The year 2017 has led MRSI to experience a major change. After 30 years, Garry Mosier, CEO, retired from his position with MRSI. Garry was instrumental in making MRSI to what it is today. As one community member stated to me “Garry put MRSI on the map”. This is definitely an understatement. Over the years, while Garry was CEO, MRSI continued to grow not only in the number of individuals we serve but also to the number of employees we have on staff and programs we offer. MRSI currently manages the Thomas Edison Group Home in Van Wert while owning and operating the 8 bed Intermediate Care Facility Home in Celina. Over the years MRSI has continued to increase the number of individuals served in scattered site locations and in family’s homes through the use of IO, level one, and self-waivers in Mercer, Van Wert and Auglaize County. In 2013, the Mud Pike Group Home was closed and MRSI opened the Wayne Street Group Home in Celina. MRSI now provides Adult Day Services in Mercer and Van Wert County. MRSI is also the designated housing agency for the Mercer, Van Wert, and Paulding Counties Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.

September was an emotional month for me knowing Garry would be retiring from MRSI and that as of October 1st, I had been selected by the Board of Directors to step into the role of CEO. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for this opportunity. MRSI will continue to move forward being a leader providing quality and affordable housing and support services for people with cognitive disabilities.

At this time I would like to reflect back on a few accomplishments and changes that have occurred over the past year:

- We are providing services to 72 individuals within Mercer, Van Wert, Auglaize County.
- Mercer County expanded waivers services in the community by one.
- Van Wert has expanded waiver services in the community by one.
- MRSI provides Adult Day Services in Mercer and Van Wert County. In 2017, our Van Wert ADS grew and we had to move to a larger location. Mercer County provides services to 18 individuals, Van Wert provides services to 23 individuals.
- MRSI continues to provide Non-Medical transportation. Currently 33 individuals receive Non-Medical Transportation; 10 from Mercer County, 23 from Van Wert County.

Continued...
• We have one individual from our ICF home working in the community.

• DSP staff has been trained to administer insulin to individuals.

• MRSI employs 43 full time employees and 23 part time employees.

• Our Van Wert ADS went through their first waiver review with the State of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

• We continue to provide safe affordable housing to 18 individuals and 2 families with mental illness or drug addictions.

• Van Wert held a soup/sandwich fundraiser and received $3,300 for the event.

• MRSI has switched over to electronic documentation for our individuals goals and outcomes

• MRSI was awarded a grant and will be transitioning to CPI as our non-violent de-escalation training program for staff.

• Emily Hoelscher was promoted from Mercer Area Coordinator to Director of Operations.

It was great seeing so many MRSI employees and the individuals we serve at all the Christmas celebrations. Staff at each location did a wonderful job planning for the parties. It is always wonderful seeing the individuals smiling and having a great time. I want to thank all the staff at MRSI. All of you work hard every day to ensure our individuals are receiving high quality care. I know it is not always easy coming into work especially on a holiday when I am sure you would like to be spending time with your own family. Please know you are greatly appreciated and MRSI would not continue to move forward without you and your dedication to MRSI.

Janelle Wehrman, CEO
Van Wert and Celina ADS members and staff have been staying busy in the community. Every month we are looking for new and exciting places to try out!

The Van Wert ADS visited the Veterans Hospital in Fort Wayne to celebrate Veterans Day. Our clients handed out 71 hand-painted thank you cards and fast food gift cards. This is our “taking a veteran to lunch” program. Everyone who was involved was moved by the experience. It’s hard to believe we were able to serve that many veterans in one day! At Van Wert ADS, we are changing our world!

Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. ADS members filled two shoeboxes with special gifts they chose for a boy and girl. We enjoyed starting Christmas early by giving back. Clients have also been donating needed items to SART Cat Adoption and Rescue in St. Marys. We continue to volunteer at the humane society, food pantry, nursing homes, churches, and the preschool.

We are so happy to announce that we completed the Trailblazer Hiking Program! The patches for completing this program will be given to us early next year.

Cardio Drumming has recently been added to our classes at the YMCA. It is so much fun and such a good workout!

We are working on a Pay It Forward bingo, that encourages acts of kindness throughout the month, and an exercise challenge to keep us in shape even though the weather outside is frightful.

Both ADS facilities will again be posting their artwork to be sold on our Facebook page. All funds raised by these pieces of art go directly to outings and activities of the client’s choice.

We would like to welcome all the new individuals who have joined our programs!! It is amazing to see how so many benefits from our day to day activities.

Both counties are looking for additional places to volunteer!! If you have any ideas please contact Monica McKinney at 419-586-4709.

We want to sincerely thank the MRSI Board of Directors. Their continued support allowed for the staff and clients to have a beautiful Christmas celebration.

The Celina ADS had a display set up at WIC for over a month. We collected a variety of items that we donated to WIC for mothers who could use a helping hand.

Sincere thank you to everyone for your continued hard work every day. The growth in our programs is a direct result of what you do.

Monica McKinney, ADS Coordinator

Congratulations are in order...

ADS’s Caleb Rodriguez got engaged to Mariah Bailey on New Years Eve!
ADS’s Dan Jones and wife Mariah are expecting their second child!
Parents and caregivers can set a great example for the whole family by creating a healthy environment at home. Any combination of the following five steps can make a real difference in your children’s lives and help them build healthy habits for life.

**Eat More Fruits and Vegetables**

Fruits and vegetables provide great sources of vitamins and minerals and help prevent chronic disease. Eat them fresh, frozen or canned and keep them within easy reach. Try eating fruits and vegetables of different colors to make sure you and your family enjoy a wide range of nutrients.

**Plan to Eat Healthy**

Preparing healthy meals does not have to be difficult or expensive; it just takes planning. Get your children involved in the planning, shopping and cooking. Make sure your family eats a healthy breakfast every day; it can help prevent overeating and snacking later. Teach your children about healthy portion sizes so they learn to serve themselves a healthy amount of food.

**Make Physical Activity Part of Your Routine**

Activities should be fun and something the whole family can do together. Set specific goals that are easy for your family to achieve. Start by scheduling a time for physical activity—but be flexible if a conflict comes up.

**Reduce Screen Time**

Health experts say that computer and television time at home should be limited to one to two hours or less per day. Limit your family’s screen time every day, and set a good example by following the limit yourself. Do not put a computer or TV in your child’s bedroom, and keep the TV off during family meals. More screen time means less time interacting with your family. Provide alternative hobbies and activities to prevent watching TV from becoming a habit.

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**MRSI 2017 end of year Part-Time Attendance Winners**

*September:* Justice Canfield & Julie Morris  
*October:* Shawn Klingbeil & Deb Hitchcock  
*November:* Jennifer Agler (was chosen twice)  
*December:* Jennifer Agler & Codie Gribble