

Welcome to the latest edition of ARC Marion and The 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 calling 352.351.2479. We hope you find the content helpful. As always, we welcome your feedback. . . Enjoy!

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Calendar of Events

Now - December 20	ARCTistic Expressions Christmas Cards on Sale
February 23, 2012	King of the Wing
February 25, 2012	United Way Day of Caring
June 1, 2012	HOG for Hope™ Blues & BBQ

The First Annual Reds, Whites & Blues Raises \$55,000

More than 150 guests enjoyed an evening of fine wine, gourmet food and live music at the Hope Foundation's Reds, Whites & Blues event on Friday, October 21 around the beautiful pool at Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club. The weather couldn't have been better, and the event was a huge success, raising \$55,000 through both a silent auction and an intensely contested live auction.

This was the first year for the new event, which replaced the Evening of Thanks fundraiser that had been held at Golden Ocala for the last four years. The money raised will go a long way in helping to provide financial assistance for the intellectually and developmentally disabled clients served by ARC Marion.

Fundraisers of The Hope Foundation like Reds, Whites & Blues help fund scholarships and other needs of ARC Marion clients in Marion County.

If you were unable to attend that evening, you can see more about it including pictures from the event at www.RedsWhitesBlues.com!



ARC Marion Has A New Facebook Page

ARC Marion has recently moved to a new Facebook causes page in order to better distribute information about the organization and to provide a forum for clients, donors, and staff to communicate with one another. We aim to build a strong community through our Facebook page to better serve our clients and friends.

If you wish to join our community and keep up to date on upcoming events and client success stories, please "Like" our new page at <http://www.facebook.com/ARCMarion>!

ARC Marion Programs

Adult Day Training Early Intervention Residential Supported Employment Supported Independent Living

Ivy Circle Garden Club Gets Their Hands Dirty

A Special Thanks

For the second straight year, the ladies of the Ivy Circle Garden Club donated their time and effort to improve the landscaping around the ARC Marion campus. Specifically, they spruced up the area surrounding Group Home 12 where several of our adult clients live. This is exactly the type of community

involvement that helps ARC Marion provide a better quality of life for our clients. We are grateful for the Ivy Circle Garden Club ladies and truly appreciate their hard work!

This is yet another example of how anyone can get involved and help change the lives of ARC Marion's clients. If you or your organization would like to donate some of your time and service toward enriching our clients' lives, please contact Allison Campbell of The Hope Foundation at Allison@HeartofFloridaHope.org.



Points of Hope Society

ARC Marion's inaugural Point Breakfast was held November 1 and was a huge success. All of the attendees were inspired by testimonials from ARC Marion client, Richard Kennedy and ARC Community Services Director, Beth Lewis. Hope Board Members Tarn Thompson, Carmen Maines and Linda Bagal as well as Executive Director, Allison Campbell shared personal stories and a moving video was shown about several of our clients. It was a wonderful time to learn more about ARC Marion and the opportunities that are available to our clients.

We invited individuals to become members of the Points of Hope Society by pledging donations over the next five years. The founding members of the Points of Hope Society are: Jackie Albright; Richard and Pam Astrom; Stacy and Linda Bagal; Linda Bookbinder; Keith Davis; Diana Holder; Kathy and Wayne Johnson; Scott Kiefer; Don and Carmen Maines; Carmen Pascual; Karen Reid; Danialle Riggins; Dr. Susan Sands; Brett and Kimberly Shaffer; Mark and Carol Shaffer; Bobby and Joan Stark; Debbie Tremblay and Capt. Alicia Walker. We can't thank you enough! Half of the breakfast attendees had recently taken a Point Tour of the ARC Marion campus. The Point Tours are free of charge and take place several times per month on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. If you would like to tour ARC Marion's campus to see first-hand the tremendous impact our organization has on our clients' lives, please contact The Hope Foundation at (352) 351-2479 to schedule a visit.

Look At Me Now

Phillip, a quiet, serious boy with a shy smile, started in our Early Intervention Program eight months ago. At that time, his mom said she fed him with a plastic syringe filled with baby food due to his aversion to textures. Phillip qualified for language and occupational therapy. Our therapist began having Phillip lick lollipops and take yogurt from a spoon. After a month, he began to tolerate textures and would eat cereal and pieces of banana. Now he is feeding himself with a spoon and enjoys a variety of foods.

Phillip loves to learn and will hold up toys so that staff members will name them or tell him what color they are. Our language therapist, Amy, said "Phillip is making wonderful progress in therapy. Initially he was very shy using no words or even sounds. Now he can identify most colors and lots of pictures including animals. Most recently he is beginning to use two-word phrases." Phillip has a few more months in the program, and we look forward to seeing much more progress before he graduates!



ARCTistic Expressions

Spread Holiday Cheer with Client Produced Greeting Cards



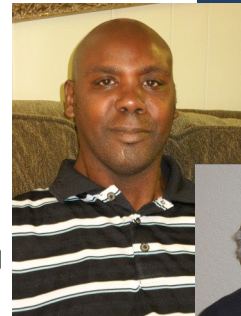
ARCTistic Expressions

Clients in the art program at ARC Marion have created these beautiful Christmas greeting cards. These cards are available for purchase and 100% of the profits go directly towards funding the educational programs including the art program, that continually improve the quality of life for our clients. These Christmas cards are a perfect example of how productive our clients can be when given the proper resources. If you would like to purchase a box of 25 cards for \$34 or 50 for \$62.50, please contact ARC Marion at (352) 387-2210 or purchase them online at www.mcarc.com/online_store

Scholarship Funding

For the past three years, The Hope Foundation has provided nearly \$175,000 in scholarship assistance to dozens of ARC Marion clients who are financially disadvantaged due to budget cuts from state funding. The Hope Foundation relies heavily on individual donations to continue helping clients like Terry, who receives \$700 a month in job skills training on ARC Marion's campus to maintain his skills while he looks for a job in the community; or Helen, who receives \$300 a month in job skills support and transportation so that she can go to work and go on outings with her group home; or Cora, who receives \$187 a month in scholarship assistance for an ARC Marion life coach to help her live independently in her own apartment.

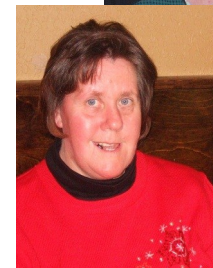
Would you consider a gift to The Hope Foundation that will be specifically designated for the Scholarship Fund so that we can provide financial assistance to those in need? With 30+ individuals seeking assistance totaling more than \$100,000 this year alone, the need is great. Just fill out the form below and return it in the envelope provided. Thank you in advance for your support!



Terry



Helen



Cora

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Payment Method ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

Scholarship Donation Amount \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Checks may be made out to The Hope Foundation.



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www.mcarc.com 352-387-2210
www.heartoffloridahope.org 352-351-2479

CEO's Corner Troy Strawder, ARC Marion's Chief Executive Officer

I love this time of year — all the weekend events, the cool air in my face while riding my motorcycle. It just makes me feel alive.

A couple of weekends ago, while attending a festival in Crystal River, I ran into Mike and Pat Needham and their families. We talked about Nelle, their mother and ARC Marion's first Executive Director in 1959, and we shared some funny stories about her humor. For anyone who knew her, this needs no explanation. It got me thinking about all those who came before us who were true champions for people with disabilities, and their own families who backed them up in their fight. I am so thankful to be a small part of the continuing legacy that is ARC Marion. Thank you all—past, present and future—for your tireless efforts to make sure that our amazing clients have a voice and a spot in our society. It would be so easy to turn a blind eye and walk away, but you chose to do just the opposite! We are forever grateful! Happy holidays to you all!



Executive Direction Allison Campbell, The Hope Foundation benefiting ARC Marion's Exec.

During this holiday season of giving and thanksgiving I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for so many things. Within the past month, I have been amazed by the outpouring of support we have received, both verbal and financial, from the attendees at the Reds, Whites & Blues gathering and the Point Breakfast. I feel like more and more in our community are learning about the very special people who work, live and learn every day “across from the new Publix on Maricamp Road.” So many people who have toured our campus this year have told me they had no idea all the things ARC Marion does. I'm grateful to each of you for giving us the opportunity to share our stories and our clients' stories. They truly are amazing.

I'm also very happy that my Thanksgiving holiday is being spent in Tennessee with my family and my sister who is developmentally disabled. She doesn't travel, so it's been a whole year since I saw her last. I am blessed to call Jennifer my sister, and I want my children to grow up knowing how special their only aunt is. She loves music and eating Cheetos like my boys do. She loves dressing up and wearing different shoes all the time like my middle son, and she is unable to talk, like my baby who jabbars all the time. But I am thankful that growing up with Jennifer has helped mold me into the person that I am. We may live far apart, but she's in my heart every day when I'm helping special people at ARC Marion who are a lot like her. To have a job that is also a passion, I'm incredibly grateful!

I hope this holiday season finds you happy, healthy and thankful for all your blessings both big and small. I know we are certainly blessed by you!

