



Spring 2011

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Thank you for taking the time to read ARC Marion and the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation's newsletter "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 or by calling 352.351.2479. As always, we welcome your feedback... Enjoy!

An Elegant Evening of Thanks

Over \$85,000 Raised! Thank You!



On November 19, Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club welcomed over 200 guests who enjoyed an evening of fun, delicious food, and awards while helping to raise money for our Scholarships for Hope fund. "This year's total was the most money we've raised from a single day event," said Allison Campbell, Executive Director of The Hope Foundation benefiting ARC Marion. "We owe a lot to the wonderful committee chaired by Kelley Jenkins, and to everyone who attended." See EveningofThanks.com for photos and more. Thank you, Marion County!

Hog for Hope™

Our 10th Anniversary Wraps Up June 3

The kick-off to Hog for Hope™ 2011 – the 10th Anniversary for the event – came February 1 with the chance drawing bike tickets going on sale. The annual Poker Run starts and ends at ARC Marion on Saturday, April 16. We will welcome the Chamber businesses in May and conclude festivities June 3 with the Hog for Hope Blues & BBQ when the winner for the custom painted Harley-Davidson is chosen. Go to www.HogforHope.com or join us on Facebook to learn more!



Calendar of Events

- February 24—King of the Wing
- April 16—Poker Run
- May 30—Kids of Rock
- June 3—10th Annual Hog for Hope™
- Ongoing—ARC Marion Tours

United Way of Marion County Reaches \$2 Million Goal

Congratulations Marion County!

We are so proud of the work done by the United Way to unite local resources to help all of our neighbors right here at home. From the Annual Day of Caring event coming up on March 5 to our own employee campaign, from the guest speaking engagements we make for them to the annual giving allocations process, we are pleased to work alongside the United Way every year. This year, we are asking for \$200,000 to fund clients in Adult Day Training, supported employment and supported living. Every dollar you give to United Way does make a difference for us and many others. Thank you!

Client Spotlight

Initiative Gets the Job Done



ARC Marion supported employment client, William Darnell, knows the definition of the word "initiative." He used it to find a job on his own and is currently mastering several aspects of his position as a maintenance crew member at Hiers-Baxley Funeral Home Services at Highland's Memorial Gardens Cemetery for close to 5 ½ years.

William's responsibilities include blowing leaves with a gas-powered blower, gardening, raking, and he's even used the commercial mower a few times. Assisting with the measuring of plots and gravesites as well as setting them up allows William to use additional yard tools. He also has the opportunity to help with the raking and gardening at the new Vietnam Memorial that was built last year.

When William is not outside maintaining the grounds, he's inside helping in the office. It's his motivation and satisfaction of doing a job well done that has earned him the support and recognition of his supervisor, John Baxley, and his co-worker, Claire, whom he worked with previously at the Coffee Kettle.

William's willingness to take on additional responsibility has given him added bonuses—he is becoming more independent and is earning more money!

Look At Me Now

Early Intervention is Key



Hunter joined the Early Intervention Program in January 2010 at 15 months of age. At that time, he was rolling around the classroom and just beginning to sit unsupported. He did not initiate eye contact with his teacher or his fellow classmates.

What a difference one year makes! Hunter now cruises around his classroom with his gait trainer. When you talk to him, he will turn his face toward you and watch your eyes as you speak. He interacts well with the other children. He is working on his communication skills and is able to use the sign for "more."

His mom, Lori, said, "Since Hunter came to ARC, I cannot express the ways he has changed, and how far he has come. All the people here are fabulous, and I cannot thank them enough for all their help. You guys are awesome!"



More

ARC Marion Services

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

ARCtistic Expressions

Available for Purchase at www.mcarc.com



Looking for a great gift? These special cards were created by our talented ARC Marion clients in the Adult Day Training program. The proceeds from the sales go directly to our ARC Marion clients and services. Each box contains 12 blank cards, three each of four different original designs done in our Arts & Crafts classes. Each box is sorted and packaged especially for you. These unique cards are only \$15 per box and can be purchased at www.mcarc.com. They make a great gift all year long!

Scholarships for Hope

The Need is Great!

With over \$100,000 already going to ARC Marion clients in the past two years and another \$100,000 pledged in 2011 alone, The Hope Foundation's Scholarships for Hope continues to help disadvantaged developmentally disabled individuals receive uninterrupted services in areas such as job skills training and residential living, both in a group and individual setting. "The commitment of support from The Hope Foundation never ceases to amaze me," said Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC Marion. "I just don't know what we would do without them! Thank God we don't have to!" Ask us for more info about the Scholarships for Hope fund. Thank you!

Welcome New Board Members

ARC Marion and The Hope Foundation Usher in New Members Each Year

Over the past 12 months, both of our boards have welcomed new faces. For ARC Marion: Doug Day, CPA, Arron Geatches of Country Meats and Brett Shaffer of InTec Facilities came on board. For The Hope Foundation: Diana Holder of Holder Nottingham Insurance, Sherry Hunter of Ajax Construction, Colette Musick of S&A Inc, and Nneka Nwakoby have joined. To see full board lists please visit our Web sites.

Contact Your Legislators

See the CEO's Corner on Page 4 for more info

Please let our representatives know that funding cuts for the developmentally disabled are unacceptable. Locally please contact:

- Representative Dennis K. Baxley at (352) 732-1313,
- Representative Charles S. Chestnut at (352) 955-3083,
- Representative Charles E. VanZant at (386) 312-2272,
- Representative W. Keith Perry at (352) 873-6564,
- Senator D. Alan Hays at (352) 360-6739,
- Senator Evelyn J. Lynn at (352) 694-0160,
- Senator Charles S. Dean at (352) 873-6513,
- Senator Steve Oelrich at (352) 375-3555.

King of the Wing

Fundraiser Hosted by Marion County Building Industry Association

Want to find out who has the best wings in Ocala? Come to the King of the Wing competition and sample some of the best restaurants in Marion County.

Tickets are \$20 per person in advance, \$175 for a block of 10 in advance, \$300 for a VIP table of 10 in advance, or \$25 per person at the door. Your ticket includes unlimited wings, one beverage (beer, soda, water), other foods to sample, live entertainment, free giveaways, and more!

Bring your friends and your appetite to ARC Marion Field, 2800 SE Maricamp Road, on Thursday, February 24, 5pm to 730pm. For further details, please visit www.mcba.org.

"Advocating for Special People" blog is looking for guest bloggers. Tell us your story, and we'll get you online.
www.mcarc.com/blog
Check it out!





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CEO's Corner

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

Another year has gone by quickly yet we are still kicking! It's been a tough year fiscally, obviously we're not exempt from the challenges that most companies in America are facing, but I feel we have been able to meet those challenges without doing harm to our clients or staff. We've also been able to achieve some wonderful successes in spite of it all.



As the legislative session nears and the news and views from Tallahassee start coming in, please stay active and speak with your representatives (see list on page three). Let them know that Florida's most vulnerable population needs their support. With a proposed \$172 million in cuts to the developmentally disabled population on the table, we ask that you let the representatives- yours and ours- know we need to preserve ARC Marion's 52 year tradition of caring and serving. Help us continue to help those in the most need!

Executive Direction

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



It's hard to believe The Hope Foundation's fundraising efforts for ARC Marion started 10 years ago with the inaugural Hog for Hope™ events. My how far we've come! From a half million dollar building campaign to tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships, we have been blessed to walk alongside the wonderful folks at ARC Marion, helping them every step of the way. Our work is far from over.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find information about our events and our people, and we hope you'll start to see "the Point" of what we are doing and why. In fact, we welcome you to campus for a "Point Tour" to get an in-depth look in only one hour. Upcoming scheduled dates are listed below, and I hope you'll take us up on the offer to see the amazing people and the real miracles that take place on the ARC Marion campus every day.

From Hog for Hope™ to the King of the Wing, from golf events to Evenings of Thanks, for 10 years running we continue to advocate for the developmentally and intellectually disabled in our community. Thank you for being there with us along the way. Here's to many more years advocating together!

Upcoming Point Tour dates: March 3, March 22, March 29, March 31; April 7, April 12, April 21; May 5, May 10, May 19.
If you would like to take a tour, please contact us through www.HeartofFloridaHope.org or call (352)351-2479.