



MARC MATTERS

JULY
2020

WE ARE *so happy* TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN!

Jon, featured in the photo above, is the oldest person who attends our MARC East program. We recently received a call from Jon's staff asking when he could return to the program. We had originally planned for Jon to return later due to his age, but accommodated him when his staff and family insisted that his quality of life was suffering without his routine at MARC. Jon, like many MARC individuals, appears very happy to see all

his peers and the MARC East staff he has known for years. He has had the opportunity to get outside on walks, play frisbee, water the garden and participate in small group activities throughout his day, while physical distancing and wearing a mask! He initially started three days a week but has ALREADY made the decision to return to his normal five days per week schedule. Welcome back, Jon and our entire MARC family!!!

WORK SPOTLIGHT: 1901 INDUSTRIES

MARC East is proud to feature 1901 Industries, where four individuals work: Doug, Lori, Daniel, and Richard. At 1901, they do a wide variety of janitorial tasks: vacuum, clean bathrooms, trash removal, and clean break rooms and tables. They take great pride in their work. Safety is a primary concern—everyone wears masks at work, and all of the other employees enjoy having them back on the job!



With Gratitude

MARC would like to send out a big "Thank You" to all the MARC families and friends who donated their stimulus payment to MARC. It is such a thoughtful gesture that is greatly appreciated during these unprecedented economic times!

If you would like to make a donation to MARC, please visit our website www.marc-inc.org or you can call Karen Hansen at 608-223-9100 ext. 10.



A Note from THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUZANNE HANSON

Our MARC team is excited to be making great progress with our new normal!

MARC opened its doors again on May 26th for extensive staff training. Staff were excited to be back and to get the buildings ready for individuals to return on June 1st for individuals in Phase 1. MARC management spent the month of May developing protocols to address many areas of safety across MARC. The safety protocols are for:

- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) masks, gloves, face shields, aprons, safety glasses;
- Sanitization "Sani" Stations and entries to buildings, including screening procedures for entering MARC buildings;
- Building protocols to include physical distancing, groups, no visitors, and cleaning multiple times a day. We are asking individuals attending MARC to only bring essential items and to bring lunches that can be kept with them in their group;
- Signage for hallway directions, physical distancing, hand washing, etc.;
- Protocols for when someone is not feeling well or has a temperature;
- Protocols for assistance with eating, in the bathroom, and use of lifts;
- Vehicle use and sanitization; and
- Human Resources.

MARC's goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy! MARC staff are required to wear masks when in MARC buildings and when providing services. Individuals who attend MARC are encouraged to wear masks, but are not required. We know that things are different now, so we are providing a lot of training, reminders, and encouragement to follow all of the new protocols. Please feel free to contact your Program Director if you have questions about procedures at your specific program.

3 Phases OF MARC REOPENING

PHASE 1 – Started June 1st, individuals who are able to respect physical distancing requirements within available supervision ratios, able to remain in the requested groups and physical spaces, and who are able to give others their personal space and allow others to wear PPE were encouraged to return.

PHASE 2 – Started July 13th, individuals who can respect physical distancing requirements with increased supervision were encouraged to return. This includes individuals who will remain in the requested groups and physical spaces the majority of the time, or will go with staff outside. Individuals who, with more redirection, are able to give others their personal space and allow others to wear PPE.

PHASE 3 – Scheduled mid-August and later, individuals who are not easily redirectable and able to respect physical distancing requirements as well as remain in designated spaces and who touch/hug others, and would find it challenging to wear or allow others to wear PPE.

If you have any questions about which phase you, or someone you care for, are in, please call the Program Director for your location.



PROGRAM UPDATES

The goal across MARC is to *keep everyone safe.*

MARC STOUGHTON

As we know, time moves on, but sometimes differently. June 1st brought the return of 15 individuals back to MARC Stoughton. We were all very excited to “see” each other and eager to spend time together. We make extra effort to follow safety protocols and guidelines to stay healthy, as we enjoy a daily schedule that is full of active and relaxing activities and choices. On Tuesday, June 30th, we had a day-long trip to LaFollette park for a scavenger hunt, to play horse-shoes and BINGO, eat lunch, and relax in the summer breeze. Ahhhh!!!



MARC RAC/SOUTH

MARC RAC/South have been enjoying the quaint park area next door with walks, watching the geese and fishing. When the weather does not cooperate, we are keeping busy inside with crafts, card games, ball toss and many other activities. We continue to be creative in our activities and will always serve individuals in a fun, safe and caring environment.



Serving individuals in a **fun, safe and caring environment**

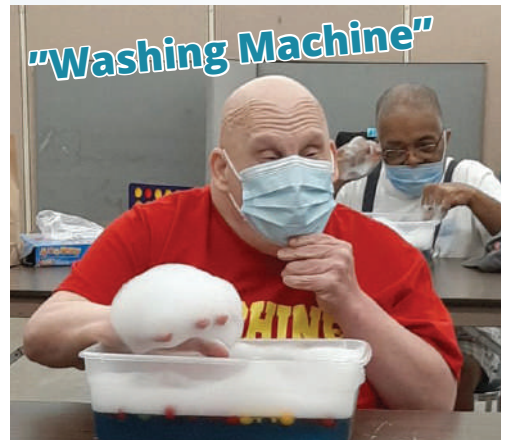
MARC MT HOREB



In Mt Horeb we have been keeping busy with many different activities! We decorated for 4th of July, making sure our donated flowers and tomato plants are watered each day and working on our contract work. Everyone is so happy to be back at MARC Mt Horeb and enjoying our time together.

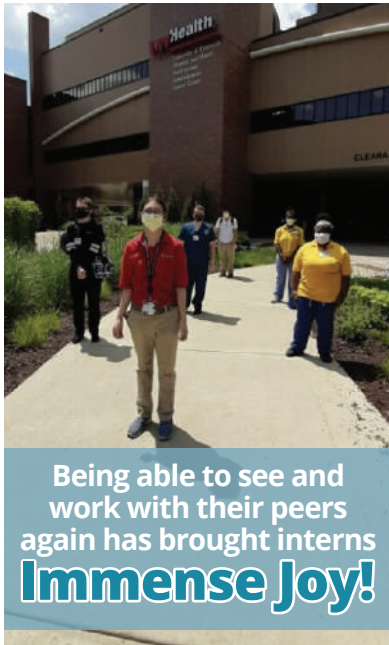
Currently Mt Horeb has two separate areas that assist with physical distancing. Both areas are having a decorating competition. In two weeks, three judges will award the “best decorated area.” We are excited to add our third group in August, to have an even bigger competition.

MARC WEST



Lee had a wonderful time learning proper hand washing techniques during Skills Academy activity time. His nickname is “Machine”, which he typically goes by rather than Lee. I hope you enjoy this “Washing Machine” picture as much as we did.

MARC RES



PROJECT SEARCH UPDATE

Due to the new regulations and protocols at the UW and Veterans hospitals where Project Search is located, RES staff along with the Madison School District have been working hard to develop creative solutions. Over the course of the Safer at Home Order, RES staff virtually connected with interns to provide services and offer a friendly ear. Interns returned July 1st for a combination of in-person and virtual services. RES and PS staff can not wait to see each other again and assist in their transition out of high school and into employment.

RES UPDATE

RES's Walgreens crew was fortunate to return to work at the start of June. Being able to see and work with their peers again has brought them immense joy. While navigating through the pandemic has brought alterations to everyone's daily lives, individuals working at Walgreens have adjusted well to all the changes. They have expressed that they are "so happy to have their routine back" and that they are "happy to see friends again." It has been wonderful to see just how much Supported Employment means to individuals, and we can't wait for more job sites to open back up so more individuals can return to work.

MARC EAST

MARC East staff and individuals supported at East have been enjoying seeing their friends return over the past few weeks. The building is coming alive with the small groups playing balloon volleyball, flying kites, crafts, bingo, listening to music, and walks on the path. Others enjoy three-wheeled bike rides, swinging and just getting outdoor for some vitamin D and fresh air. A few groups went on a van ride for a change of scenery. Some job sites have opened, and individuals have been given huge welcomes by their co-workers. They are so happy to see them again.

Staff have used technology to connect to individuals who are at MARC East, but in different small groups, by using the Messenger app to video chat from room to room. This activity almost brought one individual to tears because he was so excited to see who else was at MARC East. The transition is going very well, and we look forward to seeing more individuals return soon!

All staff have been wearing masks and most individuals supported by MARC have. Physical distancing has been going well too! The goal across MARC is to keep everyone safe.



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