



North Carolina Day on the Hill



Industrial Opportunities, Inc. (IOI) joined MARC, Inc., in sponsoring a “North Carolina Day on the Hill,” at the Capitol in Washington, DC

On Tuesday, May 16, 2017, MARC members from across North Carolina, self-advocates and their family members gathered at the Capitol to educate their members of Congress. During their Day on the Hill, the North Carolina advocates met with seven Members of Congress and legislative staff to tell their stories and express their concerns about current laws and regulations that limit or restrict government supports for services and employment options. Family members and self-advocates expressed strongly the need for legislation that ensured personal choice from an array of options and opportunities.

“MARC members, self-advocates, and families all agreed that the trip to the Capitol was a significant opportunity to have a positive impact for North Carolina’s citizens with a disability that deserve the same choices of where, how, and with whom they work and spend their time as all other citizens do” said Tom O’Brien, President/CEO, Industrial Opportunities, Inc. Andrews, N.C. “We were pleased that Congressman Mark Meadows Chief of Staff, Paul A. Fitzpatrick, Senators Richard Burr’s Chief of Staff, Chris Toppings, and Senator

Thom Tillis Office, Torie Ness, ---took time from their busy schedules to visit with us during our Day on the Hill event. We look forward to working with them in the days ahead, and encourage all self-advocates and families across North Carolina to join us as we work to restore this freedom of choice.

The MARC members also met with Congresswomen/ Congressman Virginia Foxx, Alma Adams, Walter Jones, Ted Budd and David Rouzer.

The contingent from North Carolina offers a special thanks to AC-CSES, a Washington based national association for community rehabilitation programs that hosted the Day on the Hill and their partners, The Porter Group, a team of professional advocates that aligned legislative participation.

MARC and its 16 member organizations are all 501 (c) 3 not for profit organizations. MARC members across North Carolina provide services, supports, vocational development and employment for people with disabilities and disadvantages. For more information about MARC and its members please visit us at

www.marcinc.com.

IOI & NC Vocational Rehabilitation Partners in New Program

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law in July of 2014. It replaced the Workforce Investment Act and was the first legislative reform to the workforce system in over 15 years. The new law coordinated efforts of several state and federal agencies to provide services to both employers and job seekers. Over 20 million people have taken advantage of the services of these various agencies and programs, in recent years to acquire and enhance their employment opportunities.

Industrial Opportunities has been affected by this piece of legislation in a couple of different ways.

Now, all clients must participate in an annual Career Counseling class in order to be eligible to work. This class is taught by local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors that inform clients of their options.

Next, Industrial Opportunities, Inc. was recently awarded a grant contract with the Department of Health and Human Service that will allow IOI to offer a program called (PETS) Pre-Employment Transition Services. PETS are a specific set of activities that are mandated by law to expose students to employment skills and options. IOI will be offering job exploration counseling, workplace readiness training and work-based learning experiences. This will

include students from the six high schools within the surrounding three counties. The intent and target goal is to serve 6 students per semester from each school of the '17-'18 school year. It is with hope this program will continue on after this first initial ‘start up’ year.

During the summer, Industrial Opportunities will be adding and training new staff and developing the curriculum that will be used for PETS.

Students will be chosen to participate in the program by the Exceptional Children’s personnel. The sessions being offered will include: classroom work, which will be onsite at the high school, field-trips to NC Works (employment office) and work sites concluding with 3 hours of paid work experience. The session’s schedule will be coordinated by school personnel to be least intrusive as possible. A typical session will last 1.5 hours. We look forward to what will be a new endeavor for Industrial Opportunities, Inc. and trust this will be a beneficial activity for all students that will be involved. With new laws taking affect and seemingly never ceasing changes, one thing will always hold firm. We at IOI will strive daily to help our participants, both in our facility and out of the facility to reach their full potential in employment.

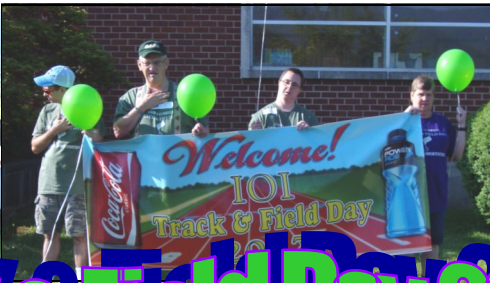
Mission Statement

We believe that individuals have a right to economic opportunity and personal development. The Board of Directors and staff actively incorporate the concept that through meaningful, satisfying work, people are able to live more independently, successfully, and productively. We believe that every individual has the right to respect, equal opportunity and gainful employment.

Visit our website

www.industrialopportunities.com

Track & Field Day 2017



Athletes Medal at State Special Olympics

Samantha Sinclair - Cherokee Scout

While he had participated in Special Olympics since elementary school, this year's N.C. Summer Games was Jordan Chastain's first time competing on the state level. The outgoing Murphy Middle School eighth-grader enjoyed spending time with his friends from other schools, like Dakoda Silvers of Andrews, and making new friends. The most exciting part was getting to stand on the top of the podium to receive his gold medal in the 50-meter walk.

The excitement continued when he returned for the last week of school and was able to show his medal to classmates and teachers.

"They said it looked awesome, and I liked that," Chastain said.

Chastain brought home one of the five gold medals won by Cherokee County athletes at the Games held at N.C. State University in Raleigh the first weekend in June. Eight athletes from Cherokee County competed, and all brought home a medal or ribbon.

"I am always impressed with how well they do. They enjoy each others' company and make new friends all across the state," said Susanne Parker, local coordinator for Special Olympics Cherokee County. "I am so proud of all our athletes because they represent the best of Cherokee County. They trained hard, competed well, and played hard."

In athletics – or track and field – events, Chastain, Silvers and Isaiah Jacobs were the top athletes in their levels, and won medals in every event they tried. In addition to his gold, Chastain also won silver medals in the 25-meter dash and his favorite event, the softball throw. Silvers won a gold medal in the standing long jump and silver medals in the softball throw and 50-meter walk. Jacobs took home one of each medal- gold for the softball throw, silver for the



Local Special Olympians competing at the state competition include (front row, from left) Isaiah Jacobs, Ruby Jones and Jordan Chastain. Back row (from left) are Michael Adams, Cathy Davidson, Dakoda Silvers, Steven Berger, Arlie Jones and Tim Martin.

50-meter dash, and bronze in the 25-meter dash. Katie Erwin was the athletics coach.

Cherokee County had not had bowling for several years, but both athletes excelled. Tim Martin won the gold medal, while Steven Berger took silver. They were coached by Cathy Davidson.

Volleyball skills was the toughest event for our athletes, as there was more competition, said Parker, who coached the sport. Arlie Jones won a fourth-place ribbon, while Ruby Jones won a bronze medal and Michael Adams won a gold medal.

In addition to their events, athletes attended the opening ceremonies, where Gov. Roy Cooper spoke, participated in the Healthy Athletes activities, and enjoyed the dance. They also got to see the variety of sports in which the 1,900 athletes across the state participate.

"I loved it. It was fun getting out there and doing a lot of stuff," Chastain said, adding he'd like to try bocce, volleyball and swimming after seeing those events at the state games. "I wish it could have lasted longer."

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HVO's George Marshall to retire

By Vicki Hyatt, editor
Mountaineer Publishing, Inc.
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After 39 years at Haywood Vocational Opportunities, 35 of them at the helm, George Marshall is retiring.

During his tenure, Marshall transformed the nonprofit organization from operating out of a single building on the campus of Haywood Community College to a multi-building manufacturing business in Hazelwood employing 400 with a payroll nearing \$13 million. "I was indoctrinated by fire when I took the directorship," Marshall recalled. "We were on the HCC campus and the program was going through financial difficulty. The only asset we had was an old truck.

I was first employed in March 1978 and the transition (to executive director) scared me to death."

Fast forward to today, and Marshall said he has loved every minute of his job and has never been bored a single day in his career.

"What I love most is the mission — the impact we have on younger adults who transition out of the school system and are trying to find a vocational place in their life to possibly be gainfully employed or maximize their potential, whatever that is," Despite the continued forward momentum, Marshall said it is time for him to retire.

"It's just time," Marshall said. "I feel we have a good place, good programs, good leadership internally, and it is a good time for me

to exit the building." Marshall stressed he isn't leaving the community and will still be active in all the community programs he's worked with through the years.

Norm Yearick, who is HVO's board chairman, called the organization "one of the best-kept secrets in Haywood County."

HVO is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides vocational training and employment for people with disabilities. Employees manufacture and assemble medical products such as surgical drapes and other disposable medical products.

"George is recognized statewide for his leadership, dedication and for being a stickler to detail in develop-



ing and building his HVO team, one of the best Community Rehabilitation Programs in the state and nation" said Tom O'Brien, President/CEO of Industrial Opportunities, Inc. Marshall will still be working until his retirement date of July 31.

TCCC College & Career Readiness Program Graduation



Always time for a little fun!

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