A Letter from the CEO

MRSI held its annual soup & sandwich fundraiser on April 25th at the Vantage Career Center. We had a successful night despite the rainy conditions. This was our largest turnout ever for the event!

We had a strong group of committee members from both Van Wert and Mercer County. Committee members volunteered many hours preparing for the big event from contacting businesses for donations to working the night of the event.

I would like to thank all the employees who helped with selling tickets & making desserts/craft items. Our top 3 raffle ticket sellers this year were: Kirsten Tuckerman, Jeneane Garwood and Marcy Diddle. Our top 2 meal ticket sellers were Jeneane Garwood and Maureen Hughes. This year’s top sales person for raffle tickets does go to Kirsten Tuckerman and the top sales person for meal tickets goes to Jeneane Garwood. Please congratulate these employees and all employees who helped to sell tickets on a job well done!

I would like to thank all of the employees & their family, residents, and friends who generously volunteered their time the day of the event. Without your help, this event could not happen.

I truly appreciate all the help received. MRSI is extremely grateful to all the businesses & private donors who generously gave donations for the fundraiser. Congratulations to all the lucky raffle winners and to Lori Horstman the 50/50 winner.

I would like to thank all of the community members for supporting MRSI by attending our event. Your support for the residents is so greatly appreciated. It was great seeing everyone again. I hope everyone enjoyed the night and we look forward to seeing everyone in the next year!

--Janelle Wehrman
CEO
Van Wert Homes

**Linden Drive** has been out in the community more now that it has warmed up. They have been taking advantage of the splash pad on warm days, went to the parade here in town. Our biggest things are coming up as Ruth and Jackie will be going to concerts.

-Jasmine Goins, Home Coordinator

The ladies at **Park St** enjoy going to a local church monthly for a community dinner. They were especially excited in June when a dear friend brought her two new grandchildren to the dinner. They were happy to visit with their friend and thrilled to hold the babies. Frances is holding baby Beau and Ruth and Ronda entertained Emma.

-Heidi Leiendecker, Home Coordinator

At **Gay St**, one of the women celebrated a birthday in July. Kathy made a sign and a card to surprise Sharon for her birthday. Sharon loved her decorated door and birthday card.

-Jeneane Garwood, Home Coordinator
Mercer ADS
Here at MRSI, individuals are encouraged and inspired by the community around them. Through many experiences and opportunities, the individuals we serve are able to meet their full potential and reach their personal goals. Our focus at the Adult Day Service Program is to provide individuals with knowledge and skills that will help them throughout the rest of their lives.

Mercer ADS staff and individuals have devoted their time to exploring each community in which our individuals live. Recently, we explored Saint Henry, Fort Recovery, Wapakoneta, Saint Marys and Maria Stein. Within each community, our individuals have visited many establishments where they were able to learn about the company’s focus and the potential jobs within each business. While exploring our native area, Wapakoneta appeared to be a huge success. A current MRSI individual, Stephanie, gave us a tour around Wapakoneta where she currently resides. Stephanie took her peers and staff to Auglaize Embroidery, which is owned by her aunt. During the tour of the shop, individuals were able to practice their money management skills when picking out a shirt as a souvenir.

Two Mercer ADS clients, Deb and Ryan were invited to participate in the People First Conference in Columbus, Ohio on July 11th-13th, 2019. Both individuals are active members within People First of Auglaize County. Deb and Ryan attend monthly meetings and participate in the scheduled events. When asked, Ryan stated that he “enjoys when everyone gets together and learns about each other. Meeting new friends is my favorite part!”

While we continue to embrace the world around us, our individuals are continuing to be introduced to different volunteer opportunities within Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert Counties. The following agencies have provided us with knowledge and trusted us to provide positive services to our community: Pet Valu, the Humane Society, Call Food Pantry, Angel Tree, Veterans Hospital in Fort Wayne and Agape. During the volunteering activities, our individuals are introduced to multiple life skills that focus on money management, responsibility, time management, teamwork, cleaning and how to properly care for animals. The individuals are very active during their volunteer activities and consistently look forward to learning new skills while having fun with their friends. Our individuals are dedicated to serving others and it shows through the many letters of recognition they have received from some of these agencies.

ADS Director, Maureen Hughes, continues to schedule tours of our Celina and Van Wert ADS programs for potential clientele. Each tour typically lasts thirty minutes and is scheduled at the individual’s convenience. For more information about our programs or to schedule a tour of your own, please call 419-586-4709 today!

-Maureen Hughes, ADS Director
Wayne St. Group Home

At Wayne Street Group Home we work very hard to get the residents out into the community. The Dayton Dragons Baseball team has donated tickets to the residents of WSGH for the September 2, 2019 game. The residents are also looking into going to Eldora on August 3, 2019 for family night. People First meetings occur 1 time a month and the residents have the option to attend. One of the residents, Deb Matthews, was even given the opportunity to attend the People First Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio July 11-July 13, 2019. Staff and residents are always looking for outings and activities to do to integrate the residents into the community.

-Tacey Blakeley, Program Director

New Hires

Between the months of April and June MRSI has hired 5 new Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). We want to welcome Isaac Harris, Haley McGannon, Paige Michael, Tracy Owens and Lori Salazar to the MRSI team!

Client Birthdays

MRSI has had several clients celebrate birthdays in the second quarter of the year. Happiest of birthdays to:

April  
- Teka  
- Kyle  
- Robin  
- Pam  
- Ruth  

May  
- Marilyn  
- Stephanie  
- Dmitri  

June  
- Deb  
- Greg  
- Bill  
- Prabhu  
- Ruth  
- Zane
Van Wert ADS

It has been a fast-paced spring and summer at Van Wert ADS. Our Healthy Fit Club continues to offer exercise five days a week, including two days a week at the YMCA. For the third year, we will be participating in the Allen County Trailblazers Hiking program. We will have to complete at least ten hikes before the end of the year to earn another badge for our walking sticks. On July 1st, five Healthy Fit Club members joined with the Crestview Lady Knights for their soccer practice, which was detailed in an article in the Times Bulletin. It was an awesome way to connect with our community and a great workout!

Three ADS members went to the Columbus Statehouse for the Bridge2Equality Rally, to advocate for a wage increase for direct support professionals (DSPs), who serve individuals with disabilities. ADS members also enjoyed a super fun luau and held the first ADS Got Talent (talent show and tell). DSPs helped our ADS members decide on which talent, object, or special memory to share with the audience and judges, and DSPs created a unique performance area that was admired by all. ADS small groups have ventured to the Vera Bradley sale, Glenbrook Mall, Science Central, coffee shops, creameries, thrift stores, Scene 75, book sales, walks at the reservoir and the lake, miniature and foot golf, parks, splash pad, canal boat tour, movies, and went out to eat at various locations. We have had all kinds of new cooking and crafting adventures, as we continue to work on reading instructions/recipes and making measurements.

Our ADS members and DSPs collected donations and served at our annual MRSI fundraiser. We enjoyed this time to visit with community members and friends. ADS members have continued to work on various volunteer projects to give back to their community. We volunteer with the humane society, the humane society cats at the pet store, food pantry, nursing home, and veteran’s hospital. In May, ADS members and DSPs collected donations for homeless veterans and participated in the VA2K Walk and Roll at the veteran’s hospital, to support our veteran community. We are looking forward to expanding our volunteer reach in the near future.

Thank you all so much for your support of Van Wert ADS and the Healthy Fit Club! We could not do what we do without you!

Francie Carmain
Van Wert ADS Coordinator
Spotlights!

In this issue of the Talebearer and in future issues, MRSI would like to spotlight one staff from each county and one individual that we serve. So many people are doing such wonderful things and we want to recognize them for their good work!

Van Wert Staff Spotlight

Doug Ashbaugh. Doug has been with the company for 19 years. He has been here the longest out of the DSP’s at TEGH. One of his coworkers said: “I have worked with Doug for over 7 years. He is different style of caretaker. He is very to the book in some ways, compassionate and a little demanding. But all in the interest and care for the residents here at TEGH. A little dry on the sense of humor, but always cracking jokes. Pretty close to a perfectionist.” The Program Director said, “Doug has helped me out a lot. With what the residents like and dislike. He knows them all very well. He has a great relationship with each and every one of the clients here. They all trust and count on him. I hear Doug talking about his family and grandchildren and you can tell they bring a lot of joy for him and his wife. Doug is a great guy and a great employee.”

Ruth Baldauf. Ruth is a Catholic and has been going to Church faithfully every Saturday service. Ruth has not participated in Special Olympics, but always enjoys watching her housemates participate. She enjoys watching them in basketball skills, Softball skills, and cheering them on. Ruth loves spending time with her family when she gets a chance. Whenever she goes out into the community there isn’t a stranger around. Ruth has enjoyed many vacations such as Cedar Point, Newport Aquarium, and Shipshewana. At Shipshewana, she rode an antique carousel that she absolutely loved. They went to Put-In-Bay and while there, they rode a ferry and had a blast getting splashed by the water. Ruth has also gone to the African Safari in Sandusky, Ohio. MRSI has been providing services to Ruth since 2000.

Mercer Staff Spotlight

Mercer County MRSI would like to Spotlight Lori Wiessinger. Lori has worked for the agency since 9/20/2018. Lori started out at the Mercer ADS as a DSP and then was promoted to Home and Community Coordinator at Wayne Street Group Home on 4/2/19. Lori has worked in the healthcare field since 2002 and has worked in the DD fields since 2012. Lori is very passionate about her work and is always willing to help or do what is needed for the residents at WSGH. Congratulations to Lori on her promotion!
Summer Word Search

R I B E M O Q T X N G A D U K R F S E S
N O I T A C A V T N O N C R C P R W E E
T T S B R O U X M N X L I L O L U I B S
I E L T S A C D N A S T E P O K I M S S
N A E C O R K W R W H P S M M O T M I A
G G W V E R R Z S I A I I R R A P I R L
D V S M Z J A Q D L C T E C B E C N F G
V B M T F H P V H L I W E E N U T G V N
U U M U X Q Z L E O O D A R L I J A A U
S I J L R Y A B N L U C U I P C C Z W S
O Z N C L Y U V F T H V K O A A Z F P J
K E Y J X H A N Z X D D B U L N R C C J
I C Y M L S U H I K I N G M Z T O K W H
P Y G U M M S S D T Y L Y T X S V D Z Y U
R J B T Z T O U H L Q A F G Y J U R J F
D I A R S V F M D W D W U R O Y O N R X
I O Z M B C V N P Z C K Z S L C C B Q Z
B I C N K C Y Z O N L H H K O T Q L Q L
C O Z K S U N S C R E E N N V X U C E U
P Q U K M B N R U D L M W Q A W S K D J

BEACH
BOAT
CAMPING
FRISBEE
FRUIT
HIKING
OCEAN
PARK
PICNIC
POOL
POPSICLE
SANDCASTLE
SUMMER
SUNFLOWER
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SWIMMING
VACATION
WATERMELO
WATERPARK