
MERCER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC.

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THE TALEBEARER

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A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Mercer Residential Services (MRSI) was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Mercer County Civic Foundation (MCCF) to be applied towards replacing the roof on MRSI's Washington Street housing unit in Celina. In addition, MRSI received generous donations from Sam & Nita Hellwarth DAF and from an anonymous donor to pick up the remaining expense of the roof replacement. MRSI provides housing for individuals facing mental health challenges. Many of these individuals have a challenging time maintaining employment as well as securing housing. The apartment units come furnished and provide safe affordable housing while also providing individuals the opportunity to be a viable part of the community. 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. MRSI is very appreciative of Sam and Nita Hellwarth DAF as well as for the anonymous donor for all the support provided to MRSI.

- Janelle Wehrman, CEO
Mercer Residential Services



LINDA ANDERSON

It is remarkable how people enter our lives in unexpected ways. I grew up in Mercer County and graduated from Celina Senior High School, yet throughout my years in the Celina school system, I do not recall ever knowing anyone by the name of Linda Anderson. It was not until 2000, after joining MRSI, that I met Linda for the first time while introducing myself to the employees in Van Wert during a staff meeting. As I left that meeting, I distinctly remember noting how quiet, courteous, and caring she was. At the time, I was unaware that Linda had already been employed with MRSI as a Direct Support Professional for seven years.

Over the years, I came to know Linda more personally and developed a deep appreciation for her exceptional work ethic and the meaningful connections she formed with the individuals she supported. Linda understood the significance of her role and consistently demonstrated her commitment to helping individuals live healthy and purposeful lives. Although she lived in Mercer County throughout her entire career with MRSI, she traveled to Van Wert daily. Regardless of the weather — snowstorms, ice storms, flooding, or even tornado conditions, I could always rely on Linda to arrive for her shift. She recognized the importance of staffing stability and would adjust her schedule or switch shifts with colleagues to ensure proper coverage.



In her later years, Linda also became the primary caregiver for her mother. Even with those additional responsibilities, she continued to fulfill her scheduled shifts, maintaining the same level of dedication that defined her career. The individuals she supported held her in high regard and genuinely looked forward to seeing her each day. One individual affectionately referred to Linda as her “house parent,” and others often described her as being “number one.”

Linda not only developed strong bonds with the individuals we serve but also fostered meaningful friendships among her colleagues. I recently learned that years ago, when I asked one of our DSPs to assist at our Park Street home, that employee met Linda for the first time—and the two became lifelong friends. That was the kind of person Linda was: quiet, courteous, professional, friendly, and deeply caring. She was always willing to help others, and countless friendships were formed because of her kindness and character.

Since December 2nd, many of us at MRSI have been learning how to navigate our work and daily routines without Linda. After 32 years of dedicated service, saying goodbye has been profoundly difficult. We know she will always be in our thoughts and in our heart. R.I.P. Linda.

- Janelle Wehrman



SPOTLIGHTS

VAN WERT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mary Jo has been with MRSI since July 2003. She has worked in many of our locations with TEGH being one of the main locations. TEGH has always been known as being a challenging home to work at, which also makes hiring more difficult. Mary Jo came to MRSI at a time when the TEGH was required to do physical restraints with individuals. She has seen how individuals progress when client's ISP's are followed and she can tell you how clients will regress if someone does not follow a plan. At one point in time, Mary Jo was the emergency backup for the TEGH for an individual who had some challenging behaviors as she lived close to the home and the individual would tend to listen to her when he was upset and when he needed more intense mental health services.

Mary Jo is truly knowledgeable of each client's needs/wants/likes/dislikes and knows what will work ad what will not work. Anything a supervisor asked Mary Jo to do, they only had to ask 1 time, and it was done and done correctly. Mary Jo never complained about anything she was asked to do. Mary Jo understands that policies and procedures need to be followed. If Mary Jo makes a mistake, she owns up to it and has even told on herself. Mary Jo has been promoted over the years, from DSP to shift supervisor to Home Coordinator. In 2020, Mary Jo began to slowly step back while still working full time. She stepped down to a Team Lead and in 2024 returned to the DSP position as she was nearing retirement. Mary Jo was instrumental in setting up a new site for us and she has been instrumental with bringing consistency to our level 1 individuals and our TEGH individuals. Mary Jo has been flexible in working at several locations and she is always willing to help staff out. She advocates for the client's needs. Over the years she has always helped out with agency fundraisers with the annual soup supper fundraiser being one that she spent many volunteer hours working from 2005 – 2019. Mary Jo is not only dedicated to the agency, but she is also dedicated to the individuals we serve. She has made not only connections with the individuals, but they are a part of her family. Many tears have been shed and will continue to be shed for some time, but our agency wishes Mary Jo a happy retirement. We will miss you greatly Mary Jo but you have more than earned your retirement. Always know you are welcome at MRSI.



STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

