

Marbridge

Learn ▶ Experience ▶ Achieve

LIFE

Spring 2015



Victorious

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Since its founding in 1953, Marbridge has provided adults with intellectual disabilities a safe, loving community and an abundance of opportunities to learn, experience and achieve a whole new life.

DADS license numbers:
000706, 005191, 000520

Our Changing Skyline



Original gym, built in 1958



Victory Hall, completed 2015

Expanding the Door of Opportunity

By James Stacey and Tom Leyden

Marbridge celebrates the long-awaited completion of Victory Hall! This new multipurpose facility will provide residents, staff and the community more opportunities to learn, experience and achieve life in a whole new way. "The opportunities here are endless," states James Stacey, Marbridge President. "Victory Hall will, first and foremost, be utilized by the Marbridge residents and staff for education and enrichment activities, social events and to establish and meet wellness goals." In the future, Victory Hall will be made available to the community for gatherings, events and classes.

The residents are thrilled to see what was once an idea, become a reality. Residents Kyle Leyden and Dan Beckmeyer shared their insight throughout the design process as they participated in the group affectionately called the "Dream Team", which included members from the community, staff, board members and residents (pictured below). The "Dream Team" helped transform the vision into reality.

The idea of Victory Hall was first planted in January 2010 when Tom Leyden watched his son Kyle and his friends play basketball in the former gymnasium. Tom noticed that the small space limited the residents movement and without heat or air conditioning, the conditions were less than ideal. After his visit, Tom was inspired to take action. His vision was to create an improved facility for deserving Marbridge residents. He presented his idea to the Marbridge Parent and Family Association (MPFA) and the Board of Trustees for approval. "I felt led to do this project as a mission for Marbridge. All along the way, the right people came into play at the right time. From the vision, to the formation of the Dream Team, to the design - and finally, the dollars. I have no doubt how that happened. This has been a mission of the heart accomplished through God's grace and guidance," reflects Tom.

In the beginning, the Dream Team met once a month to discuss ideas, meet



The Dream Team gathered in April to celebrate the completion.



Residents playing basketball in the 1960's.

with experts, and form a plan. Once the overall design was finalized, the focus turned to fundraising efforts. Due to the community's unwavering support, the \$2.8 million dollar project cost was committed to and raised, and construction began in June 2014. With construction wrapping up this month, Marbridge plans a Victory Hall Grand Opening Celebration on May 29, 2015.

Take a drive or walk down Marbridge Victory Lane, and you'll find the 18,000 square foot athletic and event center standing proudly. It boasts a full-size gymnasium, performance stage, concession area, offices and classroom space. The Mike Parsons Wellness Center, also located in Victory Hall, provides 3,000 square feet for fitness classes and strength training, including an area for yoga and dance classes.

"While we're anticipating many victories here, Marbridge is not about the buildings. Marbridge has always been, and will always be, about the people and their personal victories," states James.



Kyle Leyden and Dan Beckmeyer shooting their first baskets.

An Inside Look At Victory Hall

The Mike Parsons Wellness Center

Located inside Victory Hall, this center houses a strength training room, cardio area and yoga studio.



Court of Honor

Surrounding the interior of the basketball gym are the names of generous supporters who helped make the dream become reality.

Tree of Honor

Upon entering Victory Hall, this beautiful artistic display holds the names of special people.



Trail of Honor

A trail system provides residents and staff safe walkways across campus (still under construction).

CELEBRATING SMALL VICTORIES & LASTING LEGACIES

Molly and Steve Krasoff first visited Marbridge during an informational session in 2011. Their reason for attending was to better understand what Marbridge provides its residents, and if it might be a place for their oldest daughter with special needs to grow and thrive as an adult. They shared what they learned with their children: Sophia, currently 16, their 12-year old Amanda, and Myles, now 10. Each year, they host a gingerbread party, and this year, the Krasoff's asked attendees to give to Marbridge in lieu of bringing gifts for the family. Their thoughtful action resulted in a \$250 donation to Marbridge! In addition, and more exciting to Marbridge, is how the Krasoff family is instilling the value of philanthropy and compassion in their children, and sharing it with others in the process. Marbridge being the beneficiary is just icing on the cake, or gingerbread house in this case!



Sophia, Amanda and Myles Krasoff enjoying their time together and proudly displaying a completed creation.

Our Changing Skyline: Then & Now

Our Changing Skyline: The Villa



Residents playing football in the 1960's.



Christmas performances held in the original gym.



Residents learning about theater and arts.



Getting some exercise shooting hoops when the gym was first built.



The original gym in 2015 right before the completion of Victory Hall, located on the other side of campus.



Strength training and cardio equipment in the original gym.



Six adjustable basketball hoops are evenly placed around the interior gym.



Staff receives training on all equipment before initiating programs for residents.



The dedicated stage area for enhanced performances.



A new scoreboard makes it official!



The basketball gym features roll-away bleachers to maximize space and is surrounded by the Court of Honor.



New directional signage to help navigate campus.



Set To Enrich Lives

The Villa experienced a victory of its own earlier this year with the addition of a 3,500 square foot Enrichment Center and Sensorium. Funded by a generous donor, the \$850,000 addition not only enriches the Villa residents' lives, but benefits the entire Marbridge community as well.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have the new Enrichment Center at the Villa" states Jameson Miller, Villa Activities Assistant. Before the Enrichment Center was built, activities were held in the dining room. The space was sufficient, but one of the benefits of having a dedicated activity area is that the residents can spend more time enjoying activities without having to work around the meal schedule. In addition, residents now have an extra space to relax and enjoy music or just hang out with friends. "The wall-to-wall windows bring in so much natural lighting and give the room the feel of an outdoor space," continues Jameson.

In addition to the activity room, the Enrichment Center also includes a separate kitchen and additional staff offices. Located outside of the center is a beautiful old oak tree



Volunteers help residents create Easter decorations.

with patio seating. It is a perfect setting for outdoor activities such as Men's Sports Club meetings or other social activities.



Residents join together for Bingo in the new open area.



A panoramic view of the Sensorium. Multiple sensory stimulation zones include aromatherapy and touch.

Creating much excitement is the Enrichment Center's Sensorium, a multi-sensory room modeled after the Snoezelen concept developed in the Netherlands. This space delivers a variety of stimuli to all senses through music, scents, colors, sounds, touch, lighting and more. "The Sensorium is so unique and special to Marbridge - in fact, there are just a few facilities that offer this type of therapy in the nation," explains Theresa Nutt, Activities Assistant at The Villa. Be sure to stop by and ask for a tour when you visit Marbridge.



Small Steps to Victorious Leaps



Mapping the Path of Growth

The Individual Program Plan (IPP) starts with a thorough assessment of each individual:

Current skills and behaviors

Cognitive levels

Communication skills

Nutritional status

Grooming/hygiene habits

Activity and leisure interests

Once the assessment is completed, our staff develops a care and training plan tailored to each resident's unique abilities and needs, incorporating goals communicated by the individual and their families. This IPP charts the growth objectives for their year ahead at Marbridge.



Tanner standing proudly in the gazebo adjacent to The Ranch.

Committed to Change

Tanner Lane, The Ranch

When Tanner moved to The Ranch at Marbridge from Houston in August 2014, he knew what he wanted to accomplish and immediately set to work. James Brandon, Director of The Ranch, and his team worked with Tanner and his family to complete his Individual Program Plan (IPP) in order to clearly articulate his objectives for the year ahead. They defined his number one goal as overall health improvement with a focus on losing weight. Tanner was well supported in refining his eating behaviors and staying on track because The Ranch offers a variety of dining levels to help residents meet their individual goals. Over the last several months, Tanner's positive attitude and commitment to goals resulted in a 30 pound weight loss. In addition, he has made great strides towards improved overall health. Tanner's family is thrilled with his progress. The praise from his family and Marbridge staff continues to reinforce his positive choices. James believes that Tanner's progress in this area has translated into other areas of improved independence. "Not only has he increased his overall self-control, but he is also learning job skills and how to maintain healthy relationships. These were two additional goals on Tanner's list - we're very proud of him," stated James.

Over the last several months, Tanner's positive attitude and commitment to goals resulted in a 30 pound weight loss.



Wray acts as DJ to keep residents musically entertained.

Building Comfort and Confidence

James Wray Young, The Villa

Over a brief period of time, Wray has grown victorious over apprehensions, become more adventurous and made a name for himself around The Villa. James Wray Young, called Wray after his grandfather, moved to The Villa at Marbridge in January 2014. At first, Wray was apprehensive about his new home and was resistant to participate in enrichment activities such as Bingo, art, or bowling. Wray was not interested in engaging with staff or residents. Over time, he grew fond of his roommate, Brucie. When Brucie

Small Steps to Victorious Leaps

passed away, Wray dealt with his sadness by holding onto Brucie's clock. Eventually, he pushed forward, spending more time with others and growing less timid through the encouragement of staff.

Today, Wray is fondly referred to as "The Resident Music Man" by staff member Theresa Nutt, Activities Assistant at The Villa. "He thumbs through piles of records whenever he can, and keeps us tapping our toes to Johnny Cash, one of his favorites," she states. Additionally, Wray's participation in enrichment activities has grown from participant to leader. "I call out the numbers for Bingo every Tuesday night," Wray proudly states. With no need for a microphone, Wray calls out the numbers for all residents to hear in the new Enrichment Center. "Now I enjoy going for walks, especially outside, and going to art museums, Walmart and bowling," continues Wray.

"I call out the Bingo numbers every Tuesday night," states Wray.

Wray has seen many small victories at Marbridge, and we're looking forward to seeing continued growth from this music man.

Applying Marbridge Core Values Off Campus

Molly McBride and John Charles Lee have many similarities. Both live along Village Boulevard, both are celebrating their one year anniversary at their off-campus job at Wheatsville, and both are contributing to that organization in meaningful ways, above and beyond their job requirements.

campus, getting people involved and gathering donations. She collected a grocery cart overflowing with clothes to bring back to Wheatsville. Her compassion for others is an inspiration to us all!

Earlier this year, Molly suggested to her employer, Wheatsville Co-op, that they participate in a clothing drive to benefit the needy. Wheatsville fully supported her idea, and SafePlace was selected as the recipient. The clothing drive was initially intended for only, but Molly didn't stop there. She worked hard on Marbridge

John Charles also shared an idea with Wheatsville Co-op. He suggested providing tours at work to demonstrate how people with disabilities can overcome challenges and be successful workers. Wheatsville supported his idea as well and organized a tour for Rockwall ISD's Special Needs program to come by and see John Charles and Molly in action!



Molly on campus getting ready for class, and also pictured at work cleaning dishes. She loves her job and was thrilled to help others while at work.



John Charles sitting outside Cox Cottage, and also sorting out redeemed coupons at work.

Building Wellness Across Campus



The yoga studio located on the far side of the wellness center.

Learn
Experience
Achieve



Strength training, cardiovascular equipment and an indoor track provide wellness options for all fitness levels.



Let the Wellness Challenge Begin!

By *Jana Kay Green*,
Director of Training & Education

While the final construction pieces come together for Victory Hall, our Training and Education team is developing new programs and activities designed to utilize the new facility, and specifically, The Mike Parsons Wellness Center.

Our ultimate goal in creating any program is to assist each resident in developing confidence and independence in a safe and loving environment. We are thrilled when residents further develop their current abilities and realize new skills. With the addition of this new facility, our options for wellness training will expand, and we can introduce broadened health initiatives that weren't possible in the past. The strength training equipment and climate controlled space will provide enhanced daily program opportunities. Previously, cardiovascular training was limited due to space restrictions and weather complications. Because of the large space inside Victory Hall, cardio can take place in one room while strength training occurs in the weight room, and a Fitball, Shape-up or Yoga class occupies the studio room. We plan to establish baseline health measurements, create goals for improvement, develop the training to support those goals, and finally, set up timely reviews to track progress so we can adjust goals and training. Overall, we want to make wellness training fun in order to promote healthy choices and instill behavioral changes that will ultimately improve the health and wellness of residents.



Marbridge staff receives training before opening doors to residents.

The Mike Parsons Wellness Center

Within Victory Hall, you'll find a very special facility named after a very enthusiastic man. Mike Parsons was a fitness fanatic who went from treadmill to hospice in his final days dealing with terminal cancer. Mike believed that fitness played a significant role to an overall positive mental and physical mindset, and his commitment to his fitness influenced his friends, family and community. He was a good friend to Lynn and Creed Ford, the kind and loving husband of J Carol and a supporter of Marbridge.

"When he was in hospice, our friends Lynn and Creed approached him with the Victory Hall plans and asked how he would feel if memorials were made to it in his honor and memory. He enthusiastically agreed to the idea," reflected J Carol Parsons. "And when Creed said they would like to name the wellness center after him, Mike was overwhelmed."



Mike Parsons (far left) with dear friends, Lynn and Creed Ford.

Because of Mike's life legacy, Marbridge residents will have the opportunity to achieve their own new victories in their overall physical and emotional wellness. "We are so pleased to know that The Mike Parsons Wellness Center will benefit so many people," J Carol continued. "I know Mike would be very happy with the end result."

Victory In The Arena

Breeding A Winning Attitude

By *Shonda Corn*, Equine Coordinator

Throughout the winter and early spring of 2015, the equestrian coaches, volunteers and participants at Marbridge were busier than ever putting in hours of training as they prepared for the eventful season ahead. While Marbridge maintains an active program year round, with over 60 residents that participate in the equestrian therapy and education activities, the spring transitions into a competitive season for residents to showcase their skills and growth.

On February 20, the fifteen Marbridge athletes on the Marbridge Equestrian Team traveled to Houston to compete for the first time in the Top Hands Horse show at the Houston Rodeo. This three-day invitation-only event included over 250 participants showcasing their proficiency and aptitude across many events. Athletes were divided into divisions based on riding level, from assisted to independent.



Jack Joseph and Daniel Hale clown around.

Our Marbridge athletes entered the Western Equitation, Trail, and Barrels divisions and executed their individual performance and skills with strength and focus. Fifteen Marbridge residents returned home proudly adorned with awards and prizes. Abby MacKinney, Jack Joseph, Matt Landry, and Randy Cole were awarded first place and received a beautiful belt buckle. In addition, all 15 athletes received placements and were awarded with ribbons, trophies and T-shirts. A special thanks to our generous sponsor, Creed Ford, for allowing us the use of his large



MIDPAGE: Kenneth Luton rides the arena. Matt Landry (plaid shirt) and Randy Cole (pink shirt) proudly display awards.

Kenneth Luton rides the arena with support staff, Mark Knox. John Alexander proudly displays his award.



trailer to transport our ten horses to the event, and another special thanks to Joe and Janet Andrews for use of their truck to pull the trailer.

On March 15, the competitions continued as Marbridge athletes attended the Gold Stirrup Horse Show at Rodeo Austin and were sponsored by Creed Ford. This one-day competition included divisions for Showmanship, Western Equitation, Barrels and Trail. Gregg Long, Jack Joseph, John Alexander, Matt Landry and Max Clampitt all received 1st place Belt Buckles, and other athletes placing 2nd-6th were awarded with ribbons and certificates

We wish these athletes the best of luck at their final show scheduled May 8-10 as they compete at the state level for Special Olympics in Bryan/College Station.

We are thrilled to see our athletes meet their goals and perform to the best of their ability. Their dedication, organization and achievements rise above, and because of this and the continued support of volunteers and sponsors, Marbridge is building its reputation as one of the top equestrian therapy programs in Texas.

The success of the training, preparation and show logistics relies heavily on the volunteers who assist our coaches. Whether teaching and training throughout the year, or traveling and coordinating, we couldn't provide these growth opportunities to our residents without the help of our dedicated and loyal volunteers. Many thanks to: Joe and Janet Andrews, Laurie Duran, Cleve Earley, Cary Fyfe, Mary Holt, Sally Kanetzky, Zach Knox, Kevin and Debra Lawson, Cheri Martin, Connie Nicholson, Jeannine Tinsley, Angie Smith and Sandy Smith.



ABOVE: Daniel Hale with his mother, Elizabeth. Gregg Long with volunteer, Connie Nicholson. LEFT: Kenneth Luton with his award, and Audrey Andrews in the arena with her ribbons and awards.

Head Coach: Shonda Corn
Support Staff: Shelley McGinnis, Hughie Shaw
Assistant Coaches: Mark Knox, Jennifer Diaz

Victories In Our Extended Community

By Jana Kay Green, Director of Training & Education

Successful Transition, Deepened Independence

When **Brendan Kelly** arrived at Marbridge in 2008, he determined his goals were to live as independently as possible within a community, have a job and have friends.

His parents goals for him were similar, and they wanted to see him live semi-independently, to work, to learn how to cook, to clean and to budget his money.



In October 2013, Brendan moved out of The Village at Marbridge and into his own apartment. Brendan is the second resident from Marbridge to participate in the Marbridge Independent Living Program. To qualify for this program, residents need to complete all of the independent living training on campus, have a full-time job for over a year, and have a desire to become more independent while working with their family and Marbridge staff to attain these goals.

Today, Brendan lives in his own apartment and works full-time for Seton Medical Center Austin. Brendan reflected on what he learned at Marbridge and said, "Patience. I had to have rational realistic goals. Also, I learned job skills and what it takes to get and keep a job. I learned a lot about cooking, making healthy choices and how to improvise on a budget from Lauren and Jackie." (Lauren Butera and Jackie Ward are cooking instructors at Marbridge.) "I also learned a lot from Denise. In Money Management, she taught me how much it would cost to live on my own and even how to look for apartments in my price range." (Denise Buckley teaches Skills for Life and Money Management – Level 3.)

Transitioning to independence did not happen overnight, and Brendan knows he must stay committed and practice patience. He still faces challenges like keeping his weight down and not spending money on unnecessary items. Sometimes, it is hard to make new friends; but he continues to push on. "I don't feel like a bird in a cage anymore; now, I am as free and independent as a sparrow." Brendan shows us all how the continued pursuit of individual goals includes many small and large victories along the journey.

Brendan gathering the items he'll need for the week at a nearby grocery store.



Passion for Independence

Taylor Stuckert moved to The Village in February 2014 with clarity regarding her individual goals. She was committed to building stronger communication skills, socialization skills and coping skills, while building new relationships and friendships outside of her family. Additionally, she wanted to work full time, live as independently as possible, and have the confidence and skill set to ride public transportation.

Taylor is working towards these goals through a variety of training and education opportunities. Taylor attends training sessions such as Cooking, Skills for Life, and Public Transportation to help her achieve increased independence. She also participated on the Track Team last spring with great success. Taylor has a love for animals and helping people. Last summer Taylor, who is excellent with horses, volunteered with Shonda Corn, Equine Coordinator, where she assisted the Marbridge summer campers with horseback riding. Taylor's love of animals also led her to volunteer at PAWS in Buda.

In January 2015, Taylor's goal of employment was realized when she began working part-time on campus at the horse barn. Taylor assists with feeding the horses, cleaning their stalls and keeping tack equipment clean. Taylor is a natural with the horses and even won multiple awards at the Top Hand Horse Show in Houston in February as part of the Equestrian Team.

This spring, Taylor interviewed with Happy Mailman, a special day care and dog boarding facility. Taylor got the job and now works there part-time as well. What a victory for Taylor to turn her talents from volunteering into two part-time jobs!



Taylor diligently working to complete her job responsibilities at the horse barn.



Taylor caring for the dog crew at Happy Mailman, her job off Marbridge campus.

Volunteers - Victories of the Heart

2015 Volunteer Appreciation Event

By Haley Koop, CTRS, Volunteer Coordinator

Our Marbridge residents and staff are blessed by over 200 dedicated and kind volunteers, and we are deeply appreciative of the time and energy they each give to Marbridge. On April 16, we honored these wonderful volunteers at our annual appreciation event held at Mercer Street Dancehall. While enjoying the musical gifts of Tracie Lynn and delicious food from Gourmet Gals, our evening was filled with warmth and laughter as we celebrated the countless ways our volunteers serve us.

GROUP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR HAYS HIGH SCHOOL

The juniors and seniors from Hays High School Practicum Health Science class received the Volunteer Group of the Year Award. For over 5 years, the students enrolled in this practicum class have been welcomed at Marbridge with smiles and hugs. The class objective is to provide real experiences for students who have completed prerequisite health sciences classes and are interested in pursuing a healthcare career. Visiting The Villa two times per week, they assist in various tasks and learn how to care for our unique population in authentically caring ways. From one-on-one assistance, to taking walks, to leading engaging art activities, these future health professionals receive hands on experience and make connections that only experience provides.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR KAREN LITTLE



Anytime you hear "What can I do to help?", you'll likely be in the presence of long-time volunteer, **Karen Little**. Karen volunteers in countless ways. She is a member of the Oak Leaves and also works closely with the development team as Ambassador Manager. She plays a large role in the JAM sessions, attends regular meetings and out of town workshops. She is always cheering on Marbridge residents and staff and is a true Marbridge Ambassador, herself. THANK YOU, Karen!

COMMITMENT AWARD LEWIS & GWEN SHAW, LAURIE DURAN



Over 20 years ago, **Lewis** partnered with the Marbridge softball team. After seeing his enjoyment, **Gwen** couldn't help but get involved. They have assisted in bocce, bowling, basketball, track & field, power lifting and community activities. Lewis even got certified as a coach and a driver to expand his ability to help.



As an equine volunteer for over 6 years, **Laurie's** weekly dedication is invaluable and remarkable. She also travels with the athletes to equine competitions and Special Olympic events. Her positive attitude and willingness to help deepens her connection with the residents and staff.

BRIDGES AWARD LYNNE & WARREN CAPPS



Lynne's father, Ray Wells, lived at The Villa for two years and after his passing, **Lynne and Warren** begin volunteering to give back to the family Ray had built on campus. This husband and wife duo are indispensable to The Villa Activity team and their commitment to our residents.



We extend our sincerest appreciation to our sponsors for making this event possible and for supporting Marbridge.

Bless Your Heart!



Much Obligated!



Many Thanks!



Victories Made Possible

Make a Lasting Impression That Sustains Us



Hall of Honor \$50,000

Provides an opportunity for the elegant foyer and main hall of Victory Hall to be named after this sponsor in prominent lettering inside the opening entrance – a symbol of support that will remain with the building for a lifetime. This contribution will reduce the financial burden on Marbridge for the additional costs of the building finish out – particularly in the Hall of Honor and the Wellness Center.

Stage Sponsor \$50,000 (2 available)

Provides a sponsoring opportunity to have a prominent name displayed on either the right or left side of the performing arts stage in the most visible area in the gym. This sponsorship provides the ability to finish out the much-needed essentials of the performing arts finish out and program, including the stage curtains, lighting, technical equipment and musical and stage instruments for the music and dramatic arts therapy program.

Court of Honor \$25,000 (20 available)

Join the growing number of committed Court of Honor sponsors who can choose the naming designation of their choice in prominent lettering circling the walls of the gymnasium in an amazing demonstration of support for Victory Hall. Court of Honor contributions will be applied toward the current maintenance and sustainability of Victory Hall and toward its health for the years to come.

Tree of Honor \$150 (hundreds available)

Provides an opportunity to permanently honor or remember someone on an engraved brass leaf that is attached to a custom brass oak tree displayed inside Victory Hall.

Thank you to the many in-kind and cash donors who transformed the Victory Hall dream into reality.

In-kind Gifts

- Gym Floor and Installation : Hellas Construction
- Scoreboard : Austin Spurs
- Retractable Screen : Luke Sanchez
- AV Equipment : Freeman Company

Trail of Honor Sponsors made it possible for Phase One renovation of the sidewalks, providing lighting, trees, and benches. *Tree of Honor Sponsors* expanded the leaves on our donor tree while expanding our possibilities!

Court of Honor

- The J.D. Head Family • Iron Cactus • Austin Spurs
- Catherine & Denis Hébert • The Jan Moore Family
- NCI Buildings Group • The Tom Leyden Family
- Sysco • PlainsCapital Bank • Freeman Company
- Hellas Construction • The Mike Parsons Family
- Nasso Architecture • Carino's Foundation
- Bailey Elliott Construction • The Helm Foundation

Victories Made Possible



Victory Hall: The Finish Line

Your kind and generous support has built the much needed Victory Hall, a multi-purpose facility that not only provides life enrichment and wellness opportunities to our residents, but also enhances our campus. Please consider taking us across the finish line - any size donation benefits the overall goal!

| NOT YET PROCURED | PROCURED VIA LOAN |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Sporting Equipment (Basketballs/Volleyballs with rolling baskets per set, various aerobic studio supplies) \$3,000 Large screen projector \$10,000 Phone, Internet, Cabling \$5,000 Furnishings & Office Equipment \$5,000 Demolition of old gym \$15,000 Gym Floor Covering \$9,100 Marbridge logo painted on gym floor \$1,700 60" TV's (3) for workout areas \$3,000 Shelving in equipment room \$4,500 Stage Curtains and Lighting \$50,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paving of roadways damaged during construction \$40,000 Gymnasium electric shades \$15,000 Volleyball nets and stands \$2,500 Exercise Equipment \$89,000 Collapsible Bleachers \$12,000 Tables & Chairs for Events/Performances \$15,000 Landscaping & Irrigation, Exterior of Gym \$10,000 |
| <p>TOTAL DOLLARS NEEDED: \$289,800 (\$106,300 in unpurchased items + \$183,500 in items procured via loan)</p> | |

If you are interested in a Court of Honor donation, wish to adopt an item above, or donate whatever amount you're comfortable with, contact Michelle Levy at 512-282-1144 or mlevy@marbridge.org.

A New Beginning: The Winters Dorm Replacement

While many projects are entering their victorious lap of completion, other campus renovations are just warming up. The Winters Dorm, located in The Ranch, is a top priority for overall replacement. Built in 1963, the residence was named after John Howard Winters for his commitment as the executive director of the State Department of Public Welfare. "Over the years, our knowledge of ways to provide supportive and positive environments for adults with developmental disabilities and cognitive challenges has expanded and deepened. Our current dorm is not well suited to meet those needs, nor is it efficient for our staff and visitors," explains Scott McAvoy, Vice President of Operations.

Years ago, a new building design was finalized and presented to focus groups for review. Feedback revealed that the proposed plans and updated design did not accomplish what was necessary to move forward. "We went back to the drawing board and had to rethink the overall design with the goal of creating a homelike atmosphere for residents while still providing a plan that would be conducive to effective supervision by

our staff," continued Scott. Experts were consulted to examine how to create an environment for a spectrum of needs so that each resident would have the best chance of success in their new home.

Today, the design is finalized and Marbridge is excited to start the first lap in the race. The final cost will be determined while the senior management team seeks all necessary building approvals with the goal of breaking ground in 2016. A capital campaign will begin soon to raise the estimated \$4.8 million for this important project.

The new facility replacing Winters Dorm is currently coined The Casitas and will include four 12-person casitas. Each casita will house six 2-bedroom suites with a shared bathroom space, and a central living area, very similar in design to The Village but without the kitchen space. The new Casitas complex will also include a central administration building that will be

consistently staffed so residents and visitors have immediate assistance. The admin building will have medical and staff offices, a hair salon, reception area, and conference room. The design includes activity/classroom building as part of the complex, and all buildings will be surrounded by a courtyard.



The Winters Dorm replacement building dorm will begin construction next year.

Victories Among Us



Theresa Nutt

Victory: Passed certification testing for The Villa

After being the Activity Assistant at the Villa for 18 years, we are proud to announce that Theresa sat for her examination to become certified in Activities this month and, of course, she passed! Marbridge Villa is so proud of Theresa that we just couldn't keep it to ourselves. Theresa is a true home grown talent and thanks to the encouragement of administrator Stephen Illingworth, Theresa studied and passed her certification. Her seemingly endless energy and positive attitude is such a blessing. Way to go Theresa; the sky is the limit!



Jenna Hudson

Victory: Promoted to Community Liasion, The Villa

A true delight to our campus! Jenna started working at Marbridge in 2013 as an Admissions Assistant. With a degree in elementary education specializing in reading, Jenna applies her degree at work here by educating others about what Marbridge has to offer and is passionate for making sure the residents have the best lives possible. Outside of work, she coaches youth basketball, enjoys time with her kids, and is active in her church.

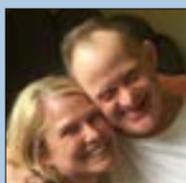


Megan Blumenthal

Victory: Promoted to Weekend Supervisor, The Ranch

*Pictured with resident, John Bonnet

Congratulations to Megan Blumenthal at The Ranch who was recently promoted to Weekend Supervisor. Megan was hired in June 2014 as PRN working between both dorms, and her skills and experience grew by working with Glenda Williams, who not only taught her about the job, but told her fun facts and memory-filled stories about the residents from over the years. She loves the residents and credits them with the reason she enjoys her job and looks forward to work. Outside of work, you'll find Megan working as a seamstress, creating elaborate costumes.



Stephanie Jones

Victory: Promoted to MDS Coordinator, The Villa

*Pictured with resident, Kim Riley

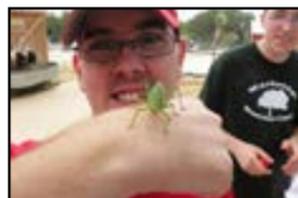
Native to Austin, Stephanie found her work home at Marbridge. She loves coming to work each day and feels surrounded by much love and affection. While she's excited about her new responsibilities and objectives, you'll find her visiting with the residents daily. Outside of work, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and looks forward to summer for swimming and hiking around the Austin area. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Friends, Fun & Sun

Every summer, the Marbridge family expands with the addition of counselors who lead and supervise weekly sessions of a very special camp. Marbridge launched its summer camp program about 25 years ago to allow young adults with cognitive disabilities the chance to experience camp. Two camp sessions run concurrently each week and provide full-time counselors with experience and training in special education fields. While the campers are housed in The Camp and Davis Houses at Marbridge, much of their time is spent participating in elective training sessions, such as drum therapy, horticulture therapy, music therapy, exercising and fishing. Other activities include swimming, horseback riding, bowling, and community outings, such as attending a Round Rock Express game.

"I think it's an awesome opportunity for young adults with cognitive disabilities to socialize, have fun, challenge themselves and gain some independence! Lifelong friendships are forged, lasting memories are made, and experiences are had that are rare and wonderful," remarks Eric Breland, a camp counselor who is returning to Marbridge for his third year. When not working at the Marbridge summer camp, Eric spends his time working as an elementary special education teacher. "I appreciate all the opportunities Marbridge offers to campers - seeing the growth that happens in a short week is truly amazing," states Eric.

Nine weekly summer camp sessions are available this year. The sessions begin the week of June 13th and conclude the week of August 9th.



Premier Employees

The Marbridge Premier Employee Program awards employees whose excellent work ethic and positive personal character traits makes them shining examples. Various traits serve as the basis for qualifying employees to be considered for the award.

Premier Employee awards are presented twice a year, at the Annual Founders Day Celebration held at the

end of May, and again at the Annual Christmas Program in December.

The Premier Employee Program serves to recognize exemplary employees as role models for others to emulate. Employees are nominated by their supervisors, and those chosen are awarded a shirt monogrammed with the Marbridge logo. Each employee also receives a certificate of commendation

and a time-off pass redeemable for eight hours off with pay.

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

Congratulations to our Premier Employees who were recognized in December 2014!

Tiffany Cochran - As the Administrative Assistant at The Village, Tiffany is often the first point of contact for residents, families, guests and vendors.



Her JOYFUL attitude contributes to making a wonderful first impression. The residents and staff benefit from her PATIENT personality as she handles the shifting needs each day with ease. Whether singing or dancing or telling a joke, we all benefit from her JOYFULNESS and PATIENCE.

Jimmie has been consistently RELIABLE over his 10 years at Marbridge. His loyalty and commitment to residents is witnessed every day. His courteous manner, thorough care and supportive character are invaluable!

Holly Hall - For the past 7 years, Holly Hall, LVN, has been a FAITHFUL advocate for our residents at The Villa. She is dedicated to providing quality care with COMPASSION for our residents. She is a TEAM PLAYER, willing to step in on any shift when needed.



Gloria Hayes - Gloria is ATTENTIVE and CONSIDERATE in her role as Cook at The Villa, always thinking of the residents and their safety first. She is dedicated and offers assistance whenever possible. Her cooking experience has been a great benefit to Marbridge.



Jeff Hess - Jeff joined Marbridge in early 2014, and his PATIENCE is evident in all he does. He also is DEPENDABLE and assists in whatever



needs are present. As a shift supervisor at The Ranch, his ORDERLINESS benefits the staff and the residents as he plans for the next day before his shift ends and carries a book of checklists to make sure nothing is overlooked or unattended.

Candace Often - As the Assistant Director of The Village, Candace takes INITIATIVE to ensure all Village employees are properly trained and empowered to make decisions that model our core values. She exhibits DEDICATION by making sure she does her job well and puts the residents ahead of herself. She is a DEPENDABLE employee who follows through on plans.



Toni Shelby - As a Resident Trainer on weekends, Toni is ATTENTIVE to our residents by coming up with individual strategies to support their needs. Toni is also NURTURING because she is protective of our residents and strives to ensure their comfort and safety.



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Marbridge

A Whole New Life

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On the cover:

Residents and staff celebrate in front of Victory Hall. Photo captured by Michelle Tucker Photography, www.michelletuckerphotography.com.

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

Marbridge provides a broad spectrum of services designed to meet each individual's specific needs through three distinct care centers—The Village, The Ranch and The Villa—each providing a different level of lifestyle support, guidance and supervision.

Join us for Marbridge Summer Camp!

Additional weekly sessions added this year, but spaces won't last long. Sign up today!



Swimming

Horseback Riding

Arts, crafts, music, games

Sports

Community outings



Contact Barbara Bush: 512.282.1144
www.marbridge.org/summer-camp