



# DO THE MOST GOOD

— Giving Thanks by Giving to Others —

Thanksgiving is a national holiday that began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and the preceding year. This year at MARC, we wanted to give everyone the opportunity to show their thanks by *Doing the Most Good* in the community with \$500. Each program gathered ideas from staff and clients,

and together they chose how and when to *Do the Most Good*. It was truly heartwarming to see the creativity and themes that were apparent across MARC, especially for children and animals. We hope you will enjoy reading and seeing the joy everyone experienced in their quest to *Do the Most Good*!



## MARC ADMIN

*After much soul searching, the Administration team picked Dane County's Diamond Dogs Rescue.*

Diamond Dogs Rescue rescues dogs from all over the country, fosters them, prepares them to be adopted and places them in families in Dane County. Several of the MARC therapy dogs have come through Diamond Dogs.

MARC clients and staff went shopping for items for "welcome home" bags for the dogs coming to Dane County and the families adopting the dogs. The "welcome home" bags include dog treats, blankets and toys.

Clients assembled the "welcome home" bags at MARC and began distributing them in November when groups of dogs arrived from the South. The goal is to make this an annual project to give back to our community.

# MARC EAST

MARC East staff and clients decided to *Do the Most Good* for Heartland Farm Sanctuary in Verona, Wisconsin.



A group of MARC East staff and clients made a trip to Costco to buy essentials for the animals and staff at Heartland Farm Sanctuary (HFS), including flashlights, paper towels and canned pumpkin. MARC also asked for donations of clean, gently-used blankets for the animals. Another MARC group

took the remaining monetary donation and the supplies to HFS. MARC East has made a good connection in the community through this project. (Check out the programs HFS offers individuals with disabilities listed on its website.) HFS has offered MARC East clients the opportunity to visit again.



# MARC MT HOREB

**MARC Mt Horeb is happy to say that it was able to give back to the local Giving Tree that has provided MARC clients so much over the last 20 years.**

Each year, MARC Mt Horeb hosts a Christmas party where everyone makes gingerbread houses, does crafts, and enjoys a lunch and DJ. The most important part of the day is the opening of PRESENTS. Over the years, the Giving Tree has fulfilled so many of the cli-

ents' Christmas wishes that staff and clients voted to give back to them.

MARC Mt Horeb staff and clients went to the local grocery store, Chamber of Commerce and banks and picked multiple gift tags off the giving trees. The clients and staff are beyond excited to *Do the Most Good* for an organization that has given MARC Mt Horeb so much over many years.

# MARC SOUTH & RAC

**After considering a variety of wonderful organizations, a vote was taken and Briarpatch Youth Services and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) were chosen.** The South program took clients shopping for supplies for Briarpatch Youth Services, a shelter for homeless and runaway youth. RAC will gather supplies for DAIS. DAIS' greatest need is personal care supplies for its shelter residents. Both programs will personally deliver the collected supplies to their respective shelter. *Do the Most Good* has been a grand opportunity for MARC to give back to those in need in the Madison area.







# MARC STOUGHTON

The MARC–Stoughton clients and staff submitted their entries into the “idea box” for selection of the top three most popular ideas. After tabulation, the result of the vote was to support Country Animal Haven.

Country Animal Haven (CAH) has been owned and operated by Mary Gunderson for 20 years, with the help of many willing volunteers. CAH is a no-kill rescue for primarily cats/kittens, though no animal is turned away, but thoughtfully redirected to other resources. Mary has shared her passion and care for the cats with the clients attending MARC–Stoughton through many welcomed visits, kitty blanket making activities and some pet-care training.

CAH serves 300–500 cats/kittens annually. The animals are provided not only shelter and food but also any medical needs and foster care to ensure many happy “forever home” placements. Mary will use the donation to purchase vaccines, medications, spay/neuter services, food and other provisions to care for our new furry friends.



## MARC WEST

**MARC West is *Doing the Most Good* with Verona’s Badger Prairie Needs Network.** MARC West is helping secure donations from businesses that may not know where they can take perfectly good food, so it does not end up in a landfill and so it can help those in need. Clients and staff will purchase and package personal care items, help wrap birthday gifts for the children who visit the pantry—every child who uses the pantry receives a birthday gift—obtain kitchen

prep items such as foil pans and pack grocery bags, so food can be transported to Dane County pantries.

MARC West clients and staff loaded carts with Thanksgiving meals and groceries for families and then loaded the food into the families’ vehicles. On a future date, MARC West will deliver personal hygiene kits, and Christmas gifts will be delivered to children of the families that BPNN serves.



# MARC RES

Staff and clients were very excited to learn about the *Do the Most Good* grant.

After brainstorming, it was decided that the grant money should go to giving back to the school system because of MARC's connection to the school district through our Project Search program. After reaching out to a few schools, RES settled on the Aldo Leopold Elementary School. A major reason this school was chosen was that it is one of two schools in the district that follows the "Community School Strategy." This means that the Leopold school focuses on empowering all members of a diverse community to be agents of change, and we at MARC couldn't agree more with its mission.

After speaking with a social worker at Leopold Elementary School, it was determined that the grant money would best be used by providing clothing. Staff and clients went shopping, packed the clothes into gift bags and presented the gift bags to the school. Everyone involved had a wonderful time, and the clients especially loved giving back to the Madison community.



This is a picture of the largest team the Ovarian Cancer Walk has ever had. We walked in memory of Jamie Gulseth, previous RES Program Director, whom we lost to ovarian cancer in May 2018. We are grateful for the years we had with Jamie and want to help find a cure for this "silent killer."



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