

Marbridge LIFE

Marbridge Foundation

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In 2023, Marbridge will celebrate 70 years of helping adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities live a life of learning, experiencing, and achievement. Those three core values, along with happiness, safety, and well-being, shape the success of not just our residents, but our staff and greater community. Our core values are the pillars to success and have helped Marbridge strive and grow for seven decades.

We've developed so much from the trail-blazing beginning and built upon the foundation created by Ed and Marge Bridges. These past few years, we've arguably learned the most we have since 1953. It's that drive for knowledge that has helped Marbridge build upon the mission and grow in ways that were once thought unfathomable.

As we approach 70 years this June, I want to take the time to thank some remarkable people. I want to thank our residents who never cease to amaze, our staff who have been the heart and soul of Marbridge, and our amazing supporters for learning and growing with us.

This issue of LIFE Magazine will focus on the core value of "Learn". The stories you'll read highlight how our wonderful residents and dedicated staff never stop embracing our core values. Thank you for everything you have helped us accomplish since 1953.

Humbly,

James Stacy

James Stacey, President

Fun Facts

As we approach the kick-off to Marbridge's 70th year of carrying out the mission envisioned by Ed and Marge Bridges, we thought it would be fun to share more anniversaries and milestones with you. Enjoy these fun facts about residents, staff, and tenures.

60 Years:

Marbridge currently has ten residents who have lived at Marbridge for over 50 years. This includes three residents who have called Marbridge home for over 60 years.





20 Years:

Marbridge currently has seven employees who have helped residents achieve for over 20 years. Thank you for your dedication to the Marbridge residents.

66:

Marbridge currently has 66 residents who work jobs on campus. Residents work in dining halls, laundry, custodial, equine, and more. Their work helps keep campus running smoothly and serve their fellow residents in all three communities.



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The Christmas Program Shines

Marbridge Hosts First Program for Public Since 2019

For the first time since 2019, Marbridge opened our doors to host the Marbridge Christmas Program to the greater community. The 2022 program, "Sea'Suns' Greetings" held a dress rehearsal and two performances which was a hit with everyone who saw it

This year's program was also the first for instructor Jamila Coker. Jamila joined Marbridge in 2022 and oversaw the script, written by Paige Brown, while also directing and working with choreography.

"The residents did fantastic and it was great getting to learn how everyone functions and operates when getting prepared for the program," said Jamila. "I learned a lot about them, I learned a lot from them, and a lot about myself. They handled the transition really well and they're all amazing."

Jamila joined Marbridge after residents already began rehearsals for the Christmas program. The transition from Paige to Jamila was effortless for the residents who shined thanks to both insctructor's hard work.

We can't wait to see what's in store for 2023 and hope you join us in December for the Christmas Program.





Top: Tyler (left), a Village resident and Jack (right), a Ranch resident, pose for a photo from their scene.

Bottom: Jenny (center), a Ranch resident, poses for a photo with Laura and Thomas, Village residents, from their scene.

You can watch the 2022 Marbridge Christmas Program at: YouTube.com/@marbridge

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.

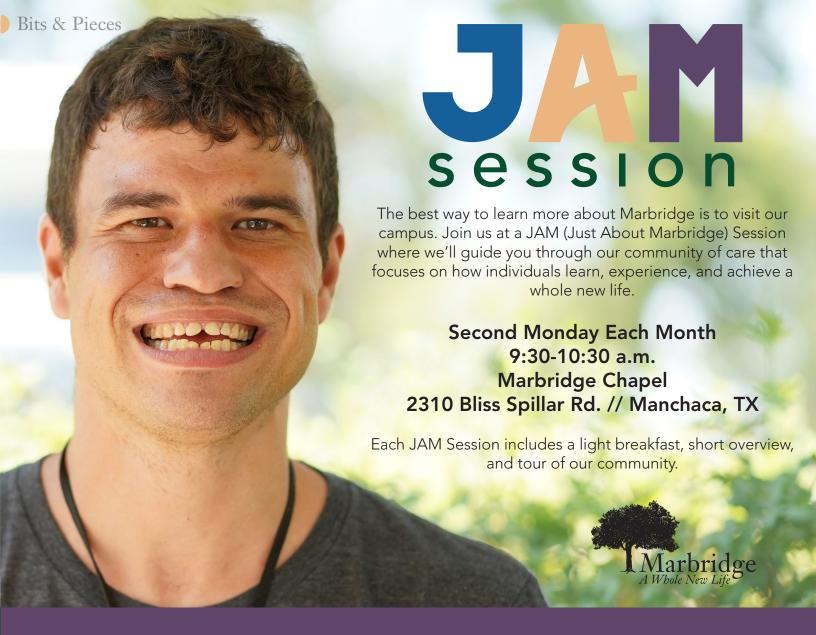
Learn how you can join the Marbridge team at:

Marbridge.org/careers

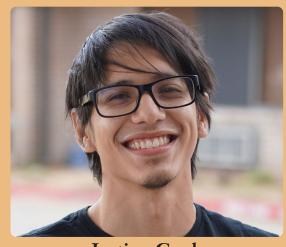


Olivia - LVN

"I love learning the residents' histories, both social and medical, to provide individualized care. I care deeply about treating the residents as a whole."

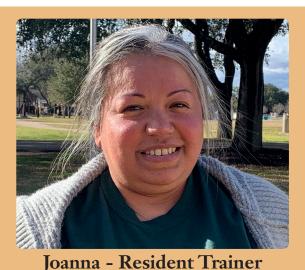


RSVP for JAM at Marbridge.org/jam



Justis - Cook

"The residents have a lot of joy and they're excited to express that. It's cool being a part of that and being around them."



"I love just being with them and having fun with the residents. I love getting to know them and their own personalities. I never want to go home."



Achieving Together

How Resident Trainers Help Individuals Live Their Best Lives

As mentioned by James Stacey in the opening letter, this issue of LIFE Magazine focuses on the core value of "Learn". Residents across campus continue their learning through opportunities provided in Training & Education. Classes aren't the only way that residents continue to learn at Marbridge though. A big part in the daily successes of residents and their ability to learn, experience, and achieve is through Resident Trainers (RT's).

RT's are direct care workers at The Ranch and The Village communities. They help residents with their daily routines, assist in getting prepared for the day, and provide prompting to those who may require it. They also help with medicines, meals, and countless other daily needs of residents throughout both communities. But another big way RT's help residents is through their interactions.

"Resident Trainers spend a lot time with our residents; they become mentors, and provide care in countless ways. They really help residents master their independent skills," said Scott McAvoy, Executive Vice President.

RT's lead on- and off-campus activities like arts & crafts, cooking, stories, trips to the store, and numerous other projects. Their leadership helps mold residents and provides them with additional opportunities to achieve and experience.



Above: Trey, a Village resident (left) poses for a photo with his RT, Mimi DeLeon, in front of the Chapel.





Top: Gregg, a Ranch resident (center) celebrates Halloween with his RT's, Angelicca Van Zandt and Felicia Quezada. Angelicca perfectly dressed as Gregg for Halloween. Bottom: Left to Right: Shae Willingham (Shift Supervisor), Sheryl Shannon (Administrative Assistant), Will Hoermann (Director of The Village), Sophia Gaitan (Resident Trainer) and Elysia Lopez (Resident Trainer) gather in front of cottages.

"I love helping residents, having fun, teaching things, and being someone they can count on," said Mimi DeLeon, an RT at The Village. "The common misconception is that residents can't do anything on their own. The residents have jobs, do activities, and do so much. It's a lot of work but it's a lot of fun."

The residents have RT's to go to, no matter what time of the day. Both communities have three different shifts to assist residents at any hour. An RT helps residents in all aspects of their day and residents know they can go to RT's for anything they're dealing with.

"RT's listen to me when I am having a problem or something is going on. My RT would take the time and come to my room and we'd chat," said Emma, a Ranch resident. "Polly, one of my RTs, is always there when I need her the most. Polly helps me out a lot. All of our RTs are very caring, loving, and supportive of us."

Residents never stop learning at Marbridge. Outside of classes, RT's line up activities for residents to participate. These can vary from trips around town or fun arts & crafts activities around campus. RT's also care for resident well-being and host numerous walks or bike rides around campus.

"When residents first come to campus you see a lot of growth," said Polly Glasgow, an RT at The Ranch. "One resident came to campus and didn't want to go to class and didn't want to do any physical excerise. Now when she gets back from class and she sees me, she'll go straight to her treadmill because she knows that's one of her goals."

Marbridge is home. While most residents have family that come to see them throughout the year or they leave to spend time with, many consider Marbridge their home. It's where their friends are and where they can spend time with RT's, who many treat as their own family.

"My RT's take good care of us and I feel like I'm in a safe environemnt thanks to them," said Trey, a resident at The Village.



Above: (left to right) Will Hoermann, Director of The Village, Lisa Hemen, RT, and Shae Willingham, Shift Supervisor, supporting Marbridge at the 2022 Amplify Marbridge Kick-off Party.





Top: Emma, a Ranch resident (right) poses for a photo with her RT, Polly Glasgow.

Bottom: Kristen, a Ranch resident (right) dances with her RT,
Shelley Merryman, at Hughie Shaw's surprise party.

The team at Marbridge makes sure each resident feels welcome and loved. They also make sure that each resident continues to thrive. Each day is an adventure with the residents and another opportunity for each person to grow.

It's not just the residents who learn, experience, and achieve. Everyone learns, everyone grows, and everyone achieves at Marbridge.

"Residents make my heart happy," Mimi continued. "I don't know any other way to explain it. The fulfillment I get to help them or seeing them excited to see me, it makes me happy. If I'm having a bad day, I'll see them and it makes things feel better. Emotionally, physically, and spiritually."

You can help residents learn, experience, and achieve when you visit

Marbridge.org/careers





Above: Jeff Hess, Instructor, helps Garrison, a Ranch resident, prepare his dish in the Montandon Café.

Cooking Up a Storm

Residents Across Campus Hone Their Culinary Skills

There's an incredible aroma floating around campus thanks to the numerous cooking opportunities residents enjoy. Jeff Hess, Instructor, leads the Training & Education department's cooking classes. He instructs nearly ten different cooking classes including differing levels of cooking abilities.

"After taking over the cooking class, Jana and I discussed how to structure the class. The residents are learning how to make a menu, grocery lists, and work on their manners," said Jeff. "Each resident is assigned a different task each week. A resident is assigned to cook, clean, and prep fruits and vegetables, set tables, make sugar free drinks, and clean up. The residents also enjoy the social part of the class. There is always lots of chatting and laughing and I think they really enjoy that part. They talk about anything and everything and all get along in class."

Jeff and the residents moved into the Montandon Café, Marbridge's newest classroom, upon its completion in the fall of 2021. The Montandon Café includes a full working kitchen with state-of-the-art equipment for residents to



Photo: Ranch residents enjoy a dish they helped prepare in their weekend Culture Club.

learn. The residents have loved the newest classroom and the cooking classes led by Jeff.

"One thing I love about the new Montandon Café is we have more room, so classes have grown and allowed more residents to join the Cooking Class to learn about healthy eating, experience the joy of cooking, and having a fun time learning," Jeff continued. "It has also allowed me to be able to keep an eye on everyone and be able to help them be successful."

Jeff teaches both basic and advanced cooking classes. The residents learn every aspect of cooking and can move up classes the more they learn and demonstrate their skill levels. One resident who has made that jump to the advanced class is Kristin, a Ranch resident. She's mentioned as a shining star in the Café and is striving in her advanced classes.

"I like to cook a lot. My favorite dish to cook is pasta," Kristin shared. "I love being in the advanced class and Jeff has taught me a lot about cooking. He's awesome."

Residents from The Ranch also enjoy a special weekend cooking class on occasion. Mala Zamrik, a Resident Trainer, hosts a Culture Club where residents learn about different places around the world. They learn about the people, their history, and cook a dish from the area being highlighted. It's a big hit with the residents who get to learn more about a culture they may not know about.

"I love cooking with them and doing Culture Club," Mala said. "The residents learn about different cultures, and they get interested and want to visit where we're studying. They get excited most when they get to cook and try food from where they're learning about."

It's not just residents at The Ranch and The Village having all the fun. The Villa's Enrichment Specialists have cooked up some fun for residents with their popular cooking class. The cooking class, held twice a month, has more than tripled in participation since its inception in 2019. In cooking class, residents learn how to create a dish, cook along with Life Enrichment Specialists and volunteers, and taste test their dishes.

"I wanted to start a cooking class for The Villa since I first started at Marbridge," said Daniel Miranda, Villa Life Enrichment Specialist. "It's our most popular class/activity with more than 30 residents participating, which is great. It's gotten so





Top: Life Enrichment Specialists, Michelle Caddel and Daniel Miranda, help Villa resident, Larry assemble his dish. Bottom: Daniel, joined by volunteers, Warren and Lynne Capps, help Villa residents with their dishes.

big that we've changed how we teach the class to accommodate more people. The volunteers that we have with cooking class are extremely helpful and allow us to be able to teach so many at once."

Residents have learned to cook numerous dishes including desserts, breakfasts, and appetizers. Cooking class is just one of the many activities hosted by The Villa's Life Enrichment Specialists.

Next time you're on campus, grab a fork and knife and see what residents are cooking in Montandon Café and the Villa Enrichment Center.

Learn how your loved one can start cooking at:

Marbridge.org/admissions

A Thank You to Hughie

Residents Share Their Thanks to Coach Hughie Shaw

In 2022, Marbridge saw the longest tenured employee, Hughie Shaw, retire after 32 years of service to residents. Hughie was instrumental in starting Special Olympics sports at Marbridge with Softball being the first sport. Today, over 100 athletes compete in ten different sporting events. Over his three decades, Hughie served over 500 residents while encouraging them to learn, grow, and reach their goals.

There's no better way to celebrate his career than by hearing from the residents he worked with directly. Enjoy the stories of Hughie through the lives he helped enrich.



Billy

Village Resident

I played softball, basketball, and volleyball with Coach. If felt real good winning our first medal in softball. He taught me a lot about how to hit. I also loved when he took us on cruises. We ate real good and I loved taking those trips with him. He's the best damn coach ever.





Alice

Villa Resident

Coach taught me in bowling for a long time. He was the one who taught me how to bowl and helped me win a lot. He was funny and I like going on trips with him. He took me to a Texas Rangers game.





Missy

Village Resident

Coach always got me ready for Special Olympics. He also helped train me to get ready for my races. I had bowling with him and he taught me the proper way to bowl. Bowling and Track were my favorite with Coach and he helped a lot.





Ray Ranch Resident

Before I came to Marbridge, when I played for Austin Parks & Rec, I would watch the Marbridge teams. I would get to talk to Coach Hughie a little bit and every year he would definitely try to recruit me. I love him.



See Photos from Coach Hughie Shaw's Career When You Visit:

Marbridge.org/photo

Who's Ready To Ride?

The Construction of the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch at

Marbridge Nears Completion

It feels like a lifetime ago when the dream of the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch began. Fast forward almost five years and we watched the groundbreaking with Creed Ford IV, the Ford family, Marbridge riders, staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers.

Construction started in late July, after tackling some last-minute permit hurdles. Once that was taken care of, construction came fast and furious.

As of today, completion of the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch at Marbridge is still on track for early spring 2023. The externals of the Riding Ranch are in place and construction internally is the main area of focus currently.

For 15 years, Equine Coordinator, Shonda Corn has led Marbridge's Equine Therapy program and Special Olympics Equestrian team. The Training & Education team and volunteers have worked hard to incorporate as many residents as possible with the current arena, but the uneven grounds hinder the number of residents it can serve. That changes with the new Riding Ranch.

"I am completely amazed at the size of the new equine center," said Shonda Corn, Equine Coordinator. "Seeing it on paper is one thing, but seeing it come to life is a feeling beyond words."

The 43,000 sq. ft. facility encompasses 40 acres, including features that could not be incorporated before. More residents will be able to participate in various classes. Villa residents will be involved in the programs offered, including caring for and grooming the horses. This accomplishment supports our Core Values to learn, experience, and achieve by helping residents pursue their goals with a new level of independence and happiness.

"Even the horses will be excited and curious," added Shonda. "It will take time for them to adjust to the changes, just like the residents."

Upon its completion, Marbridge will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to completion.







Photos: Recent photos of construction are shown on the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch at Marbridge.

Learn more about the Creed Ford III Therapeutic Riding Ranch at Marbridge when you visit:

Marbridge.org/equine



Rolling with Confidence

How Bocce Helped One Resident Grow

Sara, a resident at The Village, is a pro on the bocce courts. She's competed and won medals at numerous Special Olympics events and keeps calm, almost Zenlike, while playing. While nothing seems to bother Sara on the bocce court today, that wasn't always the case. Sara's confidence and skill on the court came after help from her coaches and peers.

When Sara first moved to Marbridge, she didn't have a desire to do any extracurricular activities. She did her classes, and excelled at them, but outside of the regular schedule, she didn't want to do much. That changed quickly though when she saw the success of her peers.

"She would see the medals earned, the congratulations upon return to campus, and stories of our celebration meals after competition. This would intrigue her to ask me questions about each sport/competition," said Jennifer Diaz, Victory Hall Manager and then coach. "By this point, I got to know Sara and was familiar with her abilities and interests, so I encouraged her to try bocce."

Upon the encouragement from her coaches and peers, Sara joined bocce and picked up the game quickly. She honed her strategy and used to it her advantage to perfect her skills. Through practice and competing, Sara saw the same accolades and celebrations that she watched her peers receive before joining bocce.

"I joined for the fun and to meet new friends. I've won a few medals through the years," said Sara. "The coaches have been helpful to me. They tell me to stay calm and not get nervous. At first, I was nervous, but they helped me a lot."

Her success isn't limited to just medals and ribbons won through bocce. The real success came from the little things that Sara picked up while competing in Special Olympics sports.

"When Sara first moved into Marbridge she was nowhere near as social as she is today. She would only interact with staff, with minimal interactions with her peers," Jennifer continued. "Today, she is not only social, but I find that she is one of the first people to greet and welcome new residents on campus."

While Sara is proud of her accomplishments through Special Olympics, it's the friendships and confidence she gained through competition she cherishes most.





Top: Sara competes at the 2019 Special Olympics Regional Bocce Tournament . Bottom: Sara speaks with coaches while sporting her regional bocce bronze medal

Learn more about Marbridge's Special Olympics teams at:

Marbridge.org/training

CoAct Symposium was a Hit

Marbridge Hosted the 2022 CoAct Symposium with a Royal Keynote

In April 2022, Marbridge hosted the CoAct Project Symposium, a national executive symposium focused on best practices and industry challenges when caring for adults with cognitive and intellectual disabilities. The three-day symposium saw over 100 attendees from 22 different states representing similar populations and was the first since 2019.

The 2022 keynote speaker, Emma Broyles, Miss America 2022, brought her youthful enthusiasm to the symposium. Emma shared stories about her experiences with her brother who has Down syndrome, her work as a volunteer with the Special Olympics, and her own personal struggles. Emma has spent over half her life advocating for people with intellectual disabilities, stating that her brother is a source of inspiration for her.

The three-day event also saw speakers touching on different areas of life for those with special needs. Speakers included Erik Carter, Ph.D., the Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University; the Marbridge medical team; Laura Brackin Ph. D. from Brackin and Associates; Scott Mendel and Ashley Kim Weiss of Together for Choice; and a co-presentation from Denise Resnik, founder and president of First Place Arizona, and Desiree Kameka Galloway, Director of Autism Housing Network.



Above: Erik Carter, Ph.D shares his presentation of "Creating Communities of Belonging".





Top: Attendees listen to a presentation by Together for Choice. Bottom: Emma Broyles (right) takes a fun photo with Olivia, a Ranch resident, in the Tuite Enrichment Center.

"We were honored to bring CoAct back and gather respected professionals here at Marbridge," said Scott McAvoy, Executive Vice President. "Each of the speakers added content that all attendees could benefit from. CoAct is essential in bringing all our communities together to serve our populations as best we can."

Marbridge will be a guest for the 2023 CoAct Project Symposium, hosted by Brookwood at their campus in Brookshire, TX from April 19-21. This will be the first CoAct Project Symposium hosted away from the Marbridge campus since its inception. The CoAct Project Symposium returns to the Marbridge campus in the spring of 2024.

Learn more about the CoAct Project Symposium and see photos from the event at:

Marbridge.org/coact



Premier Employees

The Marbridge Premier Employee Program has recognized over 300 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 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, Executive Vice President.



Jennie Alkhalafat Resident Trainer, The Ranch Hard-Working // Optimistic // Dependable

Jennie has been a consistent and dependable source of support for the residents throughout the overnight shift. Although residents are often asleep for the majority of her shift, Jennie makes use of her time when they are awake in her engagement. When challenges arise in our processes or with the residents, she is often the most optimistic towards there being a positive outcome. Jennie works hard to ensure residents are accounted for and to assist her peers to be successful.



Michelle Caddel Life Enrichment Specialist, The Villa Conscientious // Responsible // Dedicated

Michelle joined The Villa Team in February of 2018. She's incredibly knowledgeable and worked her way through a CNS program as part of joining our Life Enrichment Team. She works hard to come up with new activities for

residents and is a leader of our Girl Scout Program. Michelle is dedicated to Marbridge and always happy to assist in any way she can. Michelle's optimistic approach to achieve departmental and professional goals is admirable. She always has a smile and joyful greeting for her peers. We truly value Michelle and her passion for the Marbridge mission.



April Cooley Restorative Aide, The Villa Flexible // Cooperative // Humorous

April is willing to always go the extra mile to make sure the residents and staff feel taken care of and supported. She is quick to joke and laugh but will help with whatever anyone needs.



Cindy Cormier Resident Trainer, The Village Compassionate // Creative // Hardworking

Cindy's compassion is on display regularly with the care and understanding she brings to her role on campus. The residents know that they can come to her to comfortably share feelings or concerns, and as a result, she has established a trusting bond with them and is able to provide meaningful guidance and advice. Whether leading an activity or working with a resident to address a concern, Cindy comes up with creative approaches to provide the necessary support during her shift.



Melissa Hall Grant Writer, Development Attentive // Thorough // Ethical

Melissa's grant writing abilities have secured funding from sources who have never supported our mission. She stepped forward in a big way to assist the entire campus during the pandemic while also bringing in funding to

assist with the great added expenses. Her empathy and love for the mission is incredibly apparent and she displays that in her writing and discussions with funders. Melissa works hard to secure funding while remaining ethical and attentive to details.



Trish Johnson Physical Therapist, Rehab Team

Hard-Working // Knowledgeable // Committed

Trish has been at Marbridge through many changes in the rehab department. This is the first year that rehab team members are eligible to be premier employees as it is the first year that our Rehab Team ARE employees. Trish is

extremely knowledgeable in her field and is excellent with our resident population. She has proven herself committed to Marbridge and our mission and the care of our unique population. She is extremely reliable and hard-working.



Daniel Miranda Life Enrichment Specialist, The Villa

Creative // Supportive // Dedicated

Daniel joined The Villa team in December of 2019. He is incredibly knowledgeable of developing programs for our residents and this becomes clear through his creativity. Daniel is kind and always happy to assist any resident

and staff member.



Rachelle Styes Assistant Director of Nursing, The Villa Resourceful // Dependable // Skillful

There are so many amazing qualities that Rachelle possesses, it was almost impossible to narrow it down. In overwhelmingly trying moments, she can be calm through the storm. She can be counted on and if she doesn't

know the answer to something, she will find it and become an expert on it.



Sabrina Vasquez Shift Supervisor, The Village Resourceful // Attentive // Dedicated

Sabrina has proven to be a very resourceful individual. This character trait was on full display during the pandemic, as she came up with quick and clever strategies to overcome a variety of obstacles.

Sabrina's attentiveness on the weekend shift has really helped her team make positive progress. By being detail-oriented, she has been able to increase efficiency and be more proactive in her approaches. This has allowed her to serve our residents well by picking up on potential concerns early, before they have a chance to build up into something bigger which helps to ensure peace and calmness throughout our campus.



Gabby Zamora Restorative Aide, The Villa Kind // Supportive // Capable

Gabby's kind and calm demeanor provides our residents with a comfortable setting to do some hard work in their therapy programs. Gabby always has a smile on her face and residents love her.

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.





Join Miracle Society

The Marbridge Miracle Society is a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to impacting our mission through a multi-year pledge of monetary support. Members are asked to make a \$1,000+ per year plege for a minimum of five years.

For more information about the Miracle Society or to become a member, please contact Becca McPherson at 512.735.2716 or bmcpherson@marbridge.org.

Marbridge.org/miracle

Upcoming Dates

Gold Stirrup Horse Show
Easter Break
Last Day of Spring Classes
Inks Lake Camping Trip
70th Anniversary

March 25 April 7-10 May 5

May 9-11

June 1