2015 WAS A YEAR OF TRANSITION AND CHANGE

As the new year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of our major accomplishments and challenging issues we faced over the past twelve months. 2015 was a year of change and transition for MRSI and disability services everywhere. We lost several long term staff members, including several administrative positions. We are still experiencing a critical Direct Support Staff shortage along with every provider in Ohio. Our annual turnover rate is 76%. This is up from 60% from the previous year. This has prevented us from expanding services in some of our program areas.

The Ohio State Legislature passed a budget bill that was signed by the Governor that gives Ohio providers a 6% increase in the rates for our services starting January 1. This is only the second rate increase in the past 10 years. This much needed, and deserved increase will be used to increase wages for our Direct Support Professionals, who are the backbone of our industry.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities submitted its plan on how they will comply with the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) new rules that require full access to the benefits of community living, and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate. County boards of developmental disabilities are now required to eliminate any conflict of interest in case management. Right now County Boards oversee what we do, and they are also a referral source, and they provide “competing” services in facilities across the area. By 2019, they are no longer able to be a service provider and beginning January 1, 2016 will no longer be accepting referrals. Citizens with developmental disabilities will be provided a lot more opportunities for high quality choice, and we feel we can help fill this roll.

The following are some of MRSI’s highlights over the past year:

◊ We are providing services for a total of 71 individuals with developmental disabilities in 3 Counties. This was a net increase of 7 from the previous year. The majority of this increase was in our ADS services.

◊ MRSI is providing Adult Day Services in Mercer County for 8 of our Wayne Street Residents and 5 additional individuals with Medicaid waivers. This is unchanged from last year. We have 7 consumers employed in community jobs in which we assist them with a job coach. This is an increase of 3 from last year.

◊ MRSI opened up a new ADS location and expanded our ADS services from 3 days to 5 days a week in Van Wert County. We are providing ADS and Non-medical transportation services for 21 individuals there.

◊ We continue to provide safe affordable housing for 18 individuals and 2 families with mental illness or drug addiction. We have subcontracted some of our apartment units to Foundations Behavioral Health for their Drug Court program. Our occupancy rate for the year was 97%. This was unchanged from the previous year.

◊ MRSI now employs 84 total employees, 38 of these are full-time, which is an increase of 4 from the past year. We currently employ 38 part-time employees. This was an increase of 3 from the previous year. We subcontract with 5 LPN’s, 2 maintenance staff, and 1 Housing Coordinator.

◊ MRSI had an annual operating budget of $2,074,703 dollars in 2015. This was an increase of $4,203 dollars from 2014.

◊ We now have converted all of our documents and consumer records into electronic files.

◊ MRSI received $10,599.32 from the Celina Combined Service Appeal and our fundraising events that were deposited in our endowment fund.

◊ MRSI’s endowment fund distributed over $4,000 for Christmas, birthday gifts, and unfunded services that benefited every MRSI’s consumer in Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert Counties.

◊ Our services have had many compliance reviews and surveys from various State and local sources and we are in compliance with all reviews.

◊ MRSI remains the second largest locally based not for profit 501(C) (3) in Mercer County, and in the top 10 in the three county areas.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication and efforts of the many outstanding employees that have made MRSI a leader in developmental disability services and mental health housing in West Central Ohio. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one you. I hope everyone has a joyous new year.

Garry Mosier, CEO
Van Wert Adult Day Services

Exploring and learning at Science Central! Clients enjoyed a day of seeing how things work and what they’re made of while visiting Ft. Wayne, Indiana’s Science Central. They concluded their visit with a stop at DeBrand Fine Chocolates... pretty SWEET day!

ADS Clients singing Christmas Carols

History ✅
Why do we sing Christmas Carols?

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles (The word carol originally meant to dance to something). The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around the 22nd December. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived. (www.whychristmas.com)
Winter has finally arrived! But that will not stop our ADS from enjoying our days!! We were lucky enough to have a couple very special guests stop in to see us. Todd Reigelsperger is a Self-Advocate who joined us for a morning of positive approaches to life's situations. He was incredibly motivating to all of the clients and they thanked him repeatedly for his time. We also had the pleasure of having Ms. Mansfield, and Published Author Lexi Richter join us for an afternoon!! Lexi talked about the importance of never giving up, no matter what!!! She shared some of her own stories of how things don't always work out the way we want, but we have to just keep going. Lexi also brought several of her books she wrote for us to use in our Next Chapter Book Club. She took the time to read her book to all of us. The clients were in awe of her gorgeous crown on her head, and Lexi being Lexi was generous enough to let the clients try it! That made for some very special ADS beauty queens!!! She helped the clients create some positive saying canvas paintings that are now on display in our Lobby. Thank you both Lexi and Todd for their time!!!

As many of you know, the Mercer ADS clients have been quite the entrepreneurs lately. They have been busy making paintings, various projects, and their gift baskets!! These items are all available on the MRSI Facebook page under the "shop" tab. Please note that ALL proceeds from these items go directly to the clients for additional outings, activities, equipment they may want, or longer trips. The clients take a huge amount of pride in being able to make their own items and see that people purchase them. The smiles on their faces when they find out one of their pieces sold is something that can't be explained. If you would like more information on purchasing any of these items, please contact :

Monica Drewes at 419-586-4709, cell 419-217-348, or email at mdrewes@mrsinc.org

The clients have been working very hard on exercise here in the facility. They are doing numerous different chair exercises, using hand weights, exercise bands, recumbent bicycle, air bicycle, playing basketball and more!! We have some who have built themselves up to exercising for almost an hour every morning!! Super proud of their hard work and accomplishments!

We have started a "Journal" with every client here. They each take a little time every day and write what they want, a note, saying, anything. As well as working on learning how to write their name, address, and phone number. Some are learning to hold a pencil the correct way, and we will move to writing after that is accomplished. I can't wait till the end of the year to see the growth in them!!! The journals will definitely be something to cherish!

In the coming year the Mercer ADS will be doing many new and exciting activities!! Our Book Club, Healthy Fit Program at the YMCA, volunteering, Paying It Forward projects, as well as our normal day to day activities!! Please check out our progress on our Facebook page!!

Thank you,
Monica Drewes
MRSI ADS Coordinator

*** The Mercer ADS is still collecting cans to recycle. If you would like to donate, please contact Monica.***

There is really no better way to start your Christmas Holiday than to spend it with these guys!! So much joy, happiness and laughter. They definitely remind you how important life is and how to enjoy it!! We will remember our Christmas and New Years for years to come!!
Adult Foster Care

MRSI is embarking on a new service! Imagine opening your home and heart to a special loving individual... Imagine the physical and emotional experiences in helping someone grow in a family environment... Imagine the fulfillment as you make a difference in the life of someone who needs you...

What’s Provided:
♦ Competitive, reliable stipend per day (paid monthly)
♦ Financial management for fostered adult
♦ Assistance and/or management of medical appointments
♦ Training, certification and oversight
♦ Reliable and responsive caseworker
♦ Home study, placement and paperwork management

We cannot contract with any MRSI employee but we can with a spouse or another adult living in the same home! Invite friends, family or anyone who may be interested to find out more!

Contact Us
Mercer Residential Services, Inc.
420 S. Sugar St.
P.O Box 603
Celina, Ohio 45822
(419) 586-4709
gmosier@mrsinc.com

Visit us on the web: www.mrsinc.org

MRSI would like to express condolences for the passing of a loyal and dear employee:

Alice Schaadt

MIDDLE POINT, Ohio — Alice Ann Schaadt, 73, of Middle Point, died at 9:10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, at Van Wert Inpatient Hospice. She was born Nov. 11, 1942, in Van Wert, Ohio, to the late Rhoda (Ritchie) McGinnis and Cloyd McGinnis.

Her husband, Rex W. Schaadt, survives of Middle Point. They were married in August 1960.

Other survivors include children, Penny Bryce of Texas, Daphne (Lee) Mitchell of Texas, and Melissa Schaadt of Dublin, Ohio; a brother, Michael (Shelia) McGinnis of Indiana; one sister, Myrna McCracken of Indiana; grandchildren, Mackinzy (Jonathan) Peterson, Corbin Branson, Merissa Schaadt, and Connor Mitchell, and great-grandchildren, Isaiah and Elijah Sempkowski.

She worked as a DSP with Mercer Residential Services since 1997. She enjoyed catering to her grandchildren and spending time with her family and friends.

(www.timesbulletin.com)