Heidi is a great person professionally and personally. She often talks about her family. Heidi is a huge part of the VW MRSI Team, and I am very grateful for Heidi. Some quotes from her staff: "She knows each one of her staff and how to work with them on training and what their strengths and weaknesses are." "She knows how to work with all staff. She is also very organized." "Always willing to lend a helping hand whenever needed. Also, very generous." "Great supervisor" "Knows our individuals and makes sure they all have quality care and are put first."

Mercer County

Shelley Foreman joined the MRSI team in 2014. Shelley previously served as a DSP and a lead in the homes in the community. Shelley now is the team lead at the Wayne Street Group Home. She is kind, hardworking, and dependable. She is a valued team member who has adapted to all the changes that have come with the staffing shortages. Shelley has stepped up to help cover roles and responsibilities that the home needs. Shelley has also covered many shifts that were empty due to the staffing shortages. Shelley truly cares about each of her residents and strives to make everyday a good day for them.



Heidi Leiendecker



Shelley Foreman



INDIVIDUAL SPOTLIGHT

William is a very busy man. He works on his wrecker wagon, and his yarn cable most of his free time. He attends Thomas Edison Center 2x's a week, and our ADS in Celina 3x's a week. He is a very social individual, hardworking, and funny. He also loves to sing and loves animals. He is very excited about starting a new garden.

Contact Us

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Article Insert

MRSI is proud to provide services to all of the individuals that have chosen us as their provider. This includes someone who is a very skilled writer. She has written an article for this newsletter that is being included as an insert because her article deserves to be a stand-alone document.

MRSI

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How I Overcame Cancer

Ever since the year of 2021, I would have issues with my weight as well as with coughing all the time. As a matter of fact, this issue has been going on since I was in high school. Anyway, every time I would go to the doctor to get a check-up they would always want to draw up some labs. Every time I would get labs drawn the results would either be low or high. Meaning, my labs were abnormal. Moving on. Back in September of 2021, I went to my family doctor and she checked my throat and was concerned. She had told me that she wanted to check my thyroid as well as my labs.

After she had checked my labs, she wanted to do an ultrasound on my throat. So, the next day her office called and told me that I had a tiny nodule with my thyroid. After I had done this she had referred me to an ENT specialist. When the nurse scheduled me to see the ENT he told me he wanted to do an FNA biopsy on my right side of my neck. After that I saw the specialist again and he told me that the nodule on the right side of my neck was not too big but he suggested thyroid surgery.

So, in September of 2021, I finally went to the hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana to get the surgery done. After the surgery I was just coming out of it and my mom and dad were there to support me and to be there for me as well. What I did find out was that the surgeon came in to tell me that it was cancer on my right side at first. So, at first I didn't even have any emotion yet I didn't even care at that time.

Anyway, I finally went home to my parents' house with a drain in my neck and to tell you the truth I was really exhausted that day. I stayed with my parents for 3 days and to tell the truth I was really miserable and I really

hated getting this surgery. Moving forward. Things have been really difficult with me being diagnosed with thyroid cancer and mentally I wasn't there and I was really struggling with my thoughts and everything.

After I saw the specialist for a follow-up, he told me that I needed to have the left side removed due to the cancer spreading to that side. After the second surgery again I stayed with my parents to recover. When I was at my parents' house recovering, I was sitting on the couch and all of sudden I started to have a breakdown mentally. I was going off on my parents to the point of wanting to leave their house while recovering.

Here's why I was having a severe meltdown. I was holding in a lot of emotions ever since I found out that I had cancer. I got to a point where I wanted to give up on my dreams and goals with my writings, leadership roles and basically everything in the book. Meaning I wanted to throw in the towel and say "screw it." But, honestly I was really scared to have been diagnosed with cancer at the age of 33. My parents even admitted that they were really scared that they were going to lose me at a young age.

Moving on to the year of 2022. In March, I was preparing for treatments for thyroid cancer. But, on my birthday I had a scan done that almost took about 2 hours to do. Long story short, I went to see the oncologist in Fort Wayne for the results. And he told me that I still had a little bit of the cancer cells in my neck. So, what he did was that he gave me a low dose of radiation as my treatment and I had to be isolated for 4 days.

Now to share with you some great news. During this treatment, as I was isolated at my parents on "house arrest" (lol) I had realized that I never once had a meltdown because I knew that this had to take place and I did stay busy with getting my school work done and just staying busy.

Right now I do have to say I am cancer free right now and that I have a lot of people to thank and that I am doing great with everything. During my treatment all I felt was tiredness. I honestly did not feel any other side effects or symptoms at all.

To all those who have or had cancer do not give up your dreams for any reason. Whatever type of cancer you have or had, listen to me. I was once in your shoes not even a year ago. I've been through a lot to the point of having an anxiety attack and having pain on my right side due to stress and anxiety. Take it from someone who had cancer. I wanted to give up everything I had worked for. But, with the advice from those who are part of my support team look where I am at today. I am feeling great and I didn't give up what I had worked hard for. Do not take life for granted. In fact, live your dream. Accomplish your goals and really just live without being a negative person. Trust me I know. And remember, You got this. Anything can happen. Just believe it.

- Elizabeth



