Marbridge



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Milestones and Memories

MARBRID EST. 19

> 70 Years of Marbridge (pg . 5)

Fall 2023

Marbridge

Marbridge Foundation

P.O. Box 2250 Manchaca, TX 78652 512.282.1144 Marbridge.org info@marbridge.org

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A Letter from the **President Emeritus**

In 2002, I was fortunate enough to be hired on at Marbridge as Vice President of Advancement. In 2004, I was promoted to VP of Operations and in 2008, Marbridge's President. For 21 years I've had the privilege of serving the Marbridge campus, the residents, staff, and volunteers. I've had the honor of meeting some truly amazing families, donors, foundations, and supporters. Being the President was a dream job, and one that makes me feel truly blessed.

The Marbridge Foundation has grown immensely since Ed and Marge Bridges created it in 1953. I've seen residents achieve, staff triumph, and have made more lasting memories in my tenure than in my life before finding Marbridge. The mission set forth by the Bridges thrives today, and for seventy years grows with each passing day. The mission of helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities has never been stronger.

That strength, Marbridge's longevity, and innovation in the field of Intellectual and Developmental disabilities for seven decades has been, and continues to be because, of your support. Marbridge isn't what we are today without help. Your support, care, and compassion have allowed Marbridge to become the industry leader we are. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. We aren't Marbridge without you.

We hope you enjoy this issue of LIFE Magazine. This issue focuses on the core vale of "Happiness", which our cup has run over with for 70 years. Thank you again for everything you've done and continue to do to help Marbridge residents learn, experience, and achieve a whole new life.

Humbly,

(Tame) Stacy

James Stacev President Emeritus

Resident Spotlight Meet Ambika

Ambika, a newer resident at The Village, has exceled in her short time on campus. While moving somewhere unfamiliar can take some adjustment, moving to a new community has helped Ambika thrive and find her place.

"Ambika has done a great job transitioning into her new life here at Marbridge," said Shae Willingham, Assistant Director of The Village. "Her bubbly personality and contagious laugh have made it very easy for her to gain new friendships and truly let her personality shine through."

Ambika actively participates in her classes and said her favorites are equine, cooking, archery, and choir.

"As Ambika's Cooking Instructor, I was amazed at what she knew when she started the class," shared Jeff Hess, Instructor. "Ambika is a wonderful resident, has a great personality, and is so much fun to be around."

Not only does she excel in her classes but also in her work. Ambika works in the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch and loves spending time around the horses. Her success and enthusiasm for participating in her classes comes as no surprise, espcially for her.

"I did FFA all four years in high school," said Ambika. "After I graduated, I didn't want to sit around at home."

Learn more about The Village when you visit: Marbridge.org/village

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Halloween was a Scary Good Time

Marbridge Residents and Team Members Show-off Creative Costumes

Halloween is one of the holidays that both residents and team members look forward to all year long. Yes, the Halloween snacks are a big part of it, but it's that time of year where everyone dresses up and shows off their favorite costumes.

This Halloween was one of the best yet in terms of costumes. We saw everything from astronauts, to superheroes, to hippies, and so many more.

"Halloween is easily one of my favorite times of year on campus," said Bob Worden, Director of Communications and Development. "It's great seeing everyone's creativity with their costumes and watching residents and staff from across campus interact with one another. No two costumes are ever the same."

The costumes, along with the fun-factor and energy from this year's Halloween festivities are still being felt today. Many residents and team members are already talking about how they're going to top their costumes in 2024. We're already counting down the days until it's Halloween again!



Bits & Pieces

Become a MIRACLE SOCIETY MEMBER

Seventy-for-seventy is our Miracle Society goal . . . 70 new or renewed Miracle Society members for our platinum 70th Anniversary. This isn't just an arbitrary goal for our 70th Anniversary, it's a goal that Marbridge's mission needs to reach to remain viable, afford to higher the most qualified direct care professionals, and maintain quality of programs and services on a safe campus.

Marbridge's Senior Leadership team analyzes funding brought in annually by the Miracle Society to plan for upcoming fiscal years. Your pledge allows us to analyze where we need to place our emphasis in raising funding. Our generous Miracle Society members raise funding for general support and the more pledges coming in, allows our leadership team to either focus on securing more general operating support or be able to focus on building programs and resources.

Marbridge has secured 52 new pledges since July 1, 2023! We hope you will consider making a pledge of a minimum of \$1,000 a year for the next five years to help us reach our 70 goal.

For more information, visit Marbridge.org/miracle or contact our Vice President of Development, Becca McPherson, at bmcpherson@marbridge.org or 512.735.2716.



See All the Halloween Costume Greatness at Marbridge.org/photo

Show Your Support at: Marbridge.org/miracle

Fresh Faces

Meet a few of the new staff members from across Marbridge's campus.

You can join the Marbridge team and help residents across campus achieve a whole new life.

Learn how you can join the Marbridge team at: Marbridge.org/careers



Victoria Padilla - Dietary Service Manager

"I love being able to get creative in different ways to enhance their eating experience as well as getting to know the residents and their unique personalities."



Jonathan Lopez - Facilities Tech

"My favorite thing about the residents is making a difference in their lives. They come to me with a problem and they know I'll listen and fix the issue."



Kennedy Terrell - Instructor "I love how warm and welcoming the residents have been to me while I'm still pretty new."

Marbridge Through The Years

Walk Down Memory Lane and See Some of Marbridge's **Biggest Moments Since 1953**

Our campus looks much different than it did in 1953 when Ed and Marbridge Bridges founded the Marbridge Foundation. Over the past 70 years. Marbridge grew from just a few young men to the 275 residents served today. Our growth has allowed for residents to continue to learn, experience, and achieve a whole new life, and for Marbridge team members to set each resident up to thrive.

As we celebrate 70 years, we want to highlight some of the biggest moments and achievements that led campus to where it is today. If you're reading this, know that we wouldn't have been able to celebrate seven decades of serving individuals without your support. Thank you for everything you do for Marbridge.



1953

In 1953, Marbridge was incorporated as a non-profit. Jim and five other young men moved into a farmhouse, and the rest is history. The men lived with a few live-in trainers in a farmhouse that would serve as the main home. The farmhouse was expanded in 1955 to accommodate 16 men and trainers.

The days for each resident were extremely structured with a full schedule for them including classes, chores, activities, and socializing. As it was a working ranch, many of the residents' chores consisted of working various jobs around the campus. Many classes they took helped teach various talents including woodworking, farming, ranching, and learning trades.



1926

Jim 'Ed' Bridges met Marjorie 'Marge' Davis in Columbia, South Carolina in 1926. Ten months later, on December 24, the two were married. Just two years later the couple welcomed their only son, Jim, to the world and set forth a trailblazing life for the Bridges family.

The Winters Dorm opened in 1963, adding 38 more beds to campus. The Winters Dorm served Ranch residents until its closure in 2019 when The Lodges opened.

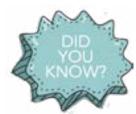
The creation of The Winters Dorm was the largest expansion of campus at the time of its completion. The addition more than doubled the number of residents that Marbridge could serve on the main campus. It would serve as the largest expansion until the 1980s.

1928

Ed and Marge Bridges welcomed son, Jim, to the world. Due to complications at birth, Jim suffered from developmental disabilities.

The Bridges fought obstacles early in Jim's life when trying to find appropriate schooling. Jim attended several schools in his childhood before the Bridges moved to Texas to run a Haverty's Furniture Store. Jim was enrolled in the Brown Schools, a for-profit therapeutic education school, in the Austin area in 1946. The Bridges relocated to Austin to be closer to Jim. That same year, they opened the Bridges Furniture Company at 416 Congress Avenue.





DID YOU KNOW that Marbridge had four separate houses across the state of Texas? The Marbridge Houses of Houston, Dallas, Abilene, and Austin all opened throughout the 1960s and 1970s before merging with the current Marbridge campus in the 1990s.



DID YOU KNOW that Marbridge's Summer Camp opened in the 1960s? Marbridge's Summer Camp still serves individuals from age 16 and up with six to eight weeks of camp life each year.



1968

When you talk about Marbridge in the greater Austin area, the first thing Austinites may mention is the Garden Center and buying their plants and holiday poinsettias from the campus. The Marbridge Garden Center opened in 1968 and employed many residents.

For over 30 years, Marbridge's Garden Center served the greater Austin area with a variety of plants. The plants were grown, maintained, and sold by residents with customers coming from across the Central Texas area.

Unable to compete against big box stores with plant and garden centers, the Garden Center closed in 2007. Though the closing of the Garden Center meant residents no longer sold the plants they worked hard growing, that didn't stop horticulture from thriving at Marbridge.

1963





1972

The first large scale expansion for Marbridge came in the 1960s with the opening of Winters Dorm. In 1972, Marbridge's campus continued to expand with the construction and opening of the then named Senior Dorm.

The Senior Dorm was created to help longtime and aging residents experience Marbridge while receiving the proper service and resources they needed. The Dorm, as it's known today, continues providing that same level of care for residents who need more prompting, reminders, and a quieter environment.



DID YOU KNOW that Marbridge's longest running volunteer group is the Marbridge Oak Leaves? The Oak Leaves, created in the 1970s, was the brainchild of Marge Bridges, the matriarch of Marbridge. Marge brought together a group of women in the Greater Austin Area to help aide residents in their daily lives. The Oak Leaves group still serves Marbridge residents today.

1982

The Bridges envisioned being able to have Marbridge always be the home to Jim and his fellow residents, in order to receive a higher level of care when the time arrived. Their vision became a reality in 1982 with the completion and opening of The Villa, Marbridge's Licensed Skilled Nursing Community.

Phase-one of The Villa's construction added 52 beds to the main campus and made Marbridge stand alone to any other facility in the nation. The Villa would grow in 1987 as phase-two added 32 more beds.



The Village is Marbridge's semi-independent community with residents having the highest level of abilities on campus. It's also Marbridge's newest community as the original Mabee Village was created in 1987, just across

Mabee Village was created with the idea of bringing all remote Marbridge campuses together, joining The Marbridge Houses of Abilene, Austin, Houston, and Dallas together in Manchaca. Thanks to Mabee Village, 67 licensed beds were eventually added and allowed for all other locations to officially close, making the Marbridge the sole campus.



2003

Marbridge's six core values of Learn, Experience, Happiness, Safety, Well-Being, and Achieve are the cornerstones for success for residents. Since opening in 1953, residents have had countless opportunities to excel in the classroom. In 2003, Marbridge's Training & Education program got a big upgrade.

The upgrade and expansion came under Abilities Centered Training (ACT) led by Jana Kay Green, Director of Training & Education. Each resident received an individualized program plan to help design classes that would help individuals achieve their goals.



DID YOU KNOW that Marbridge had the first Special Olympics team compete in the early 1990s? Coach Hughie Shaw, Marbridge's longest tenured employee, along with Coach Phil Bunton led the Marbridge Longhorns softball team to great success. Today more than 100 athletes compete in ten different sports.



1984

In the early 1980s, Ed Bridges approached Marbridge residents with a simple question, "What do you think about having a chapel on campus?" He quickly found out that residents unanimously loved the idea and work began on the All-Faith's Chapel of Love, a non-denominational chapel for residents and team members.

Construction of the new chapel was completed in 1984, with many residents happy to volunteer their work to see its completion. The chapel was an instant hit for residents who didn't have the opportunity to go to their own church services as regularly as they wanted, or who had the wish to grow their personal faith.

The upgrade and expansion of Marbridge's Training & Education program brought great change to the lives of the residents. A key to that success was the introduction of the Equine Program at Marbridge in 2006.

Marbridge had mini-horses, donkeys, and animals that were originally part of the ranch set up when it first opened in 1953.

The Equine Program, established by Jana Kay Green, Director of Training & Education, along with the support of philanthropist, Creed Ford III, has served hundreds of residents from its inception. Run by Shonda Corn, Equine Coordinator, residents participate in assisted and unassisted riding, Special Olympics Equestrian, and non-riding equine classes.

1987

Little Bear Creek on the campus.



2006





2008

Marbridge's growth continued in 2008 as Mabee Village moved across the creek to the main part of campus and became The Village we know today.

Mabee Village, opened in 1987, eventually allowing 67 additional residents join campus from former Marbridge Houses across Texas, from the greater community, and from across the country. Marbridge's leadership knew it was time to continue building upon what Mabee Village was and made it better. The Village, as it is today, gave Marbridge a neighborhood setting on campus. It also allowed the community to increase from 67 to 84 beds. Today, 96 residents live in 16 six-bedroom cottages.

2015

The Villa received a greatly welcomed addition in 2015 with the construction of The Villa Enrichment Center. The Enrichment Center allowed for a bigger area for residents from all parts of The Villa to join for daily activities. Thanks to the addition, Villa Life Enrichment Specialists host five unique activities each day for residents to stay active and happy.

The Enrichment Center also proved a big addition to the entire campus. The Villa was then able to host their annual 'Palentine's Day' and Fall Festival activities for each community to join. The Villa Enrichment Center also plays hosts to Marbridge's Girl Scouts Troop, Choir practices, memorial services, and other fun activities.



The Ranch made their first big expansion in 1963 with the opening of The Winters Dorm and again in 1972 with the opening of The 'Senior' Dorm. Their biggest upgrade to date came in 2019 with the opening of The Lodges, which replaced Winters Dorm.

The Lodges at The Ranch enhanced the quality of life with thoughtful design for the unique and deserving population Marbridge serves. The Lodges provides a 12-resident capacity per-lodge with six two-bedroom suites in each. They also provide a home-like setting for the residents, including multiple living rooms, a common area, and a quieter setting. The Lodges includes the Tuite Enrichment Center, a community center where residents participate in activities, classes, and more.



DID YOU KNOW that Marbridge has a full kitchen that hosts cooking classes? The Montandon Café was constructed in 2019 thanks to a remodeling of the original Winters Dorm dining hall. Today it hosts various levels of cooking classes along with numerous other classes led by instructor Jeff Hess.



2023

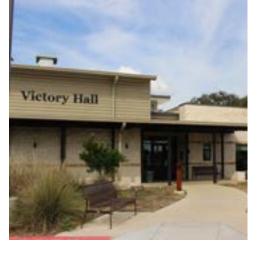
The day the campus waited so long for finally arrived on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Marbridge, the Ford family, amazing supporters, families, and residents cut the ribbon on the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch. It was a day that many will reflect on for years as well as an honorable legacy for a man who greatly valued philanthropy and supporting some of our community's most vulnerable, Creed Ford III.

The 42,000 sq. ft. building allows residents from all communities to participate in equine therapy. It also allows for year-round training and protection from the elements including rain, extreme heat, and bitter cold.

Photo courtesty of Warren Capps Photograpy

These are just a few of the many accomplishments and milestones that Marbridge has achieved since it's humble beginnings in 1953. The mission created by the Bridges wouldn't thrive and grow as much as it has if it weren't for you. Thank you to our amazing team members, families, volunteers, donors, foundations, and supporters for everything you have done for Marbridge. With you, Marbridge will celebrate many more years of helping residents learn, experience, and achieve a whole new life.

Support Marbridge and help residents continue to thrive at: Marbridge.org/donate



2015

Staying physically active and engaged is key to the success of residents and team members' well-being, a core value at Marbridge. That core value received a huge boost in 2015 with the opening of Victory Hall and Mike Parsons Wellness Center.

Victory Hall replaced the old gym and more than doubled the amount of workout space than the former. The inclusion of the Mike Parsons Wellness Center saw a full cardio and weight room added, along with a full dance/yoga studio.



DID YOU KNOW that Marbridge's Facilities building was constructed in 2018? The Facilities building houses our maintenance and landscaping team with over a dozen team members and resident employees. It was graciously partially funded by a generous local business.

2019



Austin Police Train at Marbridge

APD Cadets train on interacting with adults with IDD

Marbridge had some special visitors in July as cadets from the Austin Police Academy visited campus as part of their Community Connect excursion. The cadets spent the day training with residents as a way of learning how to safely, respectfully, and empathetically interact with our population.

"In order to enhance the information cadets are provided in their regular classroom training, Community Connect excursions allow us to incorporate the voices and perspectives of diverse local communities," said Brienz Edwards, Training Specialist with the Austin Police Department. "We recognize that relationships are rarely built in one-off encounters, but the time we are able to spend out in the community creates a foundation for relationships to build on over time. These encounters foster empathy for diverse populations, create opportunities for open, compassionate conversation, and expose cadets to new perspectives."

The cadets spent the morning learning about Marbridge through a JAM Session, led by Haley Koop Poorman, Volunteer Coordinator; Becca McPherson, VP of Development; and Marcus Mercer, VP of Operations. During the JAM Session, the cadets learned about Marbridge's history, how we serve residents, and ways to interact with our residents through training exercises.

After the JAM Session, cadets joined residents in their Training & Education classes. This gave each future officer the chance to connect with residents on a personal level while watching them interact with their instructor and fellow residents in the class.

The day concluded with the cadets hosting a Q&A where residents and staff had their questions answered. These questions ranged from the cadets' favorite movies and superheroes to how we, as a community, should interact with police in different situations.

See photos from APD's visit to the campus at: Marbridge.org/photo



Above: Emily, a Village resident, poses for a photo with an APD Cadet during her class. Below: Cadets answer questions during their Q&A.



"The partnership with the APD cadet class was something the entire campus was excited about for a multitude of reasons," commented Haley. "The residents love those who support the community they live and work in, but to have the chance to chat and get to know future police officers on a personal level is truly impactful."

We're extremely honored to have this day of training with the Austin Police Department as part of their Community Connect program. The information we were able to provide along with learning from each cadet goes a long way to building a safer and happier future for everyone. The day also allowed residents to interact with some of their heroes, which is something we cherish immensely.

Santa's Big Mistake A Christmas Story by Ellen

Once at the North Pole, where Santa lives and works, there was an elf who was smaller than the other elves. His name was Bill.

Bill wore reflective clothing so he would be seen because he was so small. When he was younger, he was usually chosen last for games because of his size, but that didn't stop him from being jolly. He just took it with a grain of salt.

Bill had a special job. Because of his good nature, Santa built a special cart for Bill to use in the workshop. Bill drove the tools to and from the workshop when the other elves needed them.

Bill was so popular and helpful that Santa decided to make a doll that looked like Bill.

The dolls were all the exact same size and shape as Bill and wore the same kind of clothes he did!

On Christmas Eve, Santa filled his sleigh with all the toys children all over the world asked for, including the popular Bill the Doll.

When he had completed his rounds and went back home to the North Pole, there was a BIG problem. The other elves could not find Bill. They looked for him everywhere! Unknowingly to Santa he had packed Bill with all of the Bill dolls.

Bill was the only elf that could fit in the equipment cart, so all operations were stopped.

Bill had ended up under the tree of a little girl named Sally Wu. Santa had wrapped Bill like any other gift. When Sally tore off the paper and opened the box she found Bill asleep. Upon waking up he said, "Oh, dear, I don't think I belong here. Where are the other elves, where is Santa?" Sally was surprised and immediately felt bad for Bill. "Oh, what are we ever going to do? I'll write a letter to Santa to see if he can come and get you."

Together they wrote the following letter to Santa:

When you dropped off my Christmas gift, what a wonderful surprise, but I think you accidentally gave me a REAL ELF. I was wondering if you could come and swap Bill for another doll so that he can go home. He misses you terribly.

They put the letter in the mail right away and waited.

While Bill was at Sally's home, he learned how to eat with chopsticks, he attended a tea party with Sally's dolls, he played the piano, and learned about baseball.

About a week later, Santa received the letter from Sally Wu.

Santa said, "We found Bill. He was under the Christmas tree at Sally Wu's home. We need to go get him." Santa made a special trip to pick up Bill and brought Sara a new doll.



About The Author

Ellen is a Villa resident with an endless supply of creativity and a knack for storytelling. She's well respected by her peers and leads the monthly resident council at The Villa.

Dear Santa,

Sincerely, Sally Wu

Support the residents at The Villa at:

Marbridge.org/donate

Premier Employees

The Marbridge Premier Employee Program has recognized over 330 employees whose excellent work ethic and positive personal character traits make them shining examples of Marbridge staff. Employees are nominated by their supervisors and receive a certificate of commendation and time-off pass redeemable for eight hours of paid time off.

"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, President/CEO.



Lorizza Davila Certified Medication Aide, The Villa

Adaptable // Cheerful // Nuturing

Lorizza is a very dedicated team member and goes the extra mile for residents in The Bridges. She frequently comes up with creative ways to make sure residents have a great day and that everyone is kept safe and healthy. Lorizza can be relied on to know the in's and out's of The Bridges and each of the residents.



Maritza Diaz Housekeeper, The Villa

Reliable // Adaptable // Kind

Maritza is a reliable and adaptable team member. She works long hours and early morning when needed to ensure smooth laundry operations at both The Villa and The Ranch. She's one who likes to keep busy and makes sure the laundry facility is clean and organized. She is kind and helpful to resident employees and her loyalty is admirable.



Laarni Donovan Housekeeper, The Villa

Hard-working // Supportive // Joyful

Laarni is very hard-working and supportive to both team members and residents. She makes the workday joyful with her infectious smile and positive attitude. The residents are in good hands with Laarni.



Adrian Gonzales

Driver, The Village

Punctual // Flexible // Understanding

Adrian exhibits incredible punctuality and allows ample time for residents to make it to their destinations. His felxibility is key in allowing any obstacles that can arrive in scheduling. He's also a very patient and understanding individual who has crafted a great rapport with the residents.



Hector Gonzalez Medical Records Technician, The Villa

Organized // Resourceful // Attentive

Hector joined team in 2005 and since then he has been a force in the success of The Villa. He's responsible for maintaining all of our medical records and central supply. He's incredibly well organized, can always be counted on, and is extremely resourceful in finding ways to assist team members.



Jessica Hernandez Resident Trainer, The Ranch Compassionate // Flexible // Creative

Jessica is very passionate about her interactions with residents. She's a favorite amongst Ranch residents and often leads activities for the entire community. She loves being creative when pllaning new and exciting activities and is

very flexible with her time. She spends her shift devoting quality and meaningful time with the residents.



Lorena Ibarra Certified Medication Aide, The Villa Responsible // Hard-Working // Friendly

Lorena has been steadily and consistently impressive as a PRN CNA. Team members rave about her work ethic and love learning from her during their interactions. She's efficient, thorough, and kind to everyone and her team

members are relieved when she shares a shift with them. Lorena is kind to everyone, helpful, and ensures the safety of Villa residents.



Zachary Lynch Shift Supervisor, The Ranch Dependable // Flexible // Enthusiastic

Zack is extremely dependable, flexible, a team player, and the perfect match for the work he does. He helps solve problems for residents when needed and helps build success for residents and fellow team members. Zack is always

full of energy from the minute he steps through the door and excels at multi-tasking during his shifts.



Emily Nelson-Hemphill Licensed Vocational Nurse, The Villa Flexible // Calm // Cooperative

Emily has been a true star in her short time at Marbridge. She works so efficiently that you would think she's been at The Villa for years. She's a calming presence on our overnight team and is quick to communicate with her team

if issues arise. Emily is always flexible when presented with obstacles and quick to help when needed.

Jeff Perez Driver, The Village Reliable // Friendly // Supportive

Jeff is an extremely reliable team member and ensures that each resident arrives to their destination in a safe and timely manner. He's very friendly and gets along with residents, families, and his team members. He provides

comforting conversation and is very suporrtive of everyone he interacts with.



Morgan Tatum Physical Therapy Assistant, The Villa

Thorough // Patient // Dedicated

Morgan is exceptionally dedicated, thorough, and patient in the care she provides to the residents. She consistently demonstrates thoroughness in her work and her patience fosters an enviornment of trust, allowing residents to feel

empowered and comfortable. Morgan plays a vital role in the residents' success.

Olivia Zenger Licensed Vocational Nurse, The Villa Intuitive // Compassionate // Knowledgeable Olivia is fantastic with the residents, often creating inside jokes with them and making their days better and brighter with each shift she works. She's incredibly calm under pressure and there are many stories of how she has

improved nursing care at The Villa.

Learn how you can join the Marbridge team at: Marbridge.org/careers



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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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Ways to Give

Your financial contributions make a significant impact on the lives of those who are seeking a path to independence.

Did you know there are multiple ways to give to support Marbridge? Monetary donations, securities and stocks, wires, bequests, Roth IRA's, and numerous other ways to give are accepted and appreciated.

For more information on planned giving options, contact Becca McPherson, VP of Development, at bmcpherson@marbridge.org.

Upcoming Dates

Last Day of Fall Classes	December 14
Christmas Program	December 15
Holiday Class Break	December 15 - January 7
First Day of Spring Clas	ses January 8

