



ARC Marion's mission is to create opportunities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live, work, and play to the fullest of their capabilities in Marion County. We have been helping people develop their abilities since 1959!

A message from Frank Sofia, CEO of ARC Marion

My first year as CEO has been a challenging, productive, and rewarding one. We have completed a total remodel of the workshop that is used by our Adult Day Training (ADT) using funds obtained from a Community Development Block Grant (CDGB). This allows us to provide services for even more people in the ADT program. On the challenging front, we continue to implement federal and state mandates that increase our costs, but must do this without any increase in funding from the same government entities.

To offset the lack of funding, and to maintain our high level of service to our clients, ARC's fundraising events were very successful this past year. ARC's partnership with the Marion County Roadbuilders Association to put on the 17th Annual Florida Feast and together with the Marion County Building Industry Association, ARC put on the 11th Annual King of the Wing. Both were record setting events! We also partnered with Warhorse Harley for two events this past year; the 4th Annual Ocala Bike Fest and a new event the Car & Bike Show.

As always, the proceeds that we receive from our fundraising events along with general contributions from people like you are extremely important to ARC. These monies help close the gap between the funding that ARC receives from the state and the actual costs to run our programs. Remember, the state of Florida is dead last when it comes to funding services for the developmentally and intellectually disabled.

Because of the additional space added in ADT, the increased occupancy in the group homes, and increased support from the community through our fundraising events and contributions, I look forward to another very successful year serving our developmentally and intellectually disabled clients.

Feel free to give us a call to schedule a tour of the campus. Please be sure to stop by the campus to purchase your Christmas tree from us this year! I promise, you won't be disappointed.

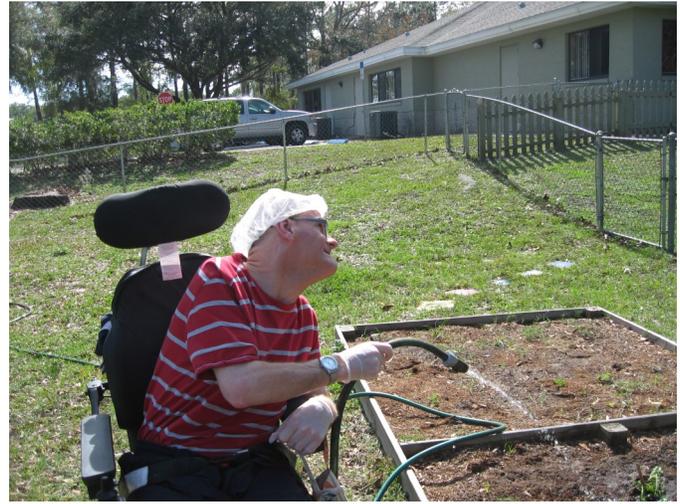
Thank you so much for your continued support!

Frank Sofia

The banner features a cartoon Santa Claus on the left pointing towards the text. The text 'Christmas Tree Sale' is in large, white, outlined letters. Below it, a red ribbon contains the text 'Begins Thanksgiving Weekend'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'ARC MARION' (Advocacy Resource Center) and 'mcbia' (Marion County Building Industry Association). The background is blue with white snowflakes and a Christmas tree on the right.

1st Annual Christmas Tree Sale at ARC Campus (2800 SE Maricamp Rd) Nov 24th - Dec 17th.
Hours: Friday-Sunday 9am-8pm, Mon-Thur 4pm-8pm. Fraser and Douglas Firs from 4-8 feet.
Call Lenni at 352-387-2210 for pre-orders!

How the ARC Garden Grows!



Our Daily Living Skills (DLS) program has many components. Clients have the opportunity to increase independent living skills by learning life skills such as housekeeping, laundry, and healthy cooking. Under the guidance of staff, clients also practice etiquette, team work and positive socialization. One of the most exciting parts of DLS is our fledgling garden, which is becoming popular with clients and staff.

The garden began with our Senior Program Director, who purchased several potted herbs for use in the preparation of simple meals. As they began to wilt on our shady window sill, staff was encouraged to plant them in a sunny (but bare) space near our outdoor lunch tables. The three lonely little herbs somehow inspired the generosity of staff and families, which began donating starts and cuttings to add to the space. Soon, clients were busy putting cuttings in pots, and filling raised beds with impatiens! Each Friday, clients go to the garden in small groups to tend the perennials and herbs that have begun to grow and bloom.

The collective dedication of our ARC “family” culminated with the first “Friends and Family” plant sale, which took place on October 6, 2017. Plants that clients cultivated were sold alongside garden-related paintings created in Art class. There were client greeters, baggers, and cashiers that assisted customers with purchases, providing both employment skills and validation of their hard work. All proceeds will be used to support and expand our efforts to include fresh and organic choices in our cooking classes.

Success Stories

We love to share our client success stories. It is important for us to acknowledge their success and pass this on so you know your donations make a difference. We appreciate all of our supporters and hope that these stories inspire you even more. They certainly inspire us!



Great Progress in EIP!

O. enrolled in the Early Intervention Program shortly after his second birthday. At that time he spoke only a couple of words and rarely made eye contact. He enjoyed playing independently and exploring his environment. He struggled to follow directions and did not like to attend activities with the other children. His family was concerned that O. would not be able to express his wants or needs. Based on this information, his teacher began working with O. on the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). Success came quickly as O. began to make requests at mealtime. Recently, he has begun to speak additional words and follow directions. He has also begun to attend group activities with the other children and enjoys doing so. He has become the classroom greeter saying, "hi" and, "bye" to everyone he meets. O. graduates soon and although we will miss him we are so proud to have had him at ARC Marion.

Happy Camper!

Z. came in to the Early Intervention Program classroom with a red ball every day. It was hard for the staff to get Z. to join in the activities with the other children because he was so focused on the red ball. Over time, the staff was able to gently get Z. to join the other children without the red ball and this has allowed him to engage at a higher level with his classmates. In addition, Z. has really improved in his ability to manipulate toys and puzzles with both hands. He is smiling more these days especially when he is able to find a toy of his favorite color, red J. Keep up the good work Z!



STOP NEW LOCATION!

King of the Wing

OCALA LIVESTOCK PAVILION

JAN 30, 2018

ARC! MARION
mcbia
Marion County Building Industry Association



2800 SE Maricamp Road
Ocala, FL 34474-2210

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
OCALA, FL
PERMIT #100



Inside this issue of *The Point!*

- Updates on ARC Events and Happenings
- Clients in the Community
- Client Profiles and Success Stories

Save the Date!

Here's what's coming up next on the ARC community event calendar!

- Nov. 24th -Dec 17th 1st Annual Christmas Tree Sale
- Dec. 2nd Marion Motor Fest
- Jan. 18th Corks & Canvas
- Jan. 30th King of Wing (New location)
- April 20th, 21st & 22nd Ocala Bike Fest (New location)

Check out our website for complete details on each event!

www.marc.com

ARC Marion: Developing Partnerships

We at ARC are proud of what we do for the developmentally and intellectually disabled clients that we serve on a daily basis. We also appreciate all the support that we receive from the local business community here in Marion County.

As an example, TD Bank has a grant program that helps support not for profit organizations in the communities that they serve. We wrote a grant which asked the TD Bank Foundation for funding so that a few clients would be able to attend our ADT (Adult Day Training) program.

We at ARC wish to thank all local business that supports our programs whether through donations, sponsorships, volunteering, or grant funding.

