

The Talebearer

MRSI Hosts Successful First Quarter Auction

In April, MRSI hosted its first Quarter Auction fundraiser at the Celina Eagles, bringing together community members for a fun and meaningful event. As a nonprofit organization, MRSI depends on fundraising efforts like this to help cover essential expenses not reimbursed by Medicaid.

Funds raised support the purchase of modified vehicles, wheelchair scales, and other assistive devices, as well as important updates and repairs such as equipment maintenance, roof replacements, and appliances.

We are incredibly grateful for the strong community support that made this event a success. A special thank you to Anna Cox and Cassandra Haworth for chairing the event, to the many businesses that generously donated auction items, and to MRSI staff and their families who contributed their time and effort—from gathering donations to helping throughout the day.

Thank you also to everyone who attended and showed their support. We hope you enjoyed the event and look forward to seeing you again next year for our 2nd Quarter Auction!

- Janelle Wehrman, CEO

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GAY ST.



Hello and welcome to late spring early summer here at the Gay St house, where we gotta keep movin and a groovin! As you all know we've had some crazy weather in these parts, OH-IO for all you that don't know where we are. We've had some get togethers with our buddies at another house and a few other clients we call our besties. Recently we had a fabulous cook out and played yard games and visited our family members who have passed and gave them some flowers to show our love for Memorial Day. Right now, we are looking for some community activities to get involved in and get some fun summer trips planned.

We can't wait to get out and see everyone with the upcoming parade season. Speaking of Parades, be sure to look for us in future parades! Be sure to wave and say HEY!!

See y'all next time, you never know where you'll see us next!

'Til we meet again,
Amy Bennett
Signing Off!



LINDEN DR.

Linden started their summer off rolling with a gold medal in Bocce at State for Special Olympics. Then we sweetened the summer with a candy parade in Bryan. You can not visit Bryan without visiting the Spangler Candy World museum. They had a great time playing the games and looking at all the old-time candy with friends.





MERCER ADS

The sun is shining, and spirits are high at Mercer ADS! We've had an active and joyful spring filled with community connections.

Our highlights included:

Outdoor Fun: Enjoying sunny park picnics and cool sessions at the splash pad.

Community Adventures: Staying active with regular neighborhood walks and visits to Daylight Donuts and Smash City Burger.

Celebrations: Marking special occasions together with festive parties for Easter and Memorial Day.

VAN WERT ADS

OH BOY! VWADS is excited for the blooming flowers and warmer days. We were tired of the wintry weather and not getting out. With the weather getting warmer we have taken advantage of it by getting out in the community. We had fun visiting the Zoo, enjoying music at the festivals, painting /potting flowers and making healthy snacks. But it does not stop there, we also went to an automobile museum, multiple parks to walk, play in the water to cool off and even play edsome corn hole and croquet. Spring also brought lots of rainy days which somedays had us inside but that did not stop the fun. We took advantage of that as well by finding fun ways to exercise and learning new things like unfamiliar words, numbers, spelling friend's names and even counting money.



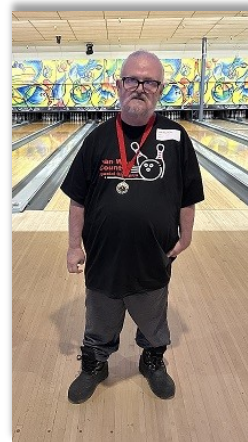
It's been a wonderful season of making memories, and we're looking forward to more adventures as we head into summer!



TEGH

TEGH had an exciting month filled with accomplishments and fun activities! Justin, Tracy, and Robin all participated in Special Olympics Bowling and competed at the regional tournament in May to qualify for the state competition. Justin earned the opportunity to compete in Columbus and brought home a 3rd-place finish in bowling. Congratulations to Justin, Tracy, and Robin on their hard work and achievements!

We also celebrated Memorial Day with an amazing cook-out and games that gave everyone a chance to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. From chalk drawings to fun shenanigans with staff, it was a wonderful day filled with laughter, creativity, and great memories for everyone involved. Great job, everyone!



WSGH

Wayne Street Group Home has been rocking it the past few months on the Challenger Baseball Team! Go Rockies! We are getting outside enjoying walk fit, trips to the store, and out for coffee. WSGH has also been enjoying some fun indoor activities like arts and crafts and cooking some yummy snacks! We will be in the Lakefest parade and look forward to what the rest of our summer will bring.



PARK ST

Park Street has been keeping busy this spring and summer with a wide range of fun arts and crafts projects.



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

MRSI is pleased to announce the promotion of Anna Cox to the position of Director of Operations.

Anna previously served as Program Director for Mercer County, where she demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment to quality services, and dedication to the individuals we support. Her experience and deep understanding of our programs make her an excellent fit for this important role.

As Director of Operations, Anna will be responsible for ensuring that MRSI remains in compliance with all state and federal regulations. She will also serve as the Representative Payee for our clients and play a key role in the development and implementation of organizational policies and procedures.

In addition, Anna will provide ongoing training, guidance, and technical assistance to our Program Directors, helping to strengthen operations and support excellence across all MRSI programs.

Please join us in congratulating Anna on this well-deserved promotion and wishing her continued success in her new position.



Celebrating Heidi

After 19 years of dedicated service, MRSI said goodbye to one of our valued Van Wert employees, Heidi Leiendecker, as she began her well-earned retirement.

Heidi joined MRSI in 2007 as a Direct Support Professional (DSP), providing support in our small community homes. Throughout her career, her primary assignment was at our Park Street home, where she made a lasting impact on both the individuals served and her coworkers.

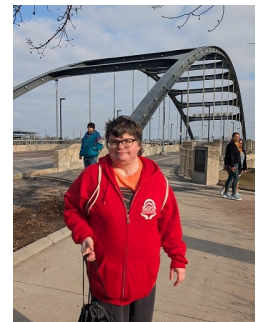
In 2015, Heidi was promoted to Home Coordinator for the Park Street home, a position she held until January 2024. During her time as Home Coordinator, Heidi ensured the home operated smoothly and efficiently. She took great pride in training and supporting staff, making sure they understood their responsibilities and remained knowledgeable about all applicable policies and regulations. Her leadership, commitment, and attention to detail played a significant role in the success of the home.

Most importantly, the individuals we serve loved Heidi. They always looked forward to seeing her and appreciated the care, compassion, and consistency she brought to her work each day.

In January 2024, knowing retirement was on the horizon, Heidi stepped down from her Home Coordinator role and returned to working as a DSP. Before doing so, she took on one final important responsibility—spending several months preparing and mentoring the next Home Coordinator to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for the Park St home.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Michelle likes to stay busy and is always on the go. Over the past few months, she has participated in many exciting activities. She earned 6th place in a bowling tournament, painted a beautiful picture in celebration of America's 250th anniversary, and even tie-dyed a shirt for the occasion. Michelle also took part in a walk to support MS awareness. It is wonderful to see her out enjoying so many fun activities and doing the things she loves!



In March, we wished Heidi all the best as she officially retired. We are grateful for her many years of service, dedication, and positive influence on the lives of those she supported.

While we will certainly miss her, we are excited for her as she begins this new chapter and has the opportunity to relax, enjoy retirement, and pursue all of her future endeavors.



FROM THE NURSES

Did you know that most skin cancers are linked to excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light? These UV rays, which are an invisible form of radiation from the sun, can harm your skin cells and lead to skin cancer, the most frequently diagnosed cancer in the United States! That's why it's important to protect yourself from UV rays all year round, not just in the summertime. Even on cloudy or cool days, those sneaky rays can reach you, and they can reflect off surfaces like water, concrete, sand, and even snow. In the U.S., UV rays are usually strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. during daylight saving time. So, how can you keep your skin safe while soaking up the sun? Stay in the shade as much as possible, gear up with protective clothing like hats, and grab your stylish sunglasses to shield your eyes! And don't forget to apply sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher for the best protection—no matter what time of year it is! Let's stay safe and have a blast under the sun, everyone! "



View of some landscaping that is being updated with our Housing Program. Thank you to Unique Roots for the wonderful job completed for our locations.



For information regarding our housing program please contact Jenny Kinney, Housing Coordinator at 419-586-4709.

Mercer Residential Services

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