



# MARC, Inc. of Manchester

Seeing People - Not Disabilities, Since 1952



“Building On Our Legacy -  
Building For The Future”

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# O U R M I S S I O N

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is a not-for-profit agency that supports people with disabilities in Manchester, Connecticut and surrounding towns.

MARC, Inc. is dedicated to advocacy on the local, state, and national level. We deliver diverse, culturally competent services to ensure that all people have the opportunity to live, work, and enjoy their community according to their individual choices.

MARC, Inc. embraces the philosophy that all people should live, work, and play in their community, making friendships and contributions consistent with their skills and abilities. MARC, Inc. ensures access to and maximization of presence and participation in Connecticut town life, opportunities to develop and exercise competency, opportunities to make choices in the pursuit of a personal future, and good relationships with family members and friends, with respect and dignity.

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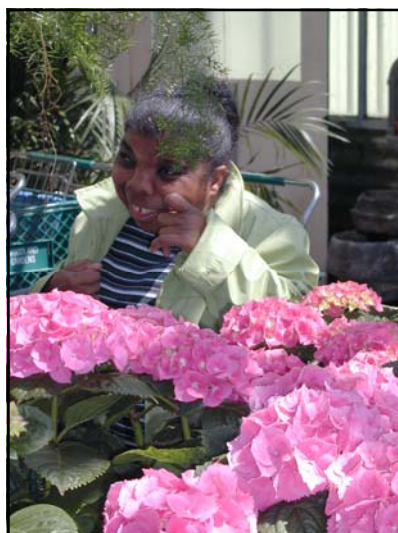
MARC, Inc. of Manchester is an affiliated local chapter of The Arc of the United States of America. Not only does MARC live by its own mission, but it also lives up to The Arc's Mission and Core Values.

**The Arc's Mission:**

The Arc of the United States works to include all children and adults with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities in every community.

**Arc's Core Values:**

- People First
- Democracy
- Visionary Leadership
- Community Participation
- Diversity
- Integrity and Excellence



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# O U R H I S T O R Y

For over 56 years, MARC, Inc. of Manchester (MARC, Inc.) has worked to meet the needs of people with disabilities by helping individuals live, work and enjoy their community independently with dignity and pride. Based in Manchester, Connecticut, MARC, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, was founded by a group of parents in response to the critical and unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities. In 1952, when MARC, Inc. was formed, parents of children with disabilities began advocating for their rights all across the nation. This became known as the Self Advocacy Movement.

From the start, MARC, Inc. helped parents with school-aged children with education, transportation, and day care needs. Our organization was the first licensed special needs day care in Connecticut. Over the years, and especially after the introduction of special education in the school systems, MARC, Inc. refocused its area of assistance to employment. From there, the number of services provided grew to include, recreation, residential, respite, retirement, and school-to-work transition. Our programs are designed to assist those we serve to enjoy what so many of us take for granted.

MARC, Inc. is recognized within the state and nationally for innovation and excellence in providing services to people with disabilities. The agency currently has 193 full and part time staff serving 250 people with disabilities and that number continues to grow. In order to provide the best services possible in a safe and professional environment, staff receive continual, comprehensive training in a variety of areas.

- 1954 - Opened the first day care center in Connecticut.
- 1966 - The Manchester Sheltered Workshop officially opened.
- 1984 - The MARC Bakery/Gift Shoppe opened.
- 1986 - Senior Center opens.
- 1987 - Secondhand Rose Thrift Shoppe opened to the public.
- 1989 - Self Advocacy group was formed.
- 1990 - Residential Services begins.
- 1992 - School-to-Work Transition Service offered to high school students.
- 1994 - Welfare-to-Work Services begin.
- 2000 - Began providing Diversity Training to Manchester's fourth graders.
- 2002 - Began offering Shredding Services, Respite Service introduced, Direct Care Provider Training implemented.
- 2004 - Vending Services implemented.
- 2007 - Building Campaign announced.
- 2008 - Property identified for new facility on Sheldon Road in Manchester.



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# OUR NEEDS

As a result of the hard work of a caring, dedicated, and professional staff, our agency has experienced tremendous growth, both in the number of people served and the scope of services we provide.

MARC is a leader in the human services field, and we are proud to be the provider of choice for so many individuals and families in our region. We anticipate continued growth as more families elect to join our services. With rapid expansion comes a host of challenges, among them is the need for a larger facility.

There are many reasons that our Board's decision to build a new, larger facility is a prudent decision. The need for an expanded, modern facility is based on the following circumstances:

- Due to growth, our current 15,000 square foot facility is no longer adequate to meet agency needs. Office space has been combined with service areas to provide additional space. In addition, storage rooms have been converted into office and/or service areas.
- Following general population trends across the nation, more individuals with disabilities, are living longer and needing retirement services. This increase in demand for services has exceeded the space available for our current Senior Center.
- The number of restrooms, conference rooms and office space is not sufficient to meet the needs of the growing number of people we serve.
- The current space does not allow us to install and implement therapeutic equipment to enhance service delivery including lift/tracking systems for our restrooms and service areas, a physical therapy/exercise room to meet occupational/physical therapy needs, nursing area, and a sensory room.
- Other large businesses share our parking lot, making it difficult to find parking for all our visitors and staff.
- Safety is a concern with high traffic from surrounding businesses.
- Our current location provides no "green space" to offer opportunities for recreation/ social events. When we do have these occasions, we must rent out other locations.
- During the course of our fifty six year history we have had to endure several moves to new locations. Some of these moves have been due to space constraints and some have been due to the expiration of lease agreements. These periodic moves are disruptive to services, very labor intensive, and costly.



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# O U R P R O J E C T

In response to the growth of programs offered by MARC, Inc. of Manchester and the limitations of our current facility, MARC plans to construct a 25,000 square foot building on a parcel of five acres of land in Manchester adjacent to the Post Office on Sheldon Road. Upon completion of this project, MARC, Inc. of Manchester will be able to build upon our legacy of providing opportunities to hundreds of families to overcome challenges faced on a daily basis.

On January 18, 2008, a purchase agreement was signed to acquire this land for our new home. The new building will be designed to fulfill our anticipated needs for the next fifty years. For the first time in our fifty six year history, we look forward to having a permanent home in Manchester.

## **The new facility will provide the following:**

- Additional accessible bathrooms that can accommodate high usage as well as being outfitted with special lift equipment for an aging population.
- Handicapped accessible entry and handrails with wider hallways.
- Additional Senior Center Space.
- A sensory room
- Additional space for employment training.
- Additional cafeteria space.
- Space for nursing, physical and occupational therapy.
- Conference / training areas for both MARC use and community use after hours.
- Additional space for MARC Vending & Shredding services.
- Shower and laundry areas.
- Additional storage areas for supplies, filing, and specialized equipment.
- Outdoor educational / recreational areas for people served.
- Ample parking with safe designated pickup/drop off areas.
- A permanent home would eliminate the variability of lease payments and result in the ability to better forecast facility expenses farther into the future.
- An environmentally friendly building.



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**Capital Building Campaign “Building On Our Legacy - Building For the Future”** is managed by a building committee comprised of parents, local business leaders, other dedicated volunteers who live or work in the Manchester area as well as MARC personnel.

**Building Committee Members**

**Nathan Agostinelli**

*Co-Chair*

*Past State Comptroller, Past Manchester Mayor*

**Laurie Prytko**

*Co-Chair*

*Past Executive Director*

**Ken Charpentier**

*Executive Director*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**David Duttweiler**

*Parent*

**Thom Ford**

*Volunteer*

**Willy Heinzmann**

*Person Served*

**Mae Irvin**

*Parent*

**Vivian Ladabouche**

*Volunteer*

**Carol Lamb**

*Human Resource Director,*

*Gerber Scientific*

**Sean Lindsay**

*Owner,*

*Economy Oil Change*

**Joseph Prignano**

*Brother & Guardian*

*Local Dentist*

**Jack Sayre**

*President, MARC Board*

*of Directors*

**Niki Watson**

*Teacher*

*Manchester High School*

**Jerry Williams**

*Volunteer*

**Kevin Zingler**

*Director of Marketing*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**MARC, Inc. Department Directors**

**Carol Breslin**

*Quality Assurance Director*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**Peter Engelbrecht**

*Residential Director*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**Colleen Pillard**

*Financial Director*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**Betsy Smith**

*Employment Director*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**Scott Stafford**

*Director of Services*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*

**Delci Thompson**

*Director of Senior Center*

*MARC, Inc. of Manchester*



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NEW HOME FOR  
MARC OF MANCHESTER, INC.



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# PROJECT RENDERING



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