



Spring/Summer 2010

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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 or calling (352) 351-2479. We hope that you find the content to be helpful for you. As always, we welcome your feedback... Enjoy!

Harley Winner Named

Maureen Hamilton's Winning Ticket # 525 is Drawn

On the first Friday evening of the balmy month of June, amidst a crowd of 450 screaming attendees, ARC Marion client, Dorothy Newell pulled the winning ticket from the drum and proclaimed Maureen Hamilton of Ocala to be the winner of the 2010 custom-painted Harley-Davidson Street Glide.



Maureen Hamilton on her new Harley!

Calendar of Events

- August 13– Allstate Mortgage/Brady Ackerman Golf Scramble
- November 19– An Elegant Evening of Thanks
- Ongoing– ARC Marion Tours

ARC Marion Programs

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

Did You See It?

The Red Exclamation Point

By now, we hope you have seen the mysterious red exclamation point around Ocala in one shape or form. From billboards to magazines, little business cards all around town to car window decals, we wanted you to start asking the question, "What is this red exclamation point all about?"

Well it's time for the big reveal to let you know-- it was us! That red exclamation point is our new brand for ARC Marion. Simply stated, we are the Advocacy Resource Center of Marion County! And, we put the needs of our developmentally disabled Clients First!

Now that you get "The Point," we hope you will choose to help advocate with us on behalf of some of our community's most vulnerable citizens.



**Jerry**

Client Spotlight

Adult Day Training Opportunities Workshop Creates More Opportunities

Jerry Davis comes from High Point, NC where he attended school until the 11th grade. He is proud of the fact that he passed drivers education while in school and is now working on passing the drivers license exam as a new goal.

Jerry came to Ocala 15 years ago and went to Vocational Rehabilitation to find a job. They directed him to ARC Marion where his first job was working at the I-75 rest area. He then worked in maintenance where he did very well, but he decided to work with the lawn crew after the supervisor of maintenance passed away. Jerry continues to work on the lawn crew and eventually is hoping to get a job in the community with supported employment when the economy gets better.

Jerry travels by bike to get around town and to go to and from his job at ARC Marion. In his spare time you might see him riding to the nearest fishing spot which is his favorite thing to do. He is now living in his own apartment by himself as part of the supported independent living program. Jerry is learning to budget and to maintain his bills and has a long term goal of owning his own house.

We are very proud of Jerry and all that he has done and will accomplish soon!

**Valerie**

Look At Me Now

Early Intervention is Key

Valerie has participated in our Early Intervention Program for a little over a year. She is an adorable little girl who is simply blossoming. Valerie greets her peers by name each morning as they arrive for school. She also knows her body parts and is acting out action words. Valerie receives language, physical and occupational therapies during the school day.

Julie Crowley, her physical therapist, notes "From day one, Valerie has demonstrated an internal drive to be upright and mobile. She continues to challenge her own skills and balance by practicing higher level gross motor skills. She has an I CAN attitude!"

Valerie is graduating from EIP in July and will continue on her road to success in the Marion County School system!

Check Out Our Blog

Advocating for Special People Online at www.mcarc.com/blog

Since September, 2009, we've had a new venture occurring through ARC Marion. We've entered the world of blogging. With topics ranging from Medicaid Waiver funding and Florida budget cuts to personal stories about growing up with developmentally disabled loved ones, the blog has been a hit for all who read it regularly.

Averaging over 200 readers a month, you don't want to miss out on the latest news and happenings through the ARC Marion blog. Visit www.mcarc.com/blog today!

"Advocating for Special People" blog is updated each Tuesday and Thursday with news and information as well as personal stories. Check it out!

Antique Donation Nets Funds

1929 LaSalle Brings \$28,500 at Auction

ARC Marion client, Jeff Huthmacher, held a special place in his uncle Jim's heart. Jim Kruk was an avid lover of cars and collected antiques and restored them as well like this 1929 LaSalle Victoria. When Mr. Kruk passed away in 2008 his wife, Charlene, knew he would have loved to give this car to the organization that has helped Jeff for over a dozen years.

Mrs. Kruk donated the vehicle to the Hope Foundation and family members of an ARC Marion client, George Nicholson and Dan Tremblay, drove to Ellijay, GA to pick it up. It was then stored in George's warehouse until Marion County Tax Collector, George Albright, recommended we use RM Auctions out of Ft. Lauderdale who specializes in antique car sales to sell the car. In March 2010, it went on the auction block and brought in \$28,500.

Thank you to Mrs. Kruk for this unique "planned gift" and for believing in what we do. ARC Marion Scholarships for Hope recipients thank you, too!



1929 LaSalle donated by the Kruk family

Tour ARC Marion

It Will Only Take One Hour of Your Time

Ever wanted to see firsthand what goes on at ARC Marion? Are you curious what jobs the clients in the Adult Day Training program do? Want to see the play-based curriculum used in Early Intervention? How about seeing a group home up close and personally? Now is the time. With morning tour times available any day of the week beginning in September, we'll make it work in your schedule.

Contact us at (352) 387-2210 for more information, and we'll be sure you get the point of who we are and what we do!

Schedule your "Point" tour, and we'll help you get "The Point" of ARC Marion and the Hope Foundation.

Don't Miss Upcoming Events

Golf, Elegant Evenings and More

With the 7th Annual Allstate Mortgage/Brady Ackerman Golf Scramble right around the corner and the 12th Annual Elegant Evening of Thanks coming in November, you'll have plenty of opportunities to get involved with ARC Marion and the Hope Foundation.

Mark your calendars now and get signed up for both events. Visit www.heartoffloridahope.org/golf to register for the Golf Scramble and visit www.EveningofThanks.com to reserve your spot for the can't miss elegant evening of the year at Golden Ocala.

We'll see you there!



Golf Scramble





2800 SE Maricamp Rd
Ocala, FL 34471

ARC Marion Phone: 352-387-2210
Hope Foundation Phone: 352-351-2479

CEO's Corner

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

On behalf of the clients, staff and Board I would like to thank everyone who participated in the legislative actions and alerts that we posted and emailed. Thanks to you, we were able to persuade Governor Crist to veto the 2 ½ % across the board cuts to the state Medicaid waiver funding that were in the state budget. Over 90% of the clients who attend ARC Marion receive Medicaid waiver funding.



Our current rates were established in 2003 and rather than increase with the rising costs of doing business over the last seven years, they have in fact been cut five times but not this year! Thanks to the efforts of the Hope Foundation and the support of our amazing community, we will balance our budget this year. However had this cut gone through that would have been impossible. Thank you!

If you are not on the legislative alert list and would like to be, please send me an email requesting to be added to the list. Send your name and all appropriate email addresses to: tstrawder@mcarc.com

Executive Direction

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



I am so proud of the direction we are going with the Foundation in our support of ARC Marion. We've worked hard to build more awareness around ARC Marion's clients, the mission and the focus of what they do, and in turn have established new relationships and partnerships in the community that we hope will flourish in the years to come.

As you continue to think about the developmentally disabled clients in our community, consider how you can help them: by attending our events, participating in tours, reading our blog, and telling us your thoughts about what we can do better. We want to hear from you!

Most importantly, we want to say THANK YOU to our loyal supporters and advocates who already assist us in providing scholarships to some of our communities most vulnerable citizens. We couldn't do it without you!