

THE TALEBEARER

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A LETTER FROM THE CEO

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

A \$12,500 grant from the Mercer County Civic Foundation (MCCF) is helping to replace a fire panel in one of Mercer Residential Services (MRSI) mental health housing units in Celina. MRSI has been providing housing to individuals facing mental health challenges since 1998. Many of these individuals have a difficult time maintaining employment as well as securing housing. The apartment units come furnished and provide safe and affordable housing to tenants while also providing the individuals the opportunity to be a viable part of the community. The fire panel in one six plex unit has outlived its life expectancy and is in need of being replaced. The fire panel is connected to a fire monitoring system and the fire department will be notified and dispatched immediately in the event a fire is detected. We cannot express our humble gratitude enough for the funds we received. MRSI is very appreciative of everything the Mercer County Civic Foundation does to support everyone in Mercer County.

- Janelle Wehrman, CEO



GAY ST.

Welcome back to Gay St!

Take your shoes off and sit a spell!

We recently had our Christmas decorating contest and our house party. Lots of laughs and food. The ladies have been busy bowling with Beyond Expectations and Special Olympics. We brought in the new year with our sister house and had a grand ole time with that. We don't sit still much but this cold weather has us finding more indoor things to keep us occupied from movie days, coloring and putting puzzles together.

We are looking forward to warmer weather, Come on Spring! Until next time stay warm!

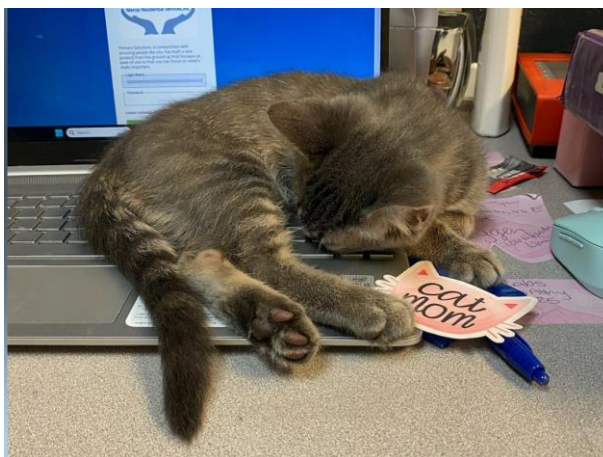
Respectfully

Amy Bennet-Home Coordinator

VAN WERT ADS

Van Wert ADS has had a great start to the new year. We took the time to reflect on last year and get input from the clients on their favorite and not so favorite things they did. At the top of the list of favorites was our new volunteer project of fostering kittens. The clients help feed, socialize, comfort and care for orphaned kittens. We love watching them grow, their personalities develop, and the shenanigans the kittens pull. We all find laughter when the kittens do paperwork and clear off staff's desks in one running slide and swipe. This project has lit up faces, given endless laughs, smiles, enjoyment and taught us life lessons. When the kittens reach two pounds, they are taken back to the Humane Society for their spay or neuter and are put up for adoption. We take great pride in knowing we helped them on to the next stage of their lives. VWADS has also been out in the community enjoying our favorite places to go and visit. The clients set two New Year's resolutions as a group. They are to be healthier and kinder to others. We challenge you all to do the same!

Jasmine Goins- ADS Coordinator



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

MRSI has promoted some employees internally. We'd love to welcome them to their new positions by spotlighting them below!

Mercer County

Please help Wayne Street Group home in welcoming our new Home Coordinator, Elizabeth Strausburg. Elizabeth started with MRSI as a DSP in August 2023. Elizabeth has done an amazing job connecting with staff and clients while working at the WSGH. Elizabeth looks forward to working with WSGH staff to get the clients out on more outings and she already has some planned. Elizabeth lives in Redkey, Indiana and was an educator before coming to WSGH. Elizabeth even spent some time in China! Elizabeth has four kids and enjoys spending time with them. Please welcome Elizabeth to the management team!



Van Wert County

For those of you who don't know her, I would like to introduce Marcy Diddle. Marcy and her husband Troy live in Van Wert, although she is originally from Putnam County. Marcy has been with MRSI since June 2006. She has worked at all of the supported living houses with the exception of Crawford Street, as well as with many level one clients over the years. For the last 10 years or more, Marcy has worked exclusively at Park Street.

Marcy had been the previous Home Coordinator's dependable rocksteady support, and her right hand since the spring of 2015. The previous home coordinator reported that her job would've been much harder without Marcy!

Marcy is taking over the coordinator position and the previous coordinator has stepped down to DSP. She is cutting back her hours as she heads toward retirement. Rest assured, your loved ones are in caring and capable hands! Extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Marcy in her new position.

PSST... Marcy loves Reese's peanut butter cups, peanut butter M&Ms, and Mountain Dew!



FUNDRAISER WINNER

MRSI held an E-bike fundraiser this past fall. Pictured is Cindy, winner of the E-bike. Borger's Bicycle provided the E-bike for this event. All proceeds from the fundraiser are applied directly towards the individuals MRSI serves for items that are not covered by Medicaid. MRSI would like to congratulate Cindy on her win as well as thank everyone who participated in this fundraiser! MRSI and the clients truly appreciate the additional funds for the needed items!



WSGH

Wayne Street Group Home has been busy the past few months. Staff and clients participated in the decorating contest and did an amazing job. We have residents actively involved in Special Olympics. Look out for us at the basketball games and bowling matches. Two of our residents have been working hard with People First and are excited for the quarter auction coming up in February. We have added some new staff to our team and look forward to seeing where 2024 brings us.

Anna Cox- Program Director



MRSI

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