

THE TALEBEARER

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CONTENTS

Community generosity.....2

In The Homes.....3

TEGH and ADS.....4

Spotlights.....5

Nursing.....5

PERFECT SURVEYS

In October, MRSI held its Staff Appreciation Day event. Staff enjoyed a delicious meal of pulled pork, mac & cheese, baked beans and a wide variety of sweet desserts. Numerous awards were given out for various criteria such as attendance, creativity, positive personality, etc. Committee members spent many hours discussing candidates along with the criteria that need to be met to earn the award before making a final decision on the recipient(s). This year our Wayne Street Home earned the Teamwork Award for 2024. The employees at this location have worked hard as a team to ensure the individuals living at the home receive high quality care while also ensuring the tedious paperwork/electronic documentation is done in a timely manner. In addition, the staff are frequently pulled in several directions as an individual who lives in the home may want to go out shopping or attend another community activity, another individual may have a medical appointment, grocery shopping may need to be done for the home and other individuals may need a meal prepared, medications administered, etc. Oh, don't forget, staff go to the emergency room day or night when a resident becomes sick. The list goes on and on of what staff are asked to do on a daily/weekly basis. Staff have to stay on top of what is going on to ensure high quality care continues to be provided.

When staff least expect it, State surveyors then show up to complete their reviews on the home. In less than 1 month, the WSGH has been through 2 State surveys. On October 22nd and October 23rd, the Ohio Department of Health was at the Wayne Street Home to complete their annual review. On November 19th, the WSGH had its DODD survey. Anytime State regulators are at a location, staff become stressed as they fear they will make a mistake causing a citation to be issued. The staff at the Wayne Street Home did an outstanding job and all the work they perform each day paid off. The home received perfect surveys.

- Janelle Wehrman



WSGH accepting their teamwork award.
Some staff are missing from the photo

Congratulations to the WSGH Team!

COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

MERCER COUNTY CIVIC FOUNDATION

Mercer County Civic Foundation awards grant funds to Mercer Residential Services, Inc. In 11/2024, a \$10,950 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 MRSI's family 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 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



MRSI is so grateful to **Stammen Insurance** for the monetary donation received in December. MRSI has been able to purchase an AED for one of our homes in Van Wert.

MENTAL HEALTH HOUSING

Did you know that Mercer Residential Services also provides Mental Health Housing? MRSI has 2 six plex units (6 apts. in 1 building) and a duplex in Celina. There is also a six plex unit in Van Wert. The apartments come furnished with a couch, bed, kitchen table and chairs and appliances. There is also a washer and dryer in each building. MRSI has been busy upgrading the apartments, when able to, with fresh paint and laminate flooring. Recently, Tri County ADAMHS Board provided MRSI with a grant to purchase appliances, equipment and upgrades for the mental health housing units in Mercer and Van Wert counties. Due to the generosity of the Tri County ADAMHS Board, MRSI was able to upgrade the apartment units' camera systems, purchase outdoor patio furniture for each of the six plex buildings and replace a total of 13 appliances! Grants like these are very well appreciated as they assist MRSI to continue providing safe, affordable and comfortable housing for our tenants.

- Jenny Kinney

IN THE HOMES

GAY ST.

Welcome to the next edition of Gay Street on the move! We are closing the Fall season and getting ready for winter to get here! During our Fall Equinox, we did some traveling around OH and saw some fantastic pumpkin people and went to some local fall festivals here in Van Wert. We took a wagon ride around the fairgrounds, visited a couple church gatherings with bon fires and hotdog roasts. Who doesn't like a good ole bon fire? The beginning of October we were finally able to move back into our house that was newly renovated, and we are still getting used to everything. We are planning on slowing down a little bit for winter but will be out and about looking at all the fabulous Christmas lights!

See y'all on the flip side!

Gay street OUT!

Amy Bennett-Home Coordinator



LINDEN DR.

Linden enjoyed the shenanigans of Sparkles the elf this Christmas season. We baked and did lots of crafting for the Christmas season. We look forward to more crafts and weather getting nicer so we can enjoy things outside. We are looking forward to what the new year will bring for us.

- Casey York



WSGH



Wayne Street Group Home has had a fun holiday season! Thank you all for attending our family Christmas party. Santa loved visiting the home. WSGH is looking forward to Special Olympics bowling coming up, come watch us! WSGH wants to wish you a Happy New Year!

-Anna Cox

PARK ST.



Having fun putting her Christmas present together. She's excited when staff or housemates stop to help with the puzzle.

- Marcy Diddle

TEGH AND ADS LOCATIONS

TEGH



The residents at TEGH were able to go bowling and had a great time! The men also got out to Double A's to eat some dinner before heading to the PAC to see Elvis.



MERCER ADS

The Mercer County ADS has stayed busy this holiday season with many activities. We have been working hard on our Grinch decorations for the Christmas decorating contest, as well as decorating a tree for the Mendon tree festival. We have also been making treats to donate to our friends in the community. We have enjoyed shopping for Christmas gifts and going out for holiday treats. Everyone enjoyed a trip to the Lima tree festival as well, to check out the many different types of decorated trees. And the best part of the season is celebrating the holidays with our friends and our Thanksgiving and Christmas parties.

- Jennifer Bishop

VAN WERT ADS

Van Wert ADS spent the last part of the year giving back to the community. We have been working on a special project of melting down broken crayons and molding them into new ones. We donated these to a preschool, local dance studio, and Wayne Trace Elementary School. Wayne Trace passed these out to those who came to enjoy their Christmas program. We have enjoyed doing this so much we want to continue with it this year. We gave cold weather items to the YWCA. They distributed these to area parks for those in need to get, free of charge. While doing this, we also picked angel tree tags off their tree. Clients helped shop and chose items that VWADS staff were able to purchase. We continue to do our cat fostering program which we all enjoy so much. Our current foster cat, Bookmark, even made a grand appearance in our Christmas Grinch performance that we chose to do for the company decorating contest. This year we continue to look for new opportunities to serve our community and give back.

- Jasmine Newman



Spotlights

STAFF SPOTLIGHT- DEVORIS THOMAS

Devoris Thomas joined the MRSI team in 2023. Devoris works primarily 2nd and 3rd shift at Wayne Street Group Home but has helped on every shift in the past. Devoris is also cross trained for MADS. He won the Outstanding Attendance award at our Staff Appreciation Day. He is kind, hardworking, and dependable. He is a valued team member who will always assist with staffing changes. Devoris has attended the People First Convention and many Special Olympics events as well. WSGH is proud of all the hard work Devoris puts into his job here.



INDIVIDUAL SPOTLIGHT

Alan started attending MADS in July of 2023. He is a very quiet individual that enjoys getting out with his friends. He really enjoys sports, especially football. He loves conversations about the Bengals and Joe Burrow. We all have fun getting out and about with Alan.

NURSING

It's that time again, the dreaded season of coughs, colds, stuffy noses, and spreading much more than holiday cheer! Be sure to take care of yourself, your loved ones, and those we care for at MRSI by stopping the spread of germs. CDC recommends the use of hand sanitizer as an effective way to stop the spread. Hand sanitizer can be used in between giving each client care, before and after any bathroom use, coughing, blowing your nose, and before preparation of food. When hands are visibly soiled, soap and water needs to be used to effectively cleanse hands. I recommend washing your hands thoroughly at the beginning of your shift and at the end of your shift to stop the spread of germs to and from our homes. For more information on ways to protect yourself and those around you, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/about/index.html>.

- Cassi Haworth, RN