



Helping People Develop Their Abilities Since 1959

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2008

Save the Date:

Hog for Hope '08 Ride:
April 19, 2008

Annual Chamber Business After Hours:
May 29, 2008

Bikes, Blues & BBQ:
June 6, 2008

AllState Mortgage/Brady Ackerman Golf Tourney:
August, 2008

10th Annual Evening of Thanks:
November 21, 2008

ARC Programs

- Adult Day Training
- Early Intervention
- Residential
- Senior Program
- Supported Employment
- Supported Living
- Transitional Skills

THE VISION

Community Leaders Come to ARC for Lunch



Johnny Hill and Troy Strawder show off Troy's bike to United Way's Maureen Quinlan and Dave Forlenzo of Campaign Graphics

On a breezy, warm day at the end of January, over 100 people visited the ARC campus for a luncheon feast of ribs and chicken. All of the food was donated by Huckleberry's Catering, and everyone seemed to enjoy getting away from the office.

Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC, and Allison Campbell, Executive Director of the Hope Foundation, coordinated the "Thank You" event for community partners and sponsors. The hour long lunch also gave Troy some time to highlight the jobs done in the Adult Day Training program at ARC.

Many of those attending have worked with ARC's ADT in the past, but several in the audience

were surprised at the wonderful job that is being done on campus and in the community. Several new sponsors signed-up during the event and a few new businesses approached ARC staff about ADT and job assistance. The lunch concluded with tours of the ARC campus. With 15 visitors receiving the tour, we hope we've made some new partners for life. Special Thanks to Beautiful Moments and Huckleberry's Catering!!!



The catering trailer



Gary Stenzel pictured dancing with Jeff and Judy Huthmacher

Christmas Party Is Always a Hit!

We would like to once again say a special "Thank You" to Fran and Dot Moore for providing our clients and several staff members with an all-expense paid Christmas Party at the Ramada Inn. This is the 5th year that the Moore's have provided this wonderful opportunity for our clients, and it is truly an experience they look forward to year after year.

United Way Campaign Eclipses \$2.5 Million Again

The donors of Marion County have once again come through for Ocala's only charity that touches nearly every need in every part of the county. The 2007 Campaign concluded in January and raised a total of \$2,530,450. "It's a wonderful feat for United Way to reach this amount for the second straight year," said Maureen Quinlan, President of United Way. "However, we have more challenges this year, since the amount of requests has also increased by \$147,000. The Allocations Committee will have a tough job spreading the monies to all of the worthy causes."

ARC Marion once again requested \$200,000 for client services. United Way monies will be distributed in July. For more information about the United Way, call (352) 732-9696.

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



**Dylan rides in a car
on the playground**



Board of Directors

President, Lauren Delorio

VP, Tarn Thompson

Secretary, Leigh Anne Askren

Treasurer, Sammie Candullo

Members

Bill Bencsik
Tom Conrad
Phil Cribb
John Driscoll
Laurie Garcia
Nicole Hagedorn
Irene Hancher
Barbara Henry
Johnny Hill
Kelley Jenkins
Emma Luetgert
Pam Michell
Troy Strawder
William Taylor
Deborah Tremblay

Executive Director

Allison Campbell

THE VISION

Look at Me Now

Dylan joined the Early Intervention program in November 2006 when he was only 14-months-old. He was unable to speak or walk and had very low motor skills, poor vision and some nutritional issues. When he started the EIP program, he would take a daily nap, spit out his food and frequently lost his balance when crawling. He was immediately enrolled in Language and Physical Therapy.

Today, Dylan can walk independently, and he's so enthusiastic that staff have had to chase him a few times! His vision is better, and he is beginning to match colors and name objects. He is speaking 3-4 word phrases, is drinking from a cup and using a spoon to feed himself. Dylan's mother, Donna, said "This program has really helped him. He has advanced in many ways!" She and our team are very proud of Dylan's successes!

Marion County Road Builders Donate Feast \$\$\$

At their January meeting, the Marion County Road Builders Association President, Steve Counts, handed Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC, a check for \$9,305 raised during the 2007 Florida Feast. Troy was excited but a little upset to learn that Interfaith raised \$200 more than ARC this past year. Troy vowed to Gary Linn, Interfaith President, that they won't beat ARC again next year, and we hope he's right! Thanks MCRA!

Hog for Hope Bike Tickets ON SALE NOW!

Would you like to win a 2008 custom-painted one-of-a-kind Harley-Davidson Street Glide? The chance is yours for only \$100. Tickets are on sale now and going fast! Only 600 tickets will be sold, and the winner will be announced during Bikes, Blues & BBQ on June 6. Second and third cash prizes will also be awarded. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity. Call (352) 351-2479 or (352) 387-2210 to secure your ticket NOW.

Hog for Hope Events Quickly Approaching

The 7th Annual Hog for Hope events are sure to be show stoppers you won't want to miss. The Hog for Hope Poker Run will be held on Saturday, April 19 sign-ins starting at 9:30 at Harley-Davidson of Ocala with last bike out at 11 AM. The Run ends at ARC with the Jimmy Sparks Band, Smicks Toys Stunt Group, raffles, beer and more! Cost is \$10 per hand and \$5 for additional hands and includes food along the ride.

On May 29, Chamber Members are invited to the Business After Hours event with food sponsored by Huckleberry's Catering and music by the Smug.

The Hog for Hope events conclude on June 6 with Bikes, Blues & BBQ. Tickets are \$25 per person, and all of the food is courtesy of Outback Steakhouse. Entertainment will be provided by the Tammy Hatch Band and Bluzbusters. The event will feature a fabulous Silent Auction, and conclude with the drawing for the custom Harley mentioned above.

For more information about any of the events, including the list of our wonderfully generous sponsors, visit www.HogforHope.com or call 352-351-2479 or 352-387-2210.

Scholarships for Hope

Fundraising has begun for Scholarships for Hope, a new initiative of the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation to fund clients of ARC who aren't able to afford services. For more information how you can get involved, call (352) 351-2479.

Annual Costs for ARC and Hope to Administer Services Per Client:

| | |
|---|--|
| Group Home— \$42,000 | Adult Day Training (ADT) —\$8,700 |
| Supported Independent Living Coach—\$11,300 | Transportation to/ from ADT—\$6,200 |
| Supported Employment Coach—\$10,000 | Non-Residential Support Coach—\$18,200 |

Spotlight on Consumers

Sally Ann has been attending Adult Day Training on the ARC campus for 10 years. She recently chose to go out to Conimar on enclave where she did quality control on coasters to see if the cork backing could be removed. She then counted the good coasters for Conimar. This is the first time that Sally Ann has been off-site to earn money. She has since asked to go back to Conimar in the future to earn more money. Sally Ann said she'd also like to try another off-site contract at USA Scientific where she could count blue tips and bag them.

Clients at ADT are learning job skills everyday that can eventually place them on-site with various companies in our community. We are very proud of Sally Ann and all of our ADT clients both on the ARC campus and in the community!



Sally Ann at ADT

ARC Receives an A + +

For the first time, ARC staff and clients have received the status of "Achieving" according to the Delmarva ratings. The week long survey conducted by Delmarva, the Florida Statewide Quality Assurance Program for Developmental Disabilities, included personal interviews with clients and staff. ARC was recognized for their excellence in practices of self-determination and person-center supports. "Our motto has always been 'Clients first,' and now we are being recognized at the state level for the excellent work our staff does everyday to truly exemplify who we are and what we do," said Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC Marion. "It is very hard and unusual for a large company to reach this level that is normally reserved for small companies with only a few clients. Needless to say, we are ecstatic about this honor and hope to maintain it for years to come." Congratulations, ARC staff members for a job WELL DONE!

Day of Caring Volunteers Go Above & BEYOND



For the 10th year Tom Falanga and the team from Lockheed Martin have made the ARC campus more beautiful and appealing during the United Way's Day of Caring, and we are pleased to be the beneficiaries of their hard work and support! This year, over 100 volunteers braved the thunderstorms on February 23 to update our campus. From painting to electrical work, digging sidewalks to spreading mulch, hanging flower boxes to building a sandbox, and much, MUCH more, and we are overwhelmed every year by what they can accomplish in just a few hours. THANK YOU to everyone who participated. On one day each year, you make such a difference for us that lasts all year long!



ARC Pal Program Needs Volunteers

Calling all adults in the community, post high school and older, interested in being a friend with another adult (21 years old and older) who has special needs. Through this new program, volunteers will commit to meet with a "pal" once a month for one year.

If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering for this wonderful program, please call Jodie De Santis at 572-4813 or Troy at ARC at 387-2210. A detailed information session will be held sometime early this year.



Board of Directors

President, Tom Falanga

1st VP, Gary Stenzel

2nd VP, Eric Gifford

Secretary, Carol Bailey

Treasurer, Pamela Michell

Members

Sue Amsden
 Dr. Paul Beiderwell
 Allison Campbell
 Andy Campbell
 Kevin Christian
 Keith Davis
 Dr. David Elliot
 Sharon Falconer
 Gary Huthmacher
 Judy Huthmacher
 Dot Moore
 Randy Phillips
 Judy Piper
 Norm Price
 Lt. Greg Stewart

Chief Executive Officer

Troy Strawder

Message from ARC's CEO

With the upcoming legislative session starting, we are facing some extreme challenges due to current state budget shortfalls. It is vitally important for all of us, as citizens, to get involved with our legislators, and let them know that the people we serve are just that "people!" Each of them is not just some number on a waiting list, or someone who should be locked away in an institution! They have a lot to give to the community and are more than happy to do so if given the opportunity. If you would like to receive information by email about the session and how you can help please send a request to me at tstrawder@marionarc.com.



I am so proud of our clients and staff for reaching the highest mark possible during our quality assessment by Delmarva. This is validation by a third party that we are one of the best in the entire state. Of course we already knew that we're the best, but it's really nice to hear it from someone who is totally unbiased and visits programs all over the state. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!

Finally, I'd like to say a special thank you to the businesses who came together for us during the Christmas holidays with client Christmas gifts as well as working for us during the United Way Day of Caring. Lockheed Martin, Signature Brands, Munroe Regional Medical Center, Conrad Tree Surgeons, Amsden Signs, Pratt Industries and others have done vitally important work for us in the past three months, and I am forever indebted. THANKS!



Troy, Barbara and Jeff picking up gifts from Lockheed Martin

The room full of gifts

Sincerely,

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.

Please be advised, businesses in Ocala have recently received solicitations from an organization known as ARC of Florida. **ARC of Florida IS NOT affiliated with ARC Marion in Ocala** nor do any monies donated to ARC of Florida stay in Marion County. ARC Marion **DOES NOT** make unsolicited phone calls for donations, and all donations to ARC Marion go through their fundraising arm, the **HEART OF FLORIDA HOPE FOUNDATION**. If you have received a solicitation phone call or letter from ARC of Florida and are interested in donating to ARC Marion, please contact the Hope Foundation directly at (352) 351-2479. Thank you!



Helping People Develop Their Abilities Since 1959

2800 SE Maricamp Rd
Ocala, FL 34471