



## WHAT IS ARC ?

Advocacy Resource Center Marion, Inc. is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that has been helping people develop their abilities since 1959. Advocacy Resource Center Marion, Inc. is a multi-service agency that provides a full range of support programs to hundreds of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout Marion County, Florida.

The following are services that the Advocacy Resource Center Marion, Inc. provides.

**Life Skills Development/Adult Day Training:** Our ADT program provides a meaningful day program including employment through contracted work with manufacturers in the community, training in the activities of daily living, adaptive skills and social skills. All activities stress independence and self-advocacy in settings that are age and culturally appropriate.

**Residential Habilitation/Group Homes:** Group homes provide supervision and specific training activities that assist the recipient to acquire, maintain, or improve skills related to activities of daily living. The service focuses on personal hygiene skills, homemaking skills, and social and adaptive skills that enable the recipient to reside in the community.

**Early Intervention Program:** The EIP offers play-based pre-school curriculum, physical, speech and occupational therapies and other support for youngsters' birth to three years of age who have been identified as developmentally delayed. The goal is prepare these toddlers to be mainstreamed into public school classrooms.

## HIGHWAY DEDICATION

*By Frank Sofia*

On December 27, 2018 a reception was held at ARC Marion, Inc., commemorating Nelle W. Needham's life and good works within our community. She is being honored by the Florida Legislator by designating the portion of SR 464/Maricamp Road between S.E. 25th Avenue and S.E. 24th Street in the City of Ocala, County of Marion, State of Florida, as the Nelle W. Needham Memorial Highway.

For those of you that aren't familiar with the name Nelle W. Needham, she was a champion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She began working in 1959 with ARC Marion, Inc. then known as New Hope School and Opportunity Workshop. She was the first Executive Director of our organization, serving from 1964 to 1990. Her leadership and desire to serve those with intellectual and developmental disabilities remains the focus of ARC Marion, Inc. today.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Marion Motor Fest

*February 23rd, 2019*

#### King of the Wing

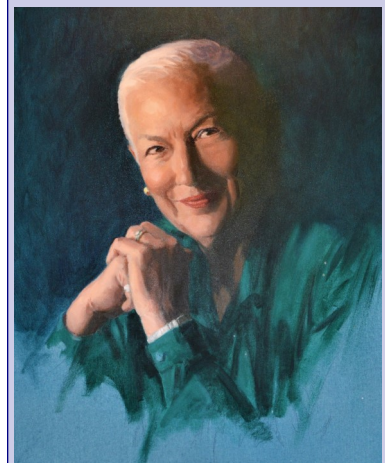
*February 26th, 2019*

#### Ocala Bike Fest

*April 12th-14th, 2019*



*The Needham Family*



*Nelle W. Needham*



Tom Falanga

## WHY I SUPPORT ARC

*By Tom Falanga, Board member since 1999*

I have had the honor of serving on the ARC Board for almost twenty years. During my tenure, I have had the pleasure of working with three great CEOs, five great Board Presidents, and hundreds of wonderful volunteers and staff to serve our ARC clients. Here is my story.

In the mid-90's I was looking for a site large enough to handle two to three hundred employees and their families to support the United Way's Day of Caring. The ARC was the perfect site due to its location and vast size. By the way, back then, the ARC site needed all the caring it could get for many reasons!

During those Day of Caring events, I developed a relationship with the ARC leadership and the clients. This relationship evolved, and I became an ARC board member assigned to the construction committee where I was part of a great team (CEO, staff, board, Marion County) that gradually transformed the ARC campus to the amazing place it is today. We demolished many dilapidated buildings and built some great facilities. We completely renovated a few others including the two group homes. Most of this was done with County CDBG and SHIP grants. In fact, the ARC has no debt today from this complete facility upgrade!

However, the ARC is much more than its infrastructure. The ARC is all about the clients. The clients are wonderful people with no hidden agendas and no pretenses. They are just great, down to earth people! It is the clients that keep me involved at the ARC. They have and will continue to be the reason I support the ARC.

I encourage each of you to take some time to schedule a tour, see the facilities and meet some of the most incredible people.

*"I encourage each of you to take some time to schedule a tour, see the facilities and meet some of the most incredible people." - Tom Falanga*

### OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Day- **President**  
Day & Day, CPA

Tom Files- **First VP**  
Feaster Co Construction

Charles Trout- **Second VP**  
Publix Supermarket, GM

Alex Nowosiadło- **Treasurer**  
Hotel Development &  
Management Group

Art Shultz- **Secretary**  
REMAX Realty

Tom Falanga  
Lockheed Martin

Bob DeClerk  
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Jabriel Riley  
USA Scientific

Michelle Valadez  
Beeline Services

John Cervellera  
TD Bank

Cathy Ackerman  
Fifth Circuit Public Guardian

Shane Matthews  
FastTrack Staffing

Tammy Preece  
Preece Land Surveying

## JAYDEN'S SUCCESS

*By Vicki Pritchard*

Jayden started the Early Intervention Program about four months ago and he usually comes between 1-3 days a week. He is presently getting speech therapy and OT. When Jayden first started he would cry and be soothed by the tag on a book, his bottle, or by watching a colorful oil and water toy where the little balls drop down. He threw or dropped toys and wasn't interested in the other children playing.



In the short time that he has been here, he has made steady progress. Transitioning has become much easier for him and he is becoming more interested in toys and various activities. He's got better eye contact and really enjoys circle time. Rather than just walking around outside, he is more engaged and will now walk up the stairs on the slide and go down with assistance. He also enjoys going on the rocking boat with his peers and is even beginning to initiate simple contact with new friends. Jayden is becoming more vocal, babbling and starting to have an exchange back and forth. Now he is a happy, smiley little boy and it is wonderful to see his accomplishments thus far. Way to go Jayden!



*Santa is making his rounds*

## CLIENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

*By Yvonne Zenga*

On December 13, 2018, the annual ARC Christmas party was once again held courtesy of the Moore Family Endowment. The magical afternoon began with clients dressed up in their holiday outfits, and transported to the Hilton, where they were served a delicious turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, dressing, salad and rolls. Clients and staff enjoyed their meal with festive live music by Sugar Bear playing softly in the background.

After the meal, dancing commenced, with staff and clients laughing, singing and clapping along with the band. The highlight, of course, was the visit from Santa Claus, who greeted everyone with a deep laugh and handshake.

As dusk began to fill the skies, dessert was served, and the dancing wound down. Clients were then transported to their homes, tired but happy from the big event.



*Santa, clients and staff enjoying our annual Christmas Party*



## SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

*By Leah Craig*

Kenny Burnett is a Supported Employment client who has recently gained employment at Publix, Grand Oaks Town Center. Our Supported Employment coach, Courtenay Salem, assisted Kenny in the application and interview process and continues to coach him in his on the job training. Kenny can now financially support himself and his family and continue to live independently. With Courtenay's help, Kenny has learned his new public transportation schedule and can independently catch the bus to and from his work.

Securing this job has greatly increased Kenny's independence and his self-confidence.

Way to go Kenny!



*Kenny at work*





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#### ARC MARION MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

*Our mission and vision 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, as well as to foster Marion County, as a model community, to embrace persons with disabilities and to help them support their dreams.*

#### DID YOU KNOW?

ARC currently has 28 Residential clients, 165 Clients who attend our ADT and 25 little ones that attend our EIP program.

#### WAYS TO GIVE

We have several opportunities for you to show your support of ARC Marion, Inc.; Memorial bricks or Leaves engraved with a loved one's name, in-kind donations and general contributions are just a few yet very meaningful ways for you to share your generosity with ARC. A charitable bequest through a will is another way to establish a legacy gift.

#### LEAVE A LEGACY

Legacy giving to ARC Marion, Inc. is a way you can ensure ARC Marion's long-term sustainability. This support comes in the form of gifts that require thought and planning. Consider remembering ARC Marion, Inc. through a bequest in your will or living trust to ensure your assets are used for meeting the needs of the intellectually and developmentally disabled citizens of Marion County.

For more information on any of our programs or ways that you could help, please contact 352-387-2210 or visit [www.mcarc.com](http://www.mcarc.com)

