



Volume 5, Issue 3

Fall/Winter 2009

# THE VISION

## Our Blog is Now ONLINE!

On September 1, our blog, "Advocating for Special People" went online. From titles like "Give Thanks for Life's Harmonies" to "Six Degrees of Separation...From the Developmentally Disabled," our blog is up and running, and you should check it out! It updates twice a week, and comments, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Check it out at [www.mcarc.com/blog](http://www.mcarc.com/blog), or you can find the link from the homepages of ARC Marion and the Hope Foundation's Web sites. It's another way we are "Advocating for Special People" at ARC Marion and abroad!

## Elegant Evening of Thanks Raises \$75,000!

From the record crowd of over 210 attendees to the fabulous dinner, music, entertainment and auctions, this year's Elegant Evening of Thanks at Golden Ocala was one for the record books. Over \$75,000 was raised throughout the evening for Scholarships for Hope (see more on page two)!

Custom Window Systems took home the ARC Corporate Support of the Year while AM/PM Plumbing brought home the Community Support of the Year. Vicki Pritchard was also named Employee of the Year by ARC.

It was a truly terrific evening for a terrific cause. Thank you to all who participated. We'll see you next year!

### Save the Date:

#### MoJo Grill Fundraiser

January 19, February 16,  
March 19, 2010

#### MCBIA King of Wing

February 18, 2010

#### 9th Annual Hog for Hope™

##### Poker Run

April 17, 2010

#### Hog for Hope™ Kids of Rock

May 28, 2010

#### 9th Annual Hog for Hope™ Bikes, Blues & BBQ

June 4, 2010



**John Cwik with Tom Falanga, ARC board president**



**Vicki Pritchard, ARC Employee of the Year**



**George Shotwell receives award**



**Terri and Paul Vette with Carolyn Grantz**



**Scott and Angelica McArthur**



**Emma and Chris Luetgert**



**Terry Roberts, Wendy Maxwell, Kelley Jenkins**



**The Bagals**



**ARC client, Terry Rushing with Allison Campbell**

## ARC Clients Participate in Service to Community!

This has been a busy third and fourth quarter for ARC as clients have participated in many different activities within the community. In October, clients collected new pajamas and books for Early Learning Coalition's distribution to the homeless children in Marion County. Clients also had featured artwork at the Fine Arts for Ocala's Fall Arts Festival and participated in the Marion County Road Builders Florida Feast. In November, clients collected food for Interfaith as ARC served as an official drop-off location for them for the second straight year. Also in November, ARC clients participated in a fundraiser for fellow United Way agency, Arnette House, where they made a gingerbread house that was auctioned off for a fundraiser for Arnette House. Finally, throughout the month of December the clients of ARC are collecting new toys for the Marion County Children's Alliance to be distributed to various agencies serving children over Christmas.

Our clients continue to show they are good community citizens by helping those in need!

## ARC Programs

Adult Day Training

Early Intervention

Residential

Senior Program

Supported Employment

Supported Living

Transitional Skills

**A publication of ARC Marion, Inc. and the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation, Inc.**



**Chase on his  
"graduation" day at EIP**



[www.HeartofFloridaHope.org](http://www.HeartofFloridaHope.org)

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Allison Campbell

## Look at Me Now!

Chase began the Early Intervention Program in February of 2008 at the age of 15 months. He did not move around and was not vocal when he enrolled. He began receiving physical, occupational, and language therapy. The physical therapist worked on getting Chase to bear weight on his arms and legs, and his family began seeing positive changes immediately. Chase was always very happy and easy to engage in activities and therapy. He used a mobile stander in the classroom and has just begun using a gait trainer. He now uses phrases like "I got it" and "Hey baby." He identifies two colors and points to several body parts and his glasses. Chase enjoyed clapping to the music during circle time. Chase's mom, Kristi, was always very supportive of our program and provided weekly snacks for Chase's classmates. Chase recently graduated from EIP and will continue his education at Sparr Elementary in a pre-K classroom. His mom has promised to bring him back for regular visits. We are so proud of Chase and the little man he has become!

## Hope Foundation Burns Mortgage, Give Awards!

During the Elegant Evening of Thanks, members of the Hope Foundation's Board of Directors officially burned the mortgage on the Waliga Administration building. The five year, \$450,000 commitment was completed in early November with a symbolic mortgage burning during the event.

Also during the evening, Lauren Delorio, outgoing board president awarded Leo Smith with the Hope Foundation's president's award, and gave Kelley Jenkins the board member of the year accolades. Special thanks to all who participated!



**Pam Michell, Allison Campbell, and Troy Strawder burn mortgage while Lauren DeIorio and Jim Maguire, SunTrust bank president, look on**



**Kelley Jenkins greets the crowd**



**Lauren DeIorio hands Leo Smith award signed by ARC clients**

## Scholarships for Hope—The Need is Great!

As the Hope Foundation wraps up the first year of the Scholarships for Hope, over \$15,000 has been given to ARC in 2009 so that current clients would receive uninterrupted service in areas such as transportation, companion support and Adult Day Training despite their state funding cuts. The goal for 2010 is to provide \$75,000 **or more** in scholarships so that new individuals can start receiving services. You can help! Simply fill out the below information and mail it back in the enclosed envelope. **THANK YOU!**

- ☐ **I will fund one ARC client to attend the Adult Day Training program.**  
☐ One day @ \$31   ☐ One week @ \$155   ☐ One month @ \$628   ☐ One year @ \$7,533

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: ☐ Cash ☐ Check (enclosed) ☐ Credit card (below) ☐ Invoice me

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in honor of/ in tribute to: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also donate online at [www.HeartofFloridaHope.org](http://www.HeartofFloridaHope.org). Thank you!

The Heart of Florida Hope Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. Ref. # CHI5741

## Spotlight on Consumers—FAFO Art Winner!

Mallory Perdue, diagnosed with cerebral palsy, began attending the ARC Adult Day Training program in June 2006 following her graduation from Hillcrest. In October, she and 25 other clients from ARC Marion had their original artwork featured in the Fine Arts for Ocala (FAFO) Fall Arts Festival, and Mallory's piece was selected by the FAFO board of directors for one of their Student Purchase Awards for 2009. Annually, FAFO purchases two to four pieces from the student exhibit to be a part of their permanent collection. With the recognition, she received a certificate and cash prize of \$50.

Mallory loves to do artwork and color, and her very unique piece featuring a collage of faces made with mixed media was inspired by "how I was feeling that day," she exclaimed. Mallory also loves to shop at the mall and plans to use the money to buy more clothes.

We are very proud of Mallory and all of the clients who had art featured at FAFO this year. Now in our second year of participation, clients already can't wait for 2010!



**Mallory reacts with joy at the announcement she was the winner.**

## MCBIA King of Wing Coming Soon!

In 2009, the Marion County Building Industry Association chose ARC Marion and the Scholarships for Hope to receive proceeds from their annual King of Wing contest. We are pleased to announce that with the 2010 event coming on Thursday, February 18, we will not only receive proceeds but will serve as host of the event. Mark your calendars now to come out to ARC Marion and support a great cause with some great food!

## Group Home One Clients Move In!

With all of the modern building on ARC's main campus in the past five years, we knew the two group homes on Maricamp Road needed facelifts to match our current structures. However, during the remodel, the focus of the project turned from aesthetics to better service for our clients.

Of the 50 clients who live in ARC group homes full-time, a dozen of the clients diagnosed with Down's Syndrome have also been diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. We made the decision to offer better treatment and service to those clients together in one place. With hand-picked staff receiving ongoing training in Alzheimer's care, we have the perfect set-up to help these special clients as their continuum of care changes with time. The newly remodeled home is the perfect fit to meet their needs now and in the future. Thank you, County Commissioners, for the Community Development Block Grant that paid for the remodel!

## Golf Scramble Raises Nearly \$9,000!

In the largest Allstate Mortgage/Brady Ackerman Golf Scramble to date, 31 teams took to the links in August at Pine Oaks in support of the Hope Foundation's Scholarships for Hope program. It was a great day of fun, food by Mojo Grill and great golf. Special thanks to Matt Tabacchi and Brady Ackerman who annually make it a can't miss event. Be on the lookout for the August 2010 Golf Scramble date next year at the Ocala Golf Club!

## Leave a Legacy of Hope!

Legacy giving to the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation is a way you can ensure ARC Marion's long-term sustainability. This support comes in the form of gifts that require thought and planning. Consider remembering the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation through a bequest in your will or living trust to ensure your assets are used for meeting the needs of the developmentally disabled citizens of Marion County!



Helping People Develop Their Abilities Since 1959

[www.mcarc.com](http://www.mcarc.com)

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**Eat at Mojo Grill in downtown Ocala for lunch or dinner any third Tuesday and raise money for Scholarships for Hope. We receive 20% back!**



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## End of the Year Giving En Lieu of Gifts!

Want to give a gift that can really make a difference? With your donation to the Hope Foundation's Scholarships for Hope fund benefiting ARC Marion clients, your donation will help more individuals with developmental disabilities receive the services they so greatly need in 2010.

Give a gift to your loved ones or co-workers that will really mean something to them by donating on their behalf to this great cause. You can make your donation in honor or tribute to someone special in your life. Simply fill out the form on page 2 and mail it back in the envelope provided, or if you prefer, donate online at [www.HeartofFloridaHope.org](http://www.HeartofFloridaHope.org). Your end of the year gift is tax-deductible just in time for the New Year. We appreciate you and all you do for us all year through!

## Message from ARC's CEO!

As we end ARC Marion's 50<sup>th</sup> year it is important to remind ourselves of our humble beginnings, and just how far we've come. In 1959, a group of parents formed the New Hope School for Children and hired a teacher, so their kids would have a chance to achieve their own level of independence. Early on they saw the need for passionate, aggressive leadership and brought Nelle Needham on board to lead the organization through the very tough fight for equal rights under the law. They won that fight and in the early 70s the Marion County school system built Hillcrest School to serve school age children with disabilities. We changed our name and our focus to adult vocational and life skills training which we continue today. Mrs. Needham stayed on until the mid eighties when she retired. We now have eight group homes in the community along with our main campus which houses Adult Day Training, Early Intervention and Community Supports, we employ 150 people and are a viable part of Ocala's economy. Due to funding cuts, we at the **Advocacy Resource Center** of Marion are once again battling insurmountable odds in our quest to serve the developmentally disabled. The only constant throughout the past 50 years is our community's amazing support. With all the doom and gloom around us, it seems when times are the toughest you step up the most! On behalf of the clients, staff and board of ARC Marion, thank you for all you do!



We wish you a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy", written over a light blue background.

Troy Strawder

\* Would you like to become Member of ARC? The annual dues for membership are \$15 for a single person and \$25 for a family. Please contact Jeri Langford at (352) 387-2210 for more information.

## CLIENTS FIRST!

In the words of the 2009 ARC Marion Employee of the Year, Vicki Pritchard, "ARC is a very special place with many special people. Knowing what our families go through, it gives you a heart of gratitude to make you thankful for what you have, and the opportunity to help them brings me such joy. I receive so much from the children and families we serve. I can't imagine working anywhere else." Now that's what we call putting **Clients First!**