



Fall/ Winter 2010

**Table of Contents**

- Evening of Thanks 1
- Golf Scramble 1
- United Way Kick-Off 1
- Client Spotlight 2
- Look At Me Now 2
- Hope's New Sign 2
- Artwork Displayed 3
- Group Home 2 3
- Employee of the Year 3
- CEO's Corner 4
- Executive Direction 4

Thank you for taking the time to read ARC Marion and the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation's newsletter newly re-titled "The Point!" Our publication is also available in an online format. If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, please let us know by emailing: [Allison@HeartofFloridaHope.org](mailto:Allison@HeartofFloridaHope.org) or calling (352) 351-2479. We hope that you find the content to be helpful for you. As always, we welcome your feedback... Enjoy!

**Elegant Evening of Thanks Coming Soon**

**Annual Event Raises Funds for Scholarships for ARC Marion Clients**

The signature black and gold invitations in black envelopes have been mailed. The band has been booked. The menu is set. Auction items are being collected and RSVPs are pouring in for what has become an annual can't miss event at Golden Ocala. We are so excited about the 12th Annual Community Celebration- An Elegant Evening of Thanks coming November 19. For more information, please visit [www.EveningofThanks.com](http://www.EveningofThanks.com). We hope to see you there!

**Golf Scramble Raises Over \$9,500**

**Special Thanks to Matt Tabacchi and Brady Ackerman for Their Constant Support**



Members of the ESPN Radio Team pause for a photo

For seven years running, Matt Tabacchi and Brady Ackerman have teamed up to raise money for ARC Marion clients, and this was another great year for the event. We truly appreciate the support and participation of over 30 teams on the hot August day at the Ocala Golf Club. We can't wait to see you on the links next year!

**Calendar of Events**

- November 19- An Elegant Evening of Thanks
- December 18- Cash for Christmas Giveaway (page 4)
- April 16-June 3- 10th annual Hog for Hope™
- Ongoing- ARC Marion Tours

**Where Were You on September 15?**

**Over 150 ARC Marion Clients and Staff Participated in the United Way Kick-Off**

ARC Marion was proud to participate in Ocala's first ever Flash Mob on September 15. Some participants around the community were spotted dancing on the College of Central Florida's campus or "pausing" in Target or Publix or Panera. If you happened to drive by the ARC Marion Southeast Maricamp Road campus around Noon on September 15, you would have seen our clients positively picketing and waving to passersby. To learn more about this year's United Way local campaign visit [www.uwmc.org](http://www.uwmc.org).



Roberto Vanegas, Ron Patterson and Lori Courson on Kick-off Day

**ARC Marion Programs**

- Adult Day Training
- Early Intervention
- Residential
- Supported Employment
- Supported Independent Living

### Client Spotlight

#### Going on a Vacation Is a Great Reward!



**Richard after returning from his vacation**

An employee of the IRS once said that it's a privilege to pay your taxes, because it means you have enough money that you'll be OK. You could say the same thing of one who takes week long vacations, like ARC Marion client, Richard Kennedy.

Richard works at Signature Brands in Ocala. For seven years, he has used his vacation time to travel, often times working on mission trips in Central America with his church. This year, Richard decided he wanted to take a cruise. His supported employment coach, Sherry Bowman, helped him with his vacation time planning at work, and his supported living coach, Michelle Foard helped him determine how much he needed to save. She assisted him with taking \$50 out of his paycheck every two weeks and putting it into a savings account. Through this process, he learned that anyone's dreams can be met, if they work at it. Michelle also helped Richard learn how to find a good price on a good cruise line.

In August, Richard went on a 7-day cruise to Cozumel, Mexico and the Caymans with his sister's family. He loved the food, watching Broadway shows on board, and shopping in port. He believes that his work in the church had influence on his ability to do this on his own. He said, "Every time you help somebody (less fortunate), you get double back." We are very proud of Richard and can't wait to see where he's going next. To that he said, "Wherever the Lord leads!"

### Look At Me Now

#### Early Intervention is Key



**Laurian in her mobile stander**

Laurian began the Early Intervention Program (EIP) one month shy of her second birthday. She began receiving Occupational, Physical and Language Therapy. She is a happy child who loves bubbles and music. She recently began following some one step directions. Laurian is very motivated to interact with musical toys and is now actively reaching for a musical toy to activate it. She can roll in any direction and recently began to scoot on her hands and knees. She has special friends in the classroom and enjoys being in her mobile stander so that she can interact with them. Laurian has improved head control in the stander.

Laurian recently graduated the EIP program and will continue her education at Ward Highlands Elementary in a Pre-K classroom. Her mom has promised to bring her back for frequent visits. We are so proud of Laurian and all of her accomplishments!

### Hope Foundation Building Has a New Sign

#### The Nelle Needham Administration Building Houses Hope Foundation Offices



**Nelle Needham Administration Building**

In the 1970s when Nelle Needham served as Executive Director of ARC Marion, she learned the Florida Farm Bureau was about to tear down their building on Silver Springs Blvd. They told her they would donate the solid brick building to ARC Marion if she could find someone to move it all the way to the Maricamp campus. Nelle jumped at the chance to have it essentially for free and made the arrangements. The building housed ARC Marion's administrative offices for nearly three decades until the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation helped build the first new construction on campus, the Waliga Administration building, in 2004.

For the past three years, the Foundation's offices have been located in the very building their construction project replaced. With a new sign in place created by Amsden Signs, folks will be able to easily locate the Foundation's offices!

## ARC Marion Client Art Featured at Appleton and FAFO

**Healing Hearts Exhibit Ran Sept. 12-Oct. 10, and FAFO is Oct. 23-24**

Everyday ARC Marion clients are given the choice of what they would like to do for the day. From working jobs on campus or in the community to recreation to arts and crafts, they love choosing. Without exception, creating art projects brings joy to so many clients. This year, they have had the privilege to work on two exciting community projects.

The Healing Hearts exhibit, on display in the Appleton Museum of Art in September and October, featured original art from various non-profit agencies in town showing the healing power of art. Sponsored by The Centers, each agency partnered up with local artists to learn new techniques and refine their skills. ARC Marion clients were paired with award winning photographer and artist, Kent Weakley, who helped them with their projects. Some of the art was sold at silent auction where ARC Marion client Buck Meadows' piece sold for \$250!

Also, for the third year in a row, ARC Marion client art is featured in the children's workshop at the Fine Arts for Ocala (FAFO) Fall Arts Festival. What makes this year's projects unique is the art on display was created with supplies purchased from a FAFO grant given to ARC Marion in 2010!

Special thanks to ARC Marion art teacher Lois Letourneau, The Centers, Kent Weakley and FAFO for bringing out the artist in each of our clients!



**Buck with his artwork**

## Group Home 2 Renovations Almost Complete

**Campus Group Home Remodel Paid by Marion County Community Grant**

Eleven of ARC Marion's most medically challenged clients will be welcomed into their new/old home the first week of November following the complete reconstruction of Group Home 2. One of two group homes built on the Maricamp campus in the 1980s has been totally remodeled to accommodate the special individuals, many of whom are in wheelchairs. The house is now state-of-the-art and fully handicapped accessible complete with all new wheelchair accessible bathrooms including roll-in showers.

Special thanks to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners for awarding us the Community Development Block Grant so that the much-needed renovations could be completed this year. Thanks also goes to Michelle Partin and Kay Kelly for their assistance in not only designing but redecorating the entire house to make it feel like a real home!



**Group Home 2**

## ARC Marion 2010 Employee of the Year Named

**Sandra Murphy Went Above and Beyond the Call in 2010**

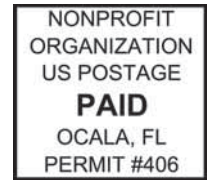
When the group home 12 lead staff member fell ill in the spring and had to be out for several months, Sandra Murphy, group home 13 lead stepped in to manage both homes at the same time.

"I was never concerned at all with the clients' well being and care during the whole ordeal," said Troy Strawder, CEO ARC Marion. "Sandra hit the ground running and didn't miss a beat with either group home. When it came time to award the Employee of the Year, she overwhelmingly stood out as the perfect candidate."

We are blessed at ARC Marion to care for very special people every day, but we couldn't do it without the great staff we have in place. Congratulations, Sandra!



**Sandra Murphy pictured with CEO, Troy Strawder at ARC In-Service**



2800 SE Maricamp Rd  
Ocala, FL 34471

ARC Marion Phone: 352-387-2210  
Hope Foundation Phone: 352-351-2479  
E-mail: Allison@HeartofFloridaHope.org

## CEO's Corner

**From the Desk of Troy Strawder, ARC Marion's Chief Executive Officer**

Wow, once again this year has flown by, even though we've faced seriously hard economic times, Ocala and Marion County has stood by us and supported our efforts to help people with developmental disabilities. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time, pocketbook and heart, it is appreciated even more than ever!



Speaking of continued support.....the Marion County Roadbuilders Association is putting on the annual Florida Feast featuring authentic Florida food. Fried Turkey, Venison, Gatortail, frog legs, sausage and more. The event will be held on Nov. 4 starting at 6:00PM and supports ARC Marion and three other local charities. Tickets are only \$25.00 each and include all the food, beverage and desert you can eat. Please call me (352) 387-2210 for tickets as every penny of each ticket we sell comes back to us. It's a total win for everyone. Happy Holidays!

## Executive Direction

**From the Desk of Allison Campbell, Heart of Florida Hope Foundation's Executive Director**



Maybe you are receiving this newsletter because you bought a ticket for our Hog for Hope™ bike or attended one of our events. Maybe you've been a long time supporter of the work ARC Marion does, but you've never seen firsthand the wonderful services provided to the special individuals who come to the campus every day. The Hope Foundation is now giving you that opportunity through "The Point Tours." All we ask is for one hour of your time, and we guarantee you'll leave truly understanding "The Point." If you are interested in scheduling a visit, please go to [www.HeartofFloridaHope.org](http://www.HeartofFloridaHope.org) or call (352)351-2479.

I am so excited to be a part of the work at ARC Marion and the Hope Foundation. The over \$100,000 given in client scholarships in the past two years is a true testament to our community supporters rallying behind our great cause to support and advocate for the developmentally and intellectually disabled in our community. We can't do it without you, and we're glad to have you on our team!

## Christmas Cash and Cars

**Fundraiser Sponsored by Prestige Auto Sales Will Benefit ARC Marion and Interfaith**

Interested in a little extra cash to spend just in time for the holidays? Prestige Auto Sales is sponsoring this event where tickets are \$10 each for a chance to win \$3,000. The winner will be announced on December 18 and you must be present to win. Visit [www.UpwardOcala.org](http://www.UpwardOcala.org) for more information!