

Marbridge

Learn ▶ Experience ▶ Achieve

LIFE

the root of

# NEW BEGINNINGS



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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



## A LEGACY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

*By James Stacey, President of Marbridge*

In 1953, Ed and Marge Bridges made a decision that ignited a vision to change lives. For years, they had been told by experts that their son, Jim, could not lead a productive life or contribute to society due to his cognitive disabilities. But they would not accept this common thinking. Life experiences had revealed that Jim could learn a skill and change a behavior, and they trusted that God had a plan for Jim. The Bridges set out on a new beginning for Jim and others like him, buying land and starting a farm where individuals could learn, experience and achieve a new life. Six decades later, the Bridges' vision for new beginnings has expanded into new beginnings for the 250 residents living at Marbridge today.

Furthering the Bridges' vision is an honor and an inspiration. We have faith that anyone who spends time with our mission will have a changed perspective and will see God's hand continuing to work on our campus. From updating aging buildings to expanding services and redefining programs, the goal is to perpetuate the Marbridge vision for decades to come.

Victory Hall is a beautiful new building, but it's not about the building. This much needed campus change opens the doors for new wellness opportunities. It provides dedicated space for Bible study and drama classes where individuals can grow spiritually and emotionally. Staff have their own offices where they create curriculum and programs to support our residents. The new building provides enhanced space and audio for the annual Executive Leadership Symposium, the Founder's Day celebration, the World of Opportunities expo, the Sports Banquet and our Christmas Program, allowing the Marbridge mission to touch the lives of even more people.

The Enrichment Center at The Villa represents more than just a new building. Now, residents have a permanent living room to play dominoes, watch movies and do crafts. With this addition came the Sensorium at The Villa which has been very effective in providing multi-sensory stimulation and anxiety therapy without the need of medication assistance.

With compassion and faith, our campus embraces the Bridges' vision to provide transitional and lifetime care so our residents with a range of cognitive abilities can lead a purposeful life. Decades later, we are thankful that the Bridges' legacy of new beginnings continues to resonate throughout the community and receive God's blessing.



Ed Bridges wrote "A Hand on Their Shoulder" which defined a new vision for adults in intellectual disabilities. This vision stands as the foundation for the Marbridge mission.



Instructors Mark Knox, Chris Terborg and Jesse Russell teach life skills through the Marbridge Horticulture and Garden Program.



**G**ardening and Horticulture are key programs at Marbridge, rooted in its history and still present today. Learning how to grow and care for the world around us develops life skills to care for one's self and others. "Gardening mirrors life—there are successes and failures. Things don't always go as planned, and we can't control everything. We enjoy the successes and learn from the failures," said Mark Knox, Instructor at Marbridge. "It teaches us patience, commitment and teamwork, and provides a sense of accomplishment." Mark took the vegetable garden under his wing in 2007

and was joined by Marbridge Instructor Chris Terborg a few years later to expand the weekly classes so more residents could participate in the program. "The residents grow from the physical tasks like tilling the dirt and using the wheelbarrow. And they reap the natural benefits of being outside, releasing stress, and learning how patience and commitment pay off. Residents see the reward when they are

able to harvest the crop. They enjoy it right here in the garden, or take some back for cooking at their home," said Chris.

Teaming with the Gardening is Horticulture, led by Jesse Russell who originally worked in the Garden Center at Marbridge, supporting resident employees and overseeing the operation. When the center closed in 2006, Jesse began teaching Horticulture classes. His lesson plans help residents learn about all aspects of plants, not just their beauty, but also about their purpose in providing oxygen, food and habitation. "While we interact with the plants through clearing off runners, watering and preparing the soil for seeds, we talk about the role of plants, the time it takes to grow from a seed, and all the important areas of care," said Jesse. "Our greenhouse provides a place of relaxation and conversation that results in inward and outward growth. We make many connections to our own care and the care of these plants." The benefits don't just stop with the residents. With the abundance of vegetables, eggs and plants grown, our staff and volunteers are able to bring home vegetables and eggs to enjoy at home. Its a win-win for our entire family.



Marbridge welcomes a new business partnership with historical roots. It's About Thyme, a garden center currently located nearby, will relocate to our property this year on Bliss Spillar Road across from Marbridge's entrance. Liverpool Football Club will shift from their temporary fields onto permanent fields on the adjacent land, and It's About Thyme will not only rebuild their garden center in this spot, but they will help move Marbridge's old 9K square foot greenhouse to the back of the leased property. "That building was called 'Old greenhouse 14' as it was the 14th building we built at Marbridge," said Chris Winslow, co-owner of It's About Thyme, who is no stranger to Marbridge. After graduating in 1971 from The University of Texas, he also graduated from Marbridge volunteer to full-time employee. "Mr. Bridges hired me to build and run the greenhouse and teach classes. What started as one greenhouse transitioned from harvesting for internal use to wholesale distribution and retail. People would come from all around Central Texas to buy our plants and vegetables," recalled Chris.

Chris managed 40 resident employees who were responsible for daily horticulture chores and helping customers with plant purchases. He also led 4 daily classes, teaching very similar skills that are still taught today. "In 1998, I moved on from Marbridge to work with my wife when her small business, It's About Thyme, grew out of the backyard into wholesale and retail sales. To come full circle to Marbridge in this new way is just magical. We're looking forward to working with the residents and being a part of the Marbridge mission once again," summarized Chris.

Transitions will begin after permitting is completed. "This wonderful partnership will provide volunteer and employment opportunities for our residents and additional revenue for Marbridge to help continue our vision of a self-sustaining future," said Scott McAvoy, Vice President of Operations.

# TRAINING & EDUCATION AT MARBRIDGE



\*CHART DESCRIBING ABILITY-CENTERED TRAINING ABOVE CREDITED TO HOWARD GARDNER, PH.D., PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

“I have been to other places, schools, colleges, training classes and all they focused on was what I can’t do. When I came to Marbridge the focus was on what I could do.” - Amy K.

The new beginning sparked by Ed Bridges stands at the foundation of the Marbridge Training & Education program today. Based on the Theory of Multiple Intelligences developed by Howard Gardner, Ph.D., Professor of Education at Harvard University, our customized training and educational program is known as the Life Options program at Marbridge and is available to residents living at The Ranch and The Village. It is built on the expectation that each resident is able, and our job is to find out where their abilities and potential lie. We design our training to help residents develop their strengths and increase their skills which, in return, helps build their confidence and encourages them to try new things.

For 2016, we have expanded training to 160 opportunities and will continue enhancing curriculum each fall, spring and summer. Training options are available Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8:30am and 4:15pm with some evening opportunities. Unlike traditional education, we do not provide grades or graduations. Instead, we continue to support the individual through a variety of classes, social opportunities, connections and education. Some classes, such as cooking and public transportation, can be mastered at which point we encourage the individual to try a different offering. All residents are encouraged to take exercise classes, join a sports team and try something they may never have tried before, such as ceramics, gardening or drum therapy.

During the admissions process, candidates for admissions and their families discuss their interests and goals for the future. Potential residents will have a variety of interests and be willing and able to follow a set schedule. The personality of the resident, interests and abilities are all considered before an optimal individualized training schedule is prepared.

## MUSIC SMART

Choir, Music Therapy, Drum Therapy, Band

## BODY SMART

Cardio, Equine, Washers, Walking, Yoga, Shape-Up, Exercise Games, Elder Sports, Weights, Employment, Special Olympics Sports

## PEOPLE SMART

Email & Letter Writing, Bible Study, Employment, Skills for Life, Mentoring another resident, Speaking at a JAM session, Being a Global Messenger for Special Olympics, Playing on a sports team

## WORD SMART

Geography, Academic Skills Improvement, Email & Letter Writing, Bible Study, Reading

## LOGIC SMART

Computer/Email, Mind Games, Employment, Money Management, Cooking, Art Games, Public Transportation, Academic Skills Improvement

## NATURE SMART

Fishing, Equine, Animal Planet, Gardening, Horticulture, Archery

## ONE NEW BEGINNING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Marbridge resident Leon Kidd knows a lot about new beginnings. age twelve, Sharon and Tommy Kidd adopted Leon and his siblings. Leon was supported through high school by his new family, and after graduating in May 2014, Leon found his days unproductive as there was not much for him to do in the small town of Gonzales, Texas. So Sharon and Tommy started their search for his next step, ultimately finding Marbridge.



When he first moved to Marbridge in November 2014, Leon didn't engage in the activities or speak in class. However, as Leon's trust and comfort level with the staff grew, he began talking more and trying new things. Leon's daily living skills and level of responsibility grew so quickly that he was moved from The Ranch to The Village in a very short time. Leon overcame his reluctance to try new things in cooking class, and his newfound cooking skills have given him the ability to do even more for himself. "He can chop anything and is eager to help with anything I challenge him with. Leon is an eager and vibrant resident who has grown so much," says Lauren Butera, Instructor.

While achieving increased independence, Leon's personal goals included getting a job. He worked an on-campus job most of 2015, and in early 2016, Leon started a full-time job off-campus at ATI Security with an arrival time of 5am. This early wake-up call challenged Leon, but because he was committed to being a reliable and valuable employee, he wanted to find the solution. So Leon worked with Marbridge staff and made the decision to shut down technology early and limit his evening socializing in order to have plenty of rest for not just his early start to the day, but also in order to maintain a good work ethic in his classes and athletic commitments. Learning this balance is difficult for most anyone, but Leon has it mastered. This was a "hard choice for a young and socially engaged young adult, but Leon did it because this new beginning was so important to him," said Rhonda Bonavita, Employment Coordinator.



Leon has embraced the opportunities at Marbridge to not only realize his own goals but to rise up as a role model to others. Coach Jennifer Diaz proclaims Leon to be a "model citizen and inspiration." With one success after another, Leon has hit the ground running on the road to learning, experiencing and achieving a whole new life.

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Leon received "Best New On-Campus Employee Award" at the Founders Day celebration in May 2015, awarded by Director of The Ranch, James Brandon, and Assistant Director of The Ranch, Mary Jane Powers. The next month, Leon moved to The Village.

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# Finding her VOICE

**R**aised on a dairy farm in Dublin, Texas, Ellen has an instinctual ability to care for anything furry in the field and find adventure. “When she is home, she hops on the gator and rides out to help feed the calves,” said her mom, Linda. “She started on a battery-powered mini-jeep in her pajamas and hasn’t stopped. She loves riding anything—from the gator to the tractor pull, nothing stops her.”

When Ellen moved to Marbridge two years ago, her kindness toward animals moved right in with her. She naturally took to the equestrian classes, but caring for her own self and personal living area were new responsibilities that proved challenging. Additionally, she was timid in her new surroundings and insecure with verbal skills so communicating her needs was limited. “I knew Ellen had the ability to care for herself more independently. We worked together to develop the skills needed to complete Daily Living responsibilities, such as making her bed every day, consistency in bringing clothes to laundry and more. Soon enough, she was reliably completing these duties without assistance,” said Denise Mosel, Resident Trainer. “As she grew personally, we also saw her adventurous personality come out and Ellen began talking more, engaging in conversations with staff and connecting socially.”

As her confidence grew, Ellen got involved in any and every activity. “Ellen’s helpful and respectful attitude is a welcomed presence at athletic competitions where she displays great sportsmanship no matter where she places. She helps others prepare for events,” said Coach Jennifer Diaz. “We’ve seen such a change in her ability to advocate for herself. She does so with respect and confidence.” Ellen’s mom bears witness to that same reflection. “We have seen the biggest change in her vocabulary and her ability to express herself.”

Ellen continues to push herself in other areas. Her commitment to wellness has resulted in weight loss of almost 20 pounds, and her goal to read means starting at recognizing letters with the support of Becky, her volunteer mentor. “Her smile welcomes me every time. We play customized letter and word recognition games, and almost always end with a round of Uno.”

Ellen’s development and growth are a wonderful testimony to her abilities, and we’re happy to support her along her adventure.

Nothing stops Ellen from seizing each opportunity to share a smile. Top to bottom: Medal time at Special Olympics Bowling. Ladies Makeover event with the Oak Leaves. Ellen in her room with her weekly schedule.

# 45 Years At Marbridge

## Well-Lived and Well-Loved

When Clifford Johnson moved into Marbridge in 1971 at the age of sixteen, his family hoped he could begin a life filled with purpose and joy. His young years were filled with one obstacle after another. At birth, Clifford was declared stillborn and was resuscitated by the medical team. However, the traumatic entrance into the world resulted in brain damage. Clifford was also born with a cleft palate and severely damaged feet. Clifford endured many operations his first few years of life and slowly overcame each battle one-by-one.

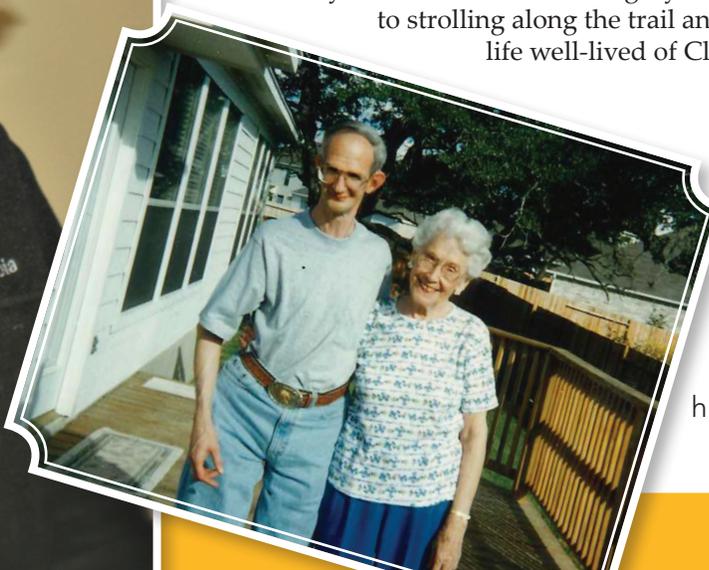
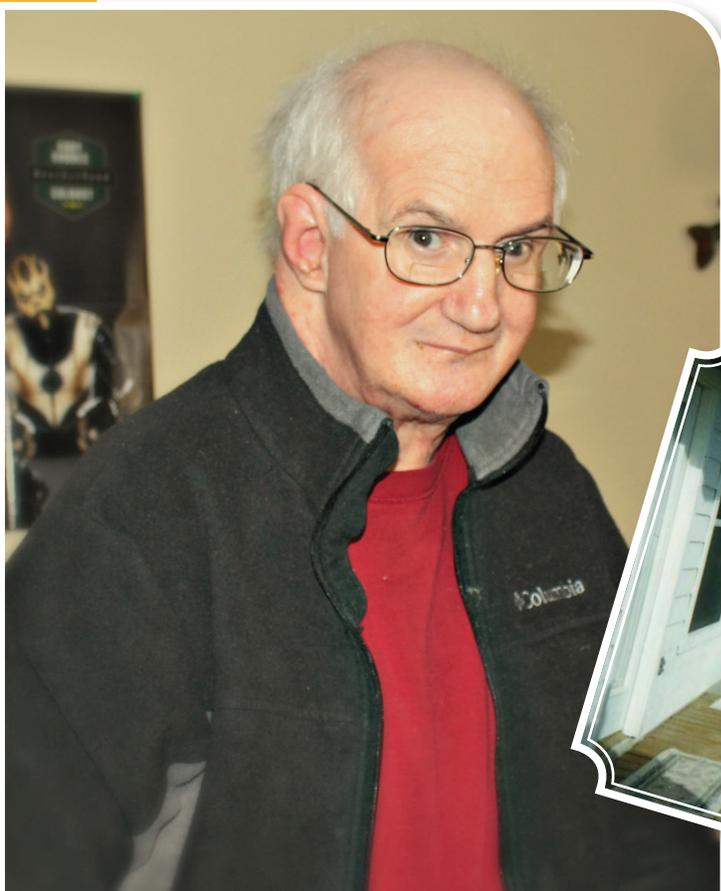
As he entered into the public school system, Clifford faced a new set of challenges. He didn't adapt to school like the other children. His parents, Horace and Gladys, faced issues unimaginable to other parents. With limited resources at the time, they were unsure how to provide a quality life for their son. When Clifford was no longer able to attend public school, Horace and Gladys learned of Marbridge and determined that this would be a place where Clifford would have a chance to thrive.

After settling into his new environment at Marbridge, Clifford began his first job on the housekeeping staff, one of the limited job opportunities Marbridge offered in the 70's. His job taught him life skills such as the importance of being dependable and how to work as a team. Tenured Marbridge employee Mary Willie, who has known Clifford since he was a young man, talks about how "Clifford benefited from the structure and routine he found at Marbridge." The skills he learned at Marbridge ultimately led him to a job at the state capitol—one he held for many years.

As he grew older, Clifford's health challenges resulted in a move from The Ranch to The Villa for more focused medical attention. He currently suffers from diabetes resulting in severe damage to the nerves in his feet. At one point, he faced amputation due to the severity. But once again, Clifford triumphed. By working with his medical experts, Clifford was able to better manage his diabetes and is now able to walk again with assistance.

Today, Clifford is 62 years old and has resided at Marbridge for 45 years. If you wander into The Villa, you will find Clifford enjoying reruns of *The Andy Griffith Show* and using his walker to join the rest of the residents in the dining room for meals. "I know Clifford enjoys church on Sundays and was excited by the new Enrichment Center at The Villa. My parents both worked their entire lives so that Clifford could live at Marbridge. While they have both passed on, their love for Clifford remains. I know they are thankful for all the years of training, compassion and care Clifford has received," said Clark Johnson, Clifford's brother.

The Johnson siblings placed a permanent bronze leaf on the Tree of Honor and purchased a bench to be placed along the Victory Hall Trail of Honor, a tribute to Horace and Gladys and to Clifford's life legacy. We look forward to strolling along the trail and sharing the life well-lived of Clifford Johnson.



Gladys, Clifford's mom, always enjoyed when he visited home at holidays and for his birthday.

# SPRINGING INTO Independence

In a very short time, Robert Deahl has bloomed at Marbridge, increasing independence, improving communication skills and experiencing the challenges and rewards of working. Expressing interest in the idea of moving to Marbridge after taking a family tour in 2014, Robert attended Marbridge summer camp in July 2015 and returned home ready to make it official. As with each new resident, the individual, family and Marbridge staff work together to identify attainable goals through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting. Robert's top two goals included attaining a job and learning how to use a cell phone.

"ROBERT WAS SO DEPENDENT ON US. BUT WITH THE HEALTH CHALLENGES I FACED LAST YEAR, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE NEEDED TO INCREASE HIS LIFE SKILLS AND INDEPENDENCE," SAID KAY, ROBERT'S MOTHER. "THE FIRST TIME HE TEXTED ME, I ALMOST CRIED. WE'VE SEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN ROBERT'S ABILITY TO ADVOCATE FOR HIMSELF AND COMMUNICATE CLEARLY — ALL AREAS THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT TO US."

Robert quickly transitioned into the activities at Marbridge, attending classes and participating in anything athletic. Within his first few months, he earned 2nd place in Bowling in Special Olympics. During that time, he started Job Skills Training and the Marbridge Employment Coordinators identified a well-suited opportunity for first-time employment. They supported Robert as he transitioned into a job in the kitchen at The Ranch, responsible for cleaning pots and pans. After a few months, Robert grew dissatisfied with the job and hoped for something else.

"HE CALLED ME AND SHARED HOW HE FELT — ANOTHER AMAZING MOMENT OF GROWTH. DURING OUR CONVERSATION, HE TOOK NOTES ABOUT OUR ADVICE, THE NEED TO CONTINUE HIS EMPLOYMENT AND ALSO EXPRESS THE DESIRE FOR A NEW JOB," CONTINUED KAY (PICTURED BELOW WITH ROBERT AND BROTHER, TIMOTHY, AND TIM, ROBERT'S FATHER.



Robert met with Rhonda Bonavita, Employment Coordinator, where he communicated clearly his hopes for a newer life skill for him. Rhonda encouraged Robert to continue to show reliability and dedication in the current role, while she committed to looking into the role he desired. "Others may have given up, but Robert showed maturity and patience, and continued coming to work reliably with a positive attitude," stated Rhonda. "He handled it very professionally and moved into his new role in January, busing tables at The Ranch. We see him working diligently with the kitchen staff and have reports that he is doing a fantastic job."

If past experience is an indicator of future performance and growth, we anticipate continued success for Robert and eagerly support him along the journey.





For almost ten years, Project SEARCH at Seton Healthcare Family has offered individualized internships for adults with intellectual disabilities. The program, which first started in Texas as a Marbridge-Seton partnership, focuses on filling a business need while providing each participant the opportunity to develop vocational skills and build professional experience. The ultimate goal is to build a solid foundation of professional experience setting up the individual for future possible employment. Many Marbridge residents have successfully completed the program and nine are still employed today. TJ Duke (left) and Andrew Meaux (right) were awarded the opportunity and daily experiences



learning hospital protocol, navigating the Seton Hays campus, training in Pre-op/PACU/Pharmacy and general classroom instruction. Congratulations to you both, and we look forward to hearing about your successes and experiences.

# Congratulations!

A RESIDENT SINCE 1966, BILL CARNEY HAS EXPERIENCED MANY MILESTONES AT MARBRIDGE. HE HAS LAUNCHED A NEW BEGINNING — INTO RETIREMENT. YET, HIS DEPENDABLE AND HARD-WORKING ATTITUDE HAS NOT. HE GREETES EACH DAY AT 5AM WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM. DILIGENTLY TRAINING FOR THE 400M SPECIAL OLYMPIC TRACK EVENT OR WEEDING IN THE MARBRIDGE GARDEN, HE IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP.



JORDAN BELL CELEBRATED HIS 5TH ANNIVERSARY AT LA MADELEINE THIS SPRING. HE IS KNOWN AS A MODEL EMPLOYEE WHO TAKES INITIATIVE, GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND EXPECTATIONS. HIS GREAT ATTITUDE AND SMILING FACE ARE A WELCOMING PRESENCE AT WORK AND AT MARBRIDGE.

*Now LAUNCHING...*

# Lodges at The Ranch

Miracle  
Opportunities

The next campus transition at Marbridge focuses on the replacement of the Winters Dorm at The Ranch. Built in the late 1950's, this dormitory was home to the first residents of Marbridge. These new living areas will be called the Lodges at The Ranch. They represent an ongoing effort to provide a residential environment that enhances the residents' lives and opens doors to new beginnings.

After in-depth consultation with architects, designers and therapeutic specialists, plans were finalized for the new living areas. The Lodges at The Ranch will reflect a homelike, enriching environment ideally suited for the spectrum of needs served in this area of campus. For example, residents who find loud noise

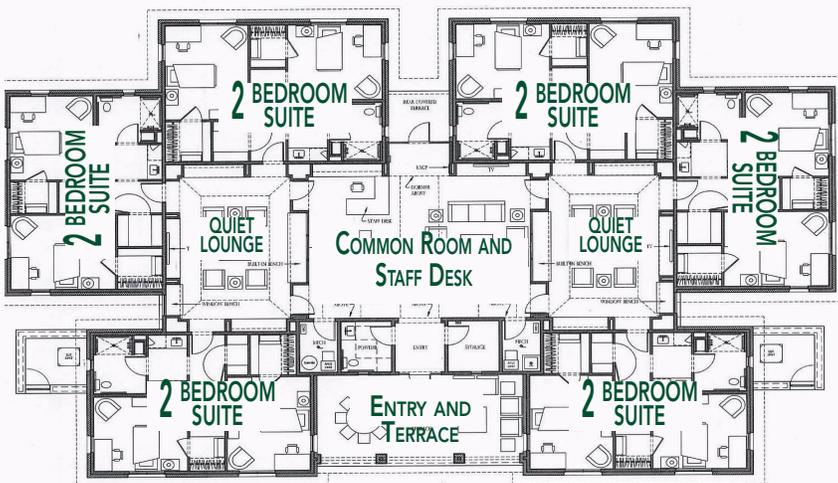
intolerable will have a quiet area to socialize within their comfort level while providing access to neighboring areas that encourage increased socialization. In addition to the new Lodges, the project calls for two new structures for administrative and service opportunities and will be home to Ranch staff offices, a barbershop, a nurses station, meeting rooms, and an enrichment center, providing dedicated space for recreational and instructional activities.

After construction is complete and residents transition into the Lodges, part of the Winters dorm will be re-purposed into a classroom and enrichment space. The current cafeteria area will be transformed into a culinary institute and training center for

residents seeking employment opportunities in the food service industry. This project will create many unique and valuable improvements to Marbridge campus and resident life by making the most of the existing building while elevating the living standards for the residents and the work environment for the staff.

Fundraising efforts are in progress with approximately \$2.5 million received in commitments against the \$7 million needed to fund the Lodges project. Contact Michelle at 512-282-1144 or [mlevy@marbridge.org](mailto:mlevy@marbridge.org) if you are interested in supporting this exciting and much needed campus improvement.

## Marbridge Lodges at The Ranch will provide A Whole New Experience to 12 more residents



**EACH LODGE WILL CONSIST OF 6 SUITES AND INCLUDE A CENTRAL QUIET SPACE, A COMMUNITY SPACE FOR SOCIALIZING AND A SMALL KITCHENETTE.**

Our goal is to break ground in the Fall of 2017, and the project will be divided into two phases. First, complete the residential buildings so the residents can transition into their new homes. Next, construct the enrichment center and administrative services building. Both the residents and the staff of The Ranch are eagerly awaiting the improvements that will result from this new beginning for this area of campus.

- Michelle Levy  
Vice President of Development

# COMPREHENSIVE COMPASSIONATE CARE

AT MARBRIDGE

Marbridge warmly welcomes the medical team from Austin Geriatric Specialists (AGS), a group of health care providers dedicated to providing comprehensive and compassionate care. "With over 25 years of experience, AGS brings medical expertise and skilled care to our campus, rounding out the ability to build independence and wellness to our residents," remarked Scott McAvoy, Vice President of Operations. "Through this partnership, we have added on a full-time advanced practice nurse on-site who is available daily for continued care and unplanned medical issues. In just a short time, we have seen fantastic results, from overall improved wellness to immediate medical care."



"We are excited to partner with these specialists and extend our ability to provide clinical, comprehensive care. They add so much to what we can accomplish daily, broaden the quality of life for our residents and do this with fiscal efficiency," states Duncan Murray, Director of The Villa. "The partnership is just the beginning in a culture of quality at The Villa and across the campus."

Dr. Liam Fry (pictured above, far left), MD, CMD, FACP, is recognized as an expert in her field and is well-known in the community for her excellence in research-based, data-driven care. She will serve as the campus medical director, providing guidance for all medical and clinical needs. Known casually on campus as "Dr. Z", Dr. Jennifer Ziedonis (pictured above, far right), MD, visits campus weekly serving as the attending physician. Michelle Coffey (pictured above center), ACNS, RN, serves on-site daily as the Marbridge advanced practice nurse, attending to the daily medical care of residents.



In between appointments, you'll find Michelle Coffey, ACNS, RN, sharing smiles and pausing to visit in the hallways of The Villa.

# FULL CIRCLE

Over a decade ago, Gary Schutze retired from his 27 years at the Austin Fire Department where he spent the majority of his career as a lieutenant for one of the busiest stations in Austin. But before his career launched serving the city, Gary was serving the residents of Marbridge. Gary worked as a Resident Trainer/Instructor at Marbridge over 40 years ago. "My title was something else at that time, and I led a Personal Social Adjustment group. My favorite part of the day was teaching the guys to ride and care for the horses," said Gary.

Once retired, Gary enjoyed his free time away from the rigorous and dangerous career he held. Gary volunteered at a variety of opportunities, but he always had a special place in his heart for Marbridge. Years ago, Gary prompted his daughter, Rhonda, to look for an opportunity at Marbridge because he knew it would be a good fit. "And he was absolutely right," states Rhonda Bonavita, Employment Coordinator at Marbridge. After the many years Gary worked hard doing a dangerous job serving the city, his retirement brought precious new free time and, we're pleased to have him circle back, serving the residents and mission of Marbridge. Rhonda continued, "Now that he's back with the residents and horses, I bet he'll be here until he just can't physically do it any longer."

Volunteer Gary Schutze assists in Equine twice per week. "He's an excellent role model for the residents, and always has a calm, positive attitude, listening to their stories while helping them stay on task. He jumps right into whatever needs to be done, and notices things we need for the program, such as replacement grooming tools, and then provides the funds. I am privileged to have Gary out here with us."

- Shonda Corn, Equine Coordinator.



CONTACT HALEY KOOP TO  
GET INVOLVED TODAY!

512-282-1144  
hkoop@marbridge.org

FROM COMPANIONSHIP TO GARDENING, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!  
MARBRIDGE RESIDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM YOUR TIME, TALENTS, AND SERVICES, AND WE'D BE PRETTY SURPRISED IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE FUN IN THE PROCESS. AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME IS A GIFT AND AN ONGOING COMMITMENT IS WONDERFUL.

Many years ago, Jerry Nicholson was introduced to Marbridge through a previous employer. "I fell in love with Marbridge the first day

I walked on campus," said Jerry. When a job opening came available, he jumped at the opportunity. "It was more than a job to me – it was a ministry. I loved interacting with everyone and learning about their stories," Jerry reflected. During his 18 years as a Marbridge staff member, he helped with events for the Special Olympics and developed a special bond with the athletes. "Softball was my

game. I pitched for the Unified team for many years and looked forward to the events," he continued. Upon retiring from Marbridge, Jerry wasn't yet willing to retire his softball gear nor his love for the Marbridge athletes. He currently coaches one of the softball teams with his wife, Connie, and also assists with whatever sport needs a helping hand. From bowling to basketball, football to track, Jerry's passion and care for Marbridge is present on the field, the court, the track and everywhere he goes.

Volunteer Jerry Nicholson champions Robert Deahl and Hudson England at the Special Olympics bowling competition.



When Jerry went to work for Marbridge, Connie was also working full-time in Austin. It didn't take long for Jerry's passion to rope her into volunteering at Marbridge. "In the beginning, I would take vacation

time and go to the Special Olympics Fall Classic. Soon I began helping with swimming, and I have so many fond stories from those memories," reflected Connie. Connie retired from working her full-time job to spend more time with her grandson, Bryce, but once he started pre-school, Connie jumped back into serving at Marbridge. "I got more involved with mentoring, town trips and Special Olympics again, becoming a softball co-coach which I loved," stated Connie. Nowadays, you'll find her out in the equestrian area after an opportunity to assist at an equine event opened her eyes to a new passion. "I'm hooked – I love the horses, and I especially love how the residents flourish here," said Connie. "I cannot imagine life without my family at Marbridge."

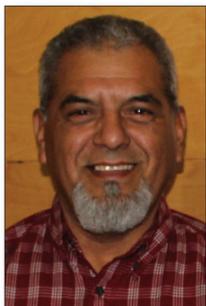


Volunteer Connie Nicholson and equine athlete, Audrey Andrews, prepare for training. Connie also volunteers as a mentor to Audrey.

## GOLD MEDAL VOLUNTEERS

# Celebrating Our Own

**Ernesto** brings a **DEPENDABLE** work ethic to each aspect of his job at The Ranch. He completes his tasks in a **TIMELY** manner and performs each responsibility with **THOROUGHNESS** and **QUALITY**. His interaction with the residents shows his **DEDICATION** to his job and his **RESPECT** to their privacy and quality of life.



**Carol's** **JOY** for serving Marbridge is evident in everything she does, from warmly greeting guests to **DILIGENTLY** assisting in a wide range of projects. Her **OPTIMISM** and **CREATIVITY** are contagious, and she is often seen encouraging residents or lending a listening ear. We are extremely grateful to have her on the Marbridge team.



## Premier EMPLOYEES

The Marbridge Premier Employee Program awards employees whose excellent work ethic and positive personal character traits makes them shining examples. These awards are presented twice a year as the Marbridge community gathers to celebrate achievements.

From her first day as a PRN employee at The Village, **Torie** demonstrated her **COMMITMENT** to our

residents and the Marbridge mission. She quickly learned the key components of the job which led her

to full-time employment. Her **CHEERFUL** presence makes residents smile and stay calm, and her **ENERGETIC** enthusiasm is infectious.



The Village counts on **Ron** as a **RELIABLE** team member who prepares delicious meals with consistency and punctuality. His **SKILL** in the kitchen is evident in each meal as the flavors and variety enhance the dining experience at Marbridge. Ron has **LOYALLY** served Marbridge for over 15 years, and we greatly benefit from his **DEPENDABILITY** and **AUTHENTICITY**.



**HARDWORKING** and **HELPFUL** are what **Florenda** is known for at The Villa. During her five years at Marbridge, Flow has proven to be very **CAPABLE** and **RELIABLE** in her role as Cook, and **ATTENTIVE** to special dietary needs.



**Wendy's** **DEDICATED** focus has ensured appropriate and high-level staffing is in place to ensure the best possible care for the residents at The Villa and The Bridges. She **CONSISTENTLY** offers help, finds solutions and exhibits **ORGANIZATION** and **ENTHUSIASM** to her job, the residents and the mission.



**Julia** always offers a **HELPING** hand as a CNA at The Villa. She is **RELIABLE** and **CAPABLE** in times of need and is highly regarded among staff and residents. Her **KINDNESS** is evident in all she does.





**Barbara Prince, LVN** at The Villa, was recognized as the Premier Employee of 2015 at the annual Christmas Program in December. She is not only a **KNOWLEDGEABLE** clinician but also a **WARMHEARTED** presence among the residents and staff. Her **SUPPORTIVE** nature is an essential part of the care provided at The Villa.



As **RELIABLE** as a clock, **Enrique** performs his job as LVN at The Villa with **CONSISTENCY** and **FRIENDLINESS**. He is quick to share a smile, spreading **OPTIMISM** throughout his shift, and is **HELPFUL** in every part of his contribution to the team.



Her **GENUINE** and **COMPASSIONATE** care for residents at The Villa define **Agnes** as a staff member. She is a clear extension of her faith, living **THOUGHTFULLY** and exhibits **KINDNESS** in her interactions with residents and families.

**Jeanie** is a **RELIABLE** team contributor as the Senior Accountant. She showed **DILIGENCE** in correcting and supervising billing errors from a large vendor, assuring the problem was resolved and Marbridge was credited fees. Her **PRODUCTIVE** and **ORGANIZED** character consistently results in accurate and timely financials.



**Tracy** is a respected **TEAM PLAYER** and has shown her **RESOURCEFULNESS** time and time again, solving problems and sorting through issues as they arise.

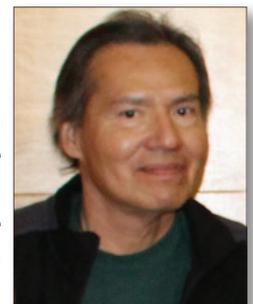


Her **JOY** is evident in all areas, and she is known as someone who loves God and loves people. She is **TIMELY** in all areas of her work at The Ranch.



**Jason** **ENTHUSIASTICALLY** works hard to bring consistency and accountability to The Villa and The Bridges as Director of Nursing. His work ethic is **PERSISTENT** and **RELIABLE** as he willingly contributes long hours to deliver improved quality of life care and apply new methods to ensure quality. His **PASSION** for people and **RELIABILITY** define him as a premier member of the team.

The Village has one of the most **DEPENDABLE**, **DEDICATED** employees on the Marbridge campus. **William** has never missed a scheduled shift, and he **RELIABLY** offers to fill in for others. As a Driver, he is **CONSISTENT** in assisting the residents to their commitments in a timely manner, and his **CALM** presence contributes to his positive, impactful relationships with residents and others on his team.





**Marbridge**  
A Whole New Life

**Marbridge Foundation**

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**Manchaca, Texas 78652**

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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.

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When Ed and Marge Bridges founded Marbridge for their son, Jim, and others with developmental and physical disabilities, their desire was for Marbridge to remain affordable and sustainable for perpetuity.

The cost to provide care for each resident exceeds what we charge a resident to live here. In order to offer an affordable option for families with a loved one with special needs, we strive to fill this gap with corporate gifts, individual donations, grant opportunities and support from those we call our *Miracle Society* Members. While there are several levels of giving, these valuable members commit a minimum of \$1,000 a year (approximately \$83/month) for five years.

If our mission touches your heart and you are interested in learning more about the *Miracle Society*, please contact Michelle Levy at 512-282-1144 or at [mlevy@marbridge.org](mailto:mlevy@marbridge.org). Your *Miracle Society* investment provides long-term benefits to all at Marbridge.