



Winter/Spring 2017

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!

Ocala Bike Fest® Fundraiser 2017 is just around the corner!



The crowd starts gathering early at the 2016 Ocala Bike Fest.



Steve Mackenzie stands proud as our 2015 Harley-Davidson winner.

Save the Date! The Ocala Bike Fest is coming!
 The annual Ocala Bike Fest is upon us. Please join us for this fun-filled event and to support our mission to serve the intellectually and developmentally disabled in our area. Don't forget for a \$100 donation you could purchase a chance to win a 2017 Harley Davidson Street Glide Motorcycle. Only 500 tickets will be sold. There are still tickets available; go to www.mcarc.com or call 352-387-2210. YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!!!!!

When: Friday, March 31st through Sunday, April 2nd

Daily Times:	Friday	1:00 pm - 11:00 pm
	Saturday	10:00 am - 11:00 pm
	Sunday	10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: The campus of ARC Marion (2800 SE Maricamp Road Ocala)

Why: To support the intellectually and developmentally disabled in Marion County

Events: Unique vendors plus great food and beverages all day, every day.

Friday: Country and rock bands including Big Engine at 8:00pm, Jeep Night and tailgate party.

Saturday: Poker Run starting 9:00am at Warhorse Harley Davidson, Ocala and ending at the campus of ARC Marion. Music all day (The Blues Brothers and The Bearded Brothers), custom bikes, 18 wheelers, and rat rod show, dog rescue, blood mobile, drawing for the Harley Davidson (8pm), and much more!

Sunday: Custom car show, more great music and events.

Come join the fun and support a great cause!

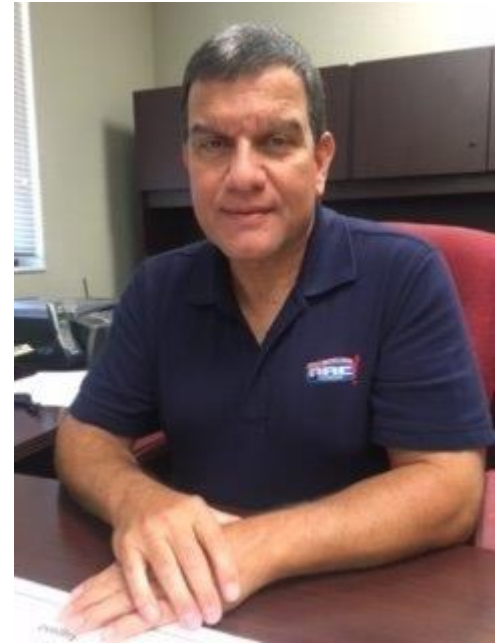
A message from Frank Sofia, CEO of ARC Marion

As we prepare for our fourth annual Ocala Bike Fest, I am reminded of how crucial community support is for the well-being of our clients. The Florida Legislature continues to underfund the services that we provide for the developmentally and intellectually disabled citizens of Marion County. Due to the lack of adequate funding, ARC Marion has been forced to reduce our Residential Services by five group homes in the past two years.

That is why I am respectfully requesting everyone's support. Individual donors in our community have become increasingly vital to our mission. Please help support the fourth annual Ocala Bike Fest so that we can continue to provide life enhancing services for the developmentally and intellectually disabled citizens of our community.

ARC Marion, Inc. is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that has been helping people develop their abilities since 1959. ARC Marion, Inc. is a multi-service agency that provides a full range of support programs on a daily basis to hundreds of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout Marion County, Florida. Our staff and community supporters have a passion for the well-being of our clients and are focused on fulfilling our mission through the many programs that we provide. I am truly grateful to work with such great people. I look forward to a successful year serving our clients and seeing you at our events.

Frank Sofia



Our Clients in the Community

Our third annual "Corks and Canvas" event featuring the artwork of several ARC Marion clients was held at City Hall on January 26, 2017. This year's event was a success and offered the actual artwork of our clients for sale with proceeds directly benefiting the artist! Light appetizers and wine were served and the clients proudly showcased their work and interacted with the public and potential buyers. Almost all pieces of the clients artwork were sold opening night; the few remaining pieces can be purchased by calling ARC at 352-387-2210.



Barbara and our Director of Adult Day Training, Leah.



Sarah showing off her artwork.



Debbie proudly stands in front of her collection.

The King of the Wing 2017 was the best ever!

This year was a huge success and had the largest turnout to date. Thank you!

The King of the Wing title for 2017 goes to Mojo's Grill while the Ocala Fire Fighters take the prize of Wing Master in the Amateur Division.

Thanks to everyone who participated and we can't wait to taste your creations at next years competition!



Mojo's Team with their Trophy



Awesome Display of Patriotism

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!



Early Intervention Program

In April, when I started working in the classroom, L. was not very active and was not verbal. She was showing very little interest in her environment, including the teachers and even her toys. L. is very stiff in her legs and arms so it was hard for her to move. Slowly, L. started to show interest in toys. She started to roll over and soon was rolling to the toy shelves and pulling toys off the shelves. She is now pushing buttons and turning knobs on her toys. She enjoys pop-up toys and musical toys which teach her that for every action there is an effect. She is actively trying to imitate sounds now and can say “mama”, “nana”, and “night”. She is striving to crawl and is making progress. She laughs and lets you know when she wants something, and is even beginning to feed herself and drink from a straw. We are so pleased with the progress L. is making and look forward to helping her continue on this path. Great job L.!

Early Intervention Program

N. has only been in the Early Intervention Program about two months. Since he started he has been receiving speech and occupational therapy. Early on, he was not very vocal, making basic sounds. He struggled being around other children and with the structure of a classroom setting. After the first week N.’s parents were already noticing positive changes in his behavior. He is now used to the classroom routine. N. will independently wash his hands before mealtime and then go right to his chair. During activities he is focused and follows directions. Sometimes N. will take our hand to show us what he wants. In the short time he has been here N. has made steady progress and his parents and I are excited about all he has achieved so far!



Supported Employment Program

J works on the cleaning crew at the Adult Day Training Center on the ARC campus and always completes his tasks thoroughly and efficiently. When the opportunity to go out in the community for an office cleaning job came up, J was chosen as one of the crew to go. He enjoys interacting with the workers at the jobsite and requires little supervision. Due to his work ethic, positive attitude, and work skills, J is a great role model for the other clients on the cleaning crew.



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Inside this issue of *The Point!*

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



Save the Date! March 31st - April 2nd! 4th Annual Ocala Bike Fest[®] Fundraiser benefiting ARC Marion

Stay current with the most up-to-date information about this, and future events, and learn more about our mission and the people we serve by visiting our website: www.mcarc.com.

Thank You Donors!

We receive support from many individuals, businesses, and groups in our community. We could not provide the support and services we do without their support! We acknowledge these key sponsors for 2016 and 2017:

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