

Marbridge LIFE

Fall 2019

***A History of Marbridge
67 Years and Counting***

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Building a Bridge to Recovery

(p. 12)

On the Trail to Success

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Memories of Marbridge

Looking back to look forward (p. 10)

Marbridge Foundation

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From the CEO

There are six core values at Marbridge that our residents and staff strive to live by each day. LEARN is one value that many individuals with special needs don't continue receiving after high school graduation, but Marbridge highly focuses on. Residents at Marbridge pursue various opportunities to learn on a daily basis. From academics to life skills and athletics, there's something for everyone. The ultimate goal is to enable them to reach the highest level of independence possible.

Many adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities aren't provided with accessible opportunities to learn and expand their ability to be more independent. Marbridge offers a world class Training & Education program with over 150 opportunities for The Ranch and The Village on a tri-semester schedule allowing residents year-round learning.

Giving residents the tools they need to learn is vital to their continued success. Classes are updated each semester and residents are offered personalized plans each year based on their unique goals to gain more independence.

Each community at Marbridge allows for residents to learn through new opportunities and activities they can select. The mission is for each resident on campus to learn, experience, and achieve a whole new life.

For this edition of LIFE Magazine, we look back at the history of Marbridge to help us look toward the future.

Sincerely,

James Stacey
CEO

Resident Success Meet Thomas

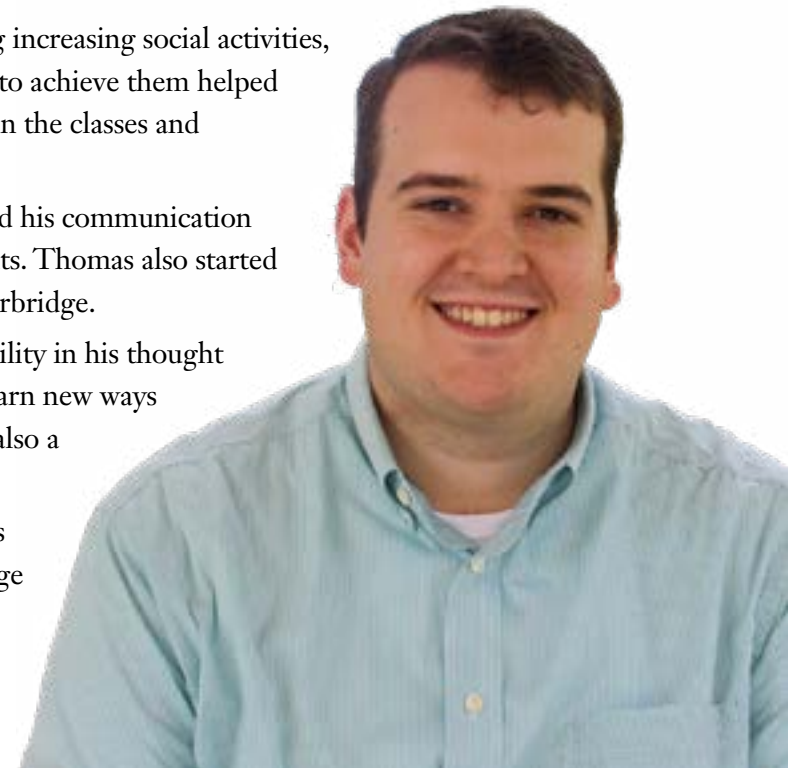
Thomas came to Marbridge in 2017 with several goals including increasing social activities, independence, and physical activity. Those goals and his drive to achieve them helped our Training & Education program and The Village staff place him in the classes and activities that would get Thomas to where he wanted to be.

After his first year Thomas' instructors praised his hard work, noticed his communication skills improved, and that he was opening up more with other residents. Thomas also started living a healthier life and has lost over 20 pound since coming to Marbridge.

Thomas' teachers and The Village staff have also helped guide flexibility in his thought process and problem solving. He doesn't hesitate to ask questions, learn new ways of thinking, and participate in discussions with his peers. Thomas is also a frequent speaker at Marbridge's JAM Sessions

He continues to achieve a higher level of independence as Thomas is an Office Assistant at NFP, a company that employs several Marbridge residents.

"Thomas always brings a smiling face and a positive attitude to NFP," said Sylvia Velasquez, Facilities Manager at NFP. "When faced with a challenge, he meets it head-on."



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Marbridge Flooded with Generosity Over the Holiday Season

The Giving Tree was a huge success in 2019 thanks to the generosity of you. This year 369 amazing gift givers pulled tags from the Giving Tree with over 710 gifts being dropped off for Marbridge residents.

“I love Christmas and getting gifts,” said Mike, a Ranch resident who has been a part of the Giving Tree since its inception in 2003. “Thank you to everyone who gave gifts.”

This year also saw some amazing donors give to classrooms, communities, and through the Marbridge wishlist. Your generosity allows residents to continue to achieve a whole new life.

“Without the contributions that people out in the community make, many of the residents may not get a significant gift,” said Duncan Murray, Villa Administrator. “The Giving Tree allows residents to have their needs and some wants fulfilled and give them a full quality of life during the holidays.”

Many amazing families and supporters of Marbridge go the extra mile during the holiday to ensure residents have a fantastic holiday season. One family, the Langfords, have shown their generosity by hosting a holiday party for residents of The Dorm at The Ranch.

“They truly symbolize the definition of giving and being open,” said Marcus Mercer, Director of The Ranch. “They’re familiar to what we do and they’ve adopted so many of the residents outside of their loved one who used to reside with us. Being able to help others who are less fortunate is amazing and the residents absolutely love



Above: Jerry, a Ranch resident, shows off a gift from the Langfords
Below: A small portion of the gifts given for the Giving Tree



them. It’s greatly appreciated.”

On behalf of Marbridge we want to say thank you to everyone who gave during this holiday season as part of the Giving Tree, volunteering, or donations.

Expansion Planned for The Village

2020 and 2021 to see two new cottages constructed

The Marbridge family will grow in size in the upcoming years as The Village, our most independent community, will expand in 2020 and 2021 with the addition of two new cottages. The new cottages will house six residents each, bringing the total number of residents at The Village to 102.

Marbridge has already begun the process to construct the new cottage with a site plan submitted to the City of Austin and Travis County Fire Marshall. The average time it takes to get site approval takes about four to five months. Once approved it will be followed up with roughly four to five months of construction.

“The completion of the new cottage opening in fall 2020, will allow six adults to be able to come off of our waiting list for The Village,” said Scott McAvoy, Executive Vice President. “Our site planning and approval includes the site for a second cottage to be built in 2021.”



One of Marbridge’s current 15 Village cottages

The Ranch and The Village Demonstrate Perfection

Both communities receive flawless scores from the THHS Health Survey

The Ranch and The Village have a lot to celebrate this year as they received perfect marks this summer on their Texas Health and Human Services (THHS) Health Survey.

The THHS Health Survey is an extremely detailed survey that covers multiple areas of each community. The surveyors inspect staff training, emergency management, food services and proper storage, medical records, medication management and organization, resident goals, service plans, social outings, and activities offered. They also conduct randomized staff and resident interviews to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in the community.

“The bottom line is that we, as a staff, have to consistently follow the protocols and guidelines we have in place to keep our residents happy and safe,” said Will Hoermann, Director of The Village.

There are many key factors that Marbridge communities utilize to continue to provide such excellent care, but one of great importance is communication.

“The success of both of these surveys comes from the communication of the entire team,” said Marcus Mercer, Director of The Ranch. “We want to be prepared at the drop of a hat.”



Left: Marcus Mercer, Director of The Ranch
Right: Will Hoermann, Director of The Village

Join the waiting list.

Contact our Admissions department for information on The Village or The Ranch:

512.735.2704

admissions@marbridge.org

Save the Date: Amplify Austin

March 5-6, 2020

Join us for this annual 24-hour campaign of giving!

And mark your calendar for our kick-off party on March 5.

The party is hosted by ELM: Emerging Leaders of Marbridge and features door prizes for donors. Location TBD.

Early giving starts January 21.



Learn more at
**Marbridge.org/
amplifyatx**

A History of Marbridge

67 years and counting of creating a whole new life for adults with disabilities

1926:

Jim ‘Ed’ Bridges met Marjorie Davis in Colombia, South Carolina. They married ten month later on December 24.



1928:

‘Jim’ Ed Bridges Jr. was born, suffering brain damage due to a difficult delivery.



1933:

When public schools wouldn’t accept him at age six, Jim was sent to Stewart Home School in Frankfort, KY where he spent a couple of years.



1935:

The Bridges relocated to New Orleans where Ed managed a Haverty’s furniture store. Jim was not allowed to enter public schools so he was enrolled in a small, private military school.



1946:

Jim was enrolled in the Brown Schools, a for-profit therapeutic education school, in the Austin area. He stayed at the Brown Schools for 2-3 years.



1946:

The Bridges moved to Austin to be closer to Jim and opened Bridges Furniture Company at 416 Congress Ave, which stayed in business until 1966.



1949:

Ed became active in association work and helped organize the Texas Association for Mental Retardation (Today, known as the Texas Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities).



1952:

After trading 16 acres they owned in Westlake for an 86 acre farm in Manchaca, The Bridges started drawing up the documents to set up Marbridge Foundation.



1953:

Marbridge Foundation was incorporated as a non-profit. Jim and six other young men with cognitive challenges moved into a small farmhouse with another couple who served as live-in trainers and caretakers.



1955:

The Bridges expanded the farmhouse to accommodate 14 men.



1959 & 1960:

Campus expanded to include a woodworking shop and swimming pool.



1961:

Marbridge House of Houston, the first Community Living Center, began operations and remained open until 1993.



1963:

The Winters Dorm opened adding 42 additional beds.



1966:

Ed sold the Bridges Furniture Company to work full-time at Marbridge.



1966:

Summer camp was established to allow boys with disabilities aged 12-15 a week of fun-filled activities.



1967:

Marbridge House of Dallas opened. Marbridge House of Abilene opened and became the first Marbridge program serving women. Both locations stayed in business until 1987. After closing, several residents moved to the main campus.



1968:

Marbridge Garden Center began operation and stayed in business for 45 years. People came from all over the area to buy their flowers. The garden center closed in 2007 for the focus to shift to more training for residents.



1970:

Marbridge House of Austin opened. It closed in 1987 with residents coming to Marbridge’s campus in Manchaca.



1972:

The Dorm, originally called Senior Dorm, opened to serve the older gentlemen of Marbridge.



1978:

As of this year, Marbridge had trained 428 residents, many for independent life.



1980:

Marbridge added new training, cooking, laundry, and auto mechanics, to expand life skills and tradesmanship among the men.



A History Continued...

1982:

The Villa opened phase one with 52 beds. Ed and Marge Bridges received national honors as “Pioneers in the Habilitation of the Mentally Retarded in America” by the American Association of Mental Deficiency.



1985:

Construction completed for the All-Faiths Chapel. The residents assisted in laying the first bricks with eight residents still living at Marbridge today.



1987:

The Mabee Village campus opened consolidating the Marbridge Community Living Centers from across Texas to this site adjacent to the main campus in Manchaca.



1991:

The Mabee Village gym was constructed. The gym closed in 2015.



1992:

After being the President and Chair of the Board since Marbridge’s inception, Ed was officially appointed CEO of Marbridge.



1998:

Women were admitted to Marbridge for the first time. Three women from the initial year are still with Marbridge today.



2002:

Expansions and upgrades of the Training & Education Program under Abilities-Centered Training (ACT) began.



Marbridge offers ACT based on the theory of multiple intelligences. Our program begins with the expectation that each individual is able – our job is help determine existing abilities and encourage the next step in growth.



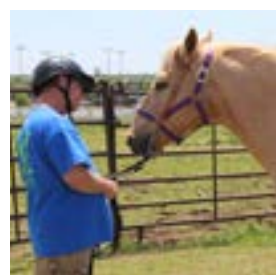
2005:

Marbridge replaced the water treatment plant with lift station and tie-in to the City of Austin wastewater service.



2006:

The Marbridge equestrian program began with three rescue horses and ten residents.



2008

Construction completed for The Village independent and semi-independent community replacing Mabee Village and relocated to the main 200 acres. Still standing today, it features 15, six person cottages, an administration building, and a community center/dining hall. It increased capacity from 67 to 84 beds.



2010:

The renovations of The Bridges’ home adjacent to The Villa into The Bridges Rehabilitation Center were completed.

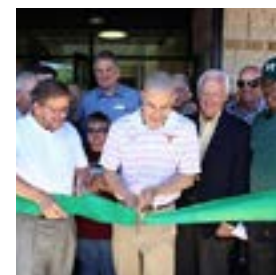


2015:

The Villa Enrichment Center is completed including a spacious activity center and a multi-sensory integration room.



Victory Hall and Mike Parsons Wellness Center was completed including a spacious gymnasium, cardio center, and music/theatre center.



2018:

The Lodges at The Ranch is completed to replace the Winters Dorm. It consists of four, 12-bed residential lodges, an enrichment center, and an administration building.



2019:

The new maintenance building is completed replacing the oldest building on campus.



Looking To The Future:

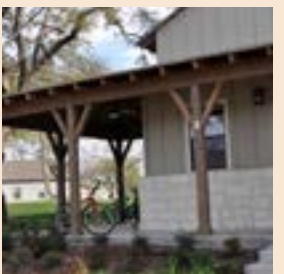
2020:

\$3.7 million is raised to construct the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch. \$1.7 million has been raised as of November 2019.



2020 & 2021:

Expansion of The Village with a 16th and 17th cottage, bringing the capacity up to 96 residents at The Village.



Add to our timeline.

Make your tax-deductible donation today at Marbridge.org/donate

Memories of Marbridge

Looking back to look forward

We sat down with a handful of residents who have seen the changes and upgrades to campus throughout the decades. The residents range from 20 years of living at Marbridge to our longest tenured resident at 62 years.

Here are some of the memories they shared about Marbridge and their time living here.

Watch Memories of Marbridge videos at Marbridge.org/memories



Dale
62 years
The Ranch and The Villa

We called Mrs. Bridges ‘Mama B’ and Mr. Bridges ‘Papa B’. I spent time with Jim listening to records and spending time with everyone. I remember we all went to Johnson City in 1971 to have a picnic.



Robin
20 years
The Ranch and The Villa

I like playing bingo because I win. I also like talking to Haley (Marbridge’s Volunteer Coordinator), and being with my friends.



Billy
24 years
The Village

I’ve had a lot of fun doing Special Olympics. I’ve competed in track and basketball before. Now I do cycling, volleyball, and swimming with cycling being my favorite.



Frankie
40 years
Marbridge Abilene, The Ranch and The Villa

I used to be in the 4-H. I got a grand champion hog one year. I had a few sheep and some capons. Getting to take care of the animals and show them was my favorite.



Mike
32 years
The Ranch

Jim Jr. and I would sit together and I would listen to him read from the Bible. He was a good friend of mine. We would go to church together at the Baptist Church.



Alexa
21 years
The Ranch

Not many ladies lived at Marbridge when I got here. There were two other girls here when I moved in. There were only about six or seven ladies for a long time at Marbridge.



Rick
42 years
The Ranch and The Village

I remember we did a lot of bike riding, I did 4-H and herded sheep. I never showed animals at 4-H but loved being a part of it. My favorite thing though was being here with my friends.



Jerry
40 years
The Ranch

I remember one day Mr. Bridges gathered all of us men up and asked “How would y’all like to build a chapel on campus?” There was a big group of us that helped including Doug, Dale, Robert, Dave, Ronnie, Tom, and a lot more. We all helped lay the brick.



Missy
20 years
The Village

I’ve seen some big changes on campus. I saw when Marbridge was really just a ranch. It went from a small ranch to a big campus. I also remember when we outgrew the old Mabee Village and came back to the campus to our current cottages.



Bobby
37 years
The Ranch and The Villa

A bunch of guys would go swimming. Sometimes in the pool and sometimes down in the creek. We liked to spend time with our friends.

Building a Bridge to Recovery

Setting you up for success at home

Nestled among the trees on the Marbridge campus is a hidden gem: The Bridges skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. The Bridges helps all three Marbridge communities, along with the greater Austin area, with short-term rehabilitation and therapy.

The Bridges provides a home-like environment for patients while they rehab or continue their physical, occupational, and vocational therapy. A fully staffed rehab team works full-time to facilitate The Bridges with world class care.

The Bridges' home-like environment includes a 5-bed capacity with a 3:1 nurse to patient ratio, extra large rooms, elegant home decor, a large great room, dining room service, and many more amenities to make you feel at home while rehabbing. The idea is to make you feel at home so when you do leave, you're set up to continue to succeed on your own.

"I came to Marbridge after having a knee replacement and was extremely scared that I may not be able to do things like I used to, like dancing," said Larry Worden, a former patient at The Bridges. "After just a couple of days I was seeing real improvement, and after a week I knew it wouldn't be long before I was back dancing."

Larry noted that being able to have his friends and family visit him, join for meals, and feel like he was at home was a big boost in helping him get back on the right foot.

"I knew at home I would have been comfortable, but probably wouldn't have pushed myself to do the rehab work I needed," Larry continued. "Staying here for a week really helped me get on the right track and get to where I felt good about my recovery."

The Bridges' home-like setting also helps residents feel comfortable with their rehab or therapy. Residents can utilize the full rehab gym at The Bridges or work with the team in their own communities.



Top Row: Ernie Fernandez, Cindy Coon, Nicole Klein Bottom Row: Kim Ford, Trish Johnson, Rebecca Lundy

"Having a rehab facility at Marbridge plays a significant role to the entire campus," said Nicole Klein, Rehab Program Director. "We treat residents from each part of campus and provide services that help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and promote overall fitness and health in a fun environment."

A current resident of The Villa originally joined Marbridge after a change in vision and physical limitations left him unable to live alone anymore. His therapy included strength as well as improving balance that is partially dependent on visual input.

When the resident was ready to walk alone, rehab trained him in techniques to navigate the facility and his surroundings so he could become independent. He started out using a white cane, a device used commonly by people who are visually impaired or blind. After his vision began to improve through a series of surgeries, he progressed to a walker and eventually a standard walking cane.

Currently he is a resident at The Villa with his vision returning enough to provide him with a small level of independence. He is able to easily navigate the facility without help and enjoy outings with his friends.

The Bridges' dedicated staff attends to

every resident in need with the same determination and compassion for them to reach their goals.

The Bridges promotes recovery from surgery, stroke, or other medical conditions. They meet patients' therapy needs and enable them to return to their own home as quickly as possible. It's a hidden gem that can't wait to be found.



One of the two living rooms at The Bridges

Learn more about how The Bridges can help you.

Visit:

Marbridge.org/bridges

On the Trail to Success

An update on the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch

In 2018 Marbridge Foundation embarked on a \$3.7 million capital campaign to build the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch. We're happy to announce that as of November 1, over \$1.7 million has been raised toward construction of the new equestrian center.

The equestrian program at Marbridge provides residents with countless benefits. It helps improve motor coordination, posture, muscle tone, balance, self-esteem, and self-confidence. It also promotes language, social skills, and emotional regulation as the residents create bonds with the horses.

Olivia, a resident from The Ranch, is excited to train in the new equestrian center and continue her favorite activities in her class.

"I like riding and grooming the horses," Olivia said. "The new center would be cool and make it easier to ride."

Marbridge's current equestrian program is housed on a six-acre pasture at the entrance of the campus. Currently the open-air arena and terrain of the pasture and training grounds does not allow all residents to participate. All participants, regardless of mobility or cognition must traverse the rough terrain and utilize an open-air arena that is not protected from the sun or elements.

The new facility will provide a covered arena and improved terrain to allow for year-round training. Enhanced accessibility opens the program to more residents campus-wide, including The Villa.

"The new facility will bring success to our residents by giving them a facility with a better learning environment," said Shonda Corn, Equine Coordinator. "They will be able to work on their skills in a much more compatible environment and it will allow them more opportunities to keep progressing forward."

The new facility will feature a 42,240-square foot covered equestrian center that will include staff offices, a meeting room/classroom, restrooms, stalls, spectator bleachers, and a large working arena. Marbridge's 17 horses will also get a 40-acre pasture adjacent to the new arena upon completion.

Though the building has already been named, there are still naming opportunities available including the riding arena, the classroom, and the stalls.

With your continued support, Olivia and those who currently participate in the equestrian program will be joined by more residents from across campus in enjoying and learning in the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch.



Above: Marbridge resident, Olivia, competes at the 10th Annual Gold Stirrup Horse Show
Below: Rendering of the new Riding Ranch



Learn more about the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch and make your tax-deductible donation today at:
Marbridge.org/equine

Premier Employees

The Marbridge Premier Employee Program has recognized over 250 employees whose excellent work ethic and positive personal character traits make them shining examples of Marbridge staff. Premier Employee awards are presented twice per year. Employees are nominated by their supervisors and receive a certificate of commendation and time-off pass redeemable for eight hours off with pay.

“We are extremely proud of our Premier Employees and commend them once again for the invaluable contributions they make to the lives of our residents,” said Scott McAvoy, Executive Vice President.



Rachel Castro
CMA, The Villa
Dependable // Kind // Hard-Working

Rachel joined the Marbridge family as she was completing her CMA certification. Since joining, she has been extremely dependable and can be relied upon to be there to assist wherever she’s needed. Rachel is always kind and has good words for the residents as she is assisting them with their medication. She has a calming presence as is respectful to the residents and staff.



Charlotte Green
Accounts Payable, Headquarters
Honest // Persistent // Knowledgeable

In an environment that is ever changing and growing in operation and management, one of the dependable variables has been Charlotte’s honesty, loyalty, and historical knowledge about Marbridge accounting and the residents. Charlotte’s tenacity and passion for cost savings and ensuring accuracy of goods and services received are evident as she carries her daily duties. She also harbors a wealth of historical accounting and operations knowledge which is a valuable asset for accounting and Marbridge as an organization. Charlotte shares her interest of photography with the residents and is a source of joy for many of them. Charlotte’s honesty and integrity are becoming harder to come by and are appreciated by all of those who have worked with her for the last 13 years.



John Hebert
Resident Trainer, The Ranch
Organized // Respectful // Flexible

John joined Marbridge in August of 2018 on a PRN basis, but quickly realized he wanted to be a full time Resident Trainer. He quickly proved to both supervisors and peers that he was a great addition to the team by being extremely organized and helping residents with their responsibilities. He works one-on-one with all residents to keep their rooms clean, beds made, and laundry done. John takes pride in his endeavors and receives a lot of love and respect from residents, their loved ones, and his peers. John has a will-do attitude and is hardworking.



Glyn Lawson
Assistant Director of Nursing, The Villa
Kind // Knowledgeable // Spiritual

Glyn is a Marbridge team member whose cup runs over in great character qualities. She’s considered one of the most thoughtful, knowledgeable, and kindest Villa team members. Glyn is honest, hardworking, optimistic, and understanding to both resident and staff needs. She addresses residents, their loved ones, and staff with a calm demeanor, and she fearlessly stepped in as The Villa’s interim Director of Nursing in a time of need.



Gayone Richards
CNA, The Villa
Dedicated // Gentle // Motivated

Gayone always goes above and beyond for both the residents and the staff. She has a gentle approach and is dedicated and motivated ensuring that residents receive the best care possible. Gayone is a supportive Villa member who is always there for anyone her team.



Jon Serna
CNA, The Villa
Calm // Determined // Motivated

Jon moved from the Dietary Staff to his role as a CNA with plans to further his education in the medical field. Jon is always calm and has shown great motivation since beginning at Marbridge. He is determined to give the best care for the residents and possesses a desire to learn ways to improve resident care.



Liani Torres
Driver, The Village
Attentive // Respectful // Dependable

Liani joined The Village team as a driver and during her time here has been attentive, respectful and dependable. She’s shown the ability to be attentive to changes in residents’ work schedules and travel plans and helps create routines that are efficient for the residents. Liani is respectful to the residents and helps to achieve their goals and plans. She is also a team player and steps in where needed. Her fantastic work ethic and qualities helped her become The Village Office Assistant in September 2019.



A Commitment to Excellence and Pride

One man’s journey to citizenship

Arturo Sandoval is the Lead Make Ready at Marbridge. The Lead Make Ready is responsible for getting all of our residents’ rooms ready for move in and up to standard for all residents current and future. He’s been a Premier Employee in the past and celebrated his ten year anniversary in 2019. Arturo received his green card over a decade ago and has been working diligently toward becoming a U.S. citizen. This year, that dream came true and he became a U.S. citizen. Arturo said he was ecstatic when he first got news of his citizenship.

“Arturo is one of the hardest workers I have ever been around,” said Michael O’Shieles, Director of Facilities. “He is always willing to help and assist others. He takes pride in the quality of his work and it shows.”

You can find Arturo working hard around campus, always with a smile on his face.

“I love this place, the residents, and the people I work with,” Arturo said.



Marbridge Foundation

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Marbridge.org

Marbridge is a non-profit residential community that offers transitional and lifetime care to adults with a wide range of cognitive abilities and — through compassion and faith — provides them opportunities to learn, experience, and achieve a whole new life.



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Did you know that nonprofits like Marbridge can receive donations when you shop on Amazon? You can give back while getting something for yourself this holiday season! While doing your holiday shopping, use smile.amazon.com and select Marbridge as the charity you want to support. A portion of your purchase will be donated to Marbridge!

You can use smile.amazon.com through your desktop or through the Amazon App on your Android device. Just make sure before you make your purchase you select Marbridge as your charity of choice.

Shop smile.amazon.com

Upcoming Dates

First Day of Spring Semester	Jan 13
Amplify Austin Day	Mar 5-6
Easter Break	April 10-13
Last Day of Spring Semester	May 3
First Day of Summer Semester	May 26
Founder's Day	May 29