



The Talebearer

A Quarterly Insight into Mercer Residential Services, Inc

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Van Wert County Foundation awards grant funds to Mercer Residential Services, Inc.

A \$20,000 grant from the Van Wert County Foundation (VWCF) helped to replace HVAC units in Mercer Residential Services (MRSI) mental health housing units and Challenge High Drop-In Center located in Van Wert. Since 1998, MRSI has owned and operated a six plex apartment building in Van Wert providing housing to individuals facing mental health challenges. Many of these individuals have a difficult time maintaining employment as well as securing housing. These furnished apartment units provide safe and affordable housing to the tenants while also providing them the opportunity to blend into and be a viable part of the community. MRSI also owns the Challenge High Drop-In Center which focuses on promoting mental health and wellness through social recreation and peer support groups run by Westwood Behavioral Health. Both buildings' HVAC units had outlived their life expectancy and were in need of being replaced this year. MRSI is a non-profit organization and relies on fundraisers and grants to have large scale repairs completed. This project was funded in large part by a grant from the Van Wert County Foundation. Funding for this program was provided by Gifts of Maude Schumm, Daisy Schumm, Carl Schumm, and Bess E. Schumm along with the Oscar J. Scaer Memorial Fund through the Van Wert County Foundation. The Gifts of Maude Schumm, Daisy Schumm, Carl Schumm, and Bess E. Schumm along with the Oscar J. Scaer Memorial Fund are endowments created to support the charitable needs of the Van Wert community. More information can be found at www.vanwertcountyfoundation.org. This wouldn't have been possible without the help of the Van Wert County Foundation. The VWCF's immense generosity has allowed MRSI to continue providing quality housing for the Van Wert community.



A Word from Our CEO

It has been another fast-paced year. Individuals continue to be kept busy with various activities and events. Our staff continue to do a great job supporting the individuals we serve, and they are creative in finding ways for the individuals to enjoy some pretty amazing activities and events. This year alone individuals have enjoyed traveling to and attending activities and events such as, Ohio State Football games, Trace Adkins concert, Columbus Zoo, Auglaize / Mercer and Van Wert County Fairs, Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum, various concerts / musicals at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert, Cincinnati Reds Ballgame, Demolition Derby, Apple Festival, local High School plays, YMCA, Science Central and of course eating out at some nice restaurants such as the Black Angus. This is just the beginning of the list of places the individuals have enjoyed this year.

Individuals who attend our ADS program have always enjoyed attending the YMCA. When the pandemic hit this was put on hold. Individuals are now able to resume taking advantage of all the wonderful fitness activities the YMCA continues to offer.

MRSI continues to increase the use of technology with not only staff but with the individuals we serve as well. Staff are now entering incident reports electronically and all of our Day Program documentation is completed electronically. We have also added increased safety features in our agency vehicles. Our individuals are being encouraged to utilize more technology, such as, iPads, cell phones and other technology / adaptive devices to assist them with being more independent. MRSI clients are now connected to Station MD, which is a benefit as some of our individuals do not like going to the ER when they become sick. In 2023, more technology will be implemented agency wide for staff and for the individuals.

MRSI has also been able to continue updating some of our locations. Our WSGH had flooring replaced throughout the house. Our mental health housing units in Van Wert had HVAC units replaced this year. We have also been able to purchase 2 AEDs. None of this could have occurred without the assistance of grant funds received from the Mercer County Civic Foundation, The Van Wert County Foundation, as well as donated funds received from Stammen Insurance.

- Janelle Wehrman, CEO



Tell Me Something Good- Home News

This fall Frances went to Brewed Expressions a couple times to enjoy a coffee and do an art project (painting ceramics). You can tell by her grin that she had a great time. All of the ladies have enjoyed going to dinner at a local church monthly where they have made some new friends. After the December meal, they took in the light display at Van Wert's Fountain Park and strolled among the many displays. During the last couple of weeks, the residents have also helped decorate their home. One of the fun things they did was to decorate a gingerbread house! They did a great job and Park Street tied for 1st place in the decorating contest! Our annual staff/resident Christmas Party is always a fun time, and everyone got presents that they wanted. Heidi Leindecker Park Street



The end of the year here at Gay Street has been eventful! We have seen Trace Adkins, both Crestview and Van Wert High school plays, along with several other outings. Early in December we went shopping in Lima and got our photo taken with the Big Man himself - Santa! It was so good we even printed it and it's in our living room. We were excited to find out we got runner up in the company wide Christmas Decorating contest and the ladies are excited to figure out what we are going to do with the winnings! As we gear up for the New Year, we are going out to eat at CJ's in Celina then off to the bowling alley to get some practice in for the Special Olympics. We would like to wish everyone a happy healthy new year as we are all going to practice more healthy eating and get more steps in or do some Richard Simmons videos! Happy New Year from our house to yours! Warm regards! Amy and the crew at Gay St.



This last quarter at TEGH, we have been going out to many shows at the PAC center with staff. Both staff and clients love to sit back, relax, and enjoy the multiple shows. All different types of shows from I Am, He Said with the guys to Legally Blonde on a girl's night out. All clients and staff have a blast each time we get to enjoy a show together. Even saw some familiar faces at some of these shows 😊 Chloe at TEGH





In the Spotlight

Client Spotlight



This is Matt and he joined us in August. He likes to fish, play basketball, and he has a 14-year-old son. So far he's noticed that the staff is easy to talk to. Matt also mentioned that the staff and his house mates are very nice!



Hello, my name is Melissa S. I love spending time with my family, especially with my beautiful 22-month-old great niece, Alayah. My niece Mia and I are teaching her ASL, and she is picking it up really quickly. When the weather is nice, I enjoy playing outdoors and taking walks with Alayah. Our favorite inside game is Hide & Seek. I have been in the DD field now for 20 years with MRSI. I started as a DSP. I have taken ASL classes and PATHS training. I have worked as a Home Coordinator, and also worked in the ADS program here in Van Wert. In 2020 when Covid temporarily closed the ADS I went back to being a DSP in one of the supported living homes. I still enjoy working there. The best part of my job is the group of ladies I care for and my co-workers.



Employee: Stacey S.

Position in agency: DSP at WSGH

How long have you worked at MRSI: Stacey worked here in 2013-2014, then returned in 2021.

What made you apply to work at MRSI: The CEO reached out to Stacey asking her to come back to MRSI during the COVID Pandemic and she jumped at the opportunity!

Favorite memory working here: When her Home Coordinator fell while cleaning the bathroom and ripped her pants! Stacey also enjoys watching resident MAH grow and becoming closer with her. Stacey is pleased to see how happy the residents are when she is here!

Why should someone work for MRSI? Someone should work for MRSI to be able to build relationships with the individuals and gain the pride you get from watching them grow.



Chili Cookoff Winners 2022



November



DECEMBER



