

WHAT MATTERS

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

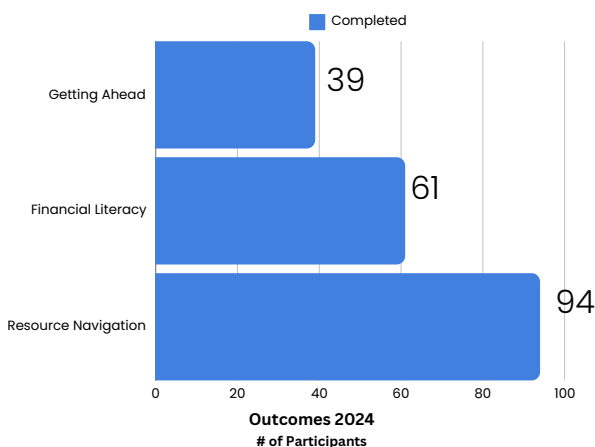
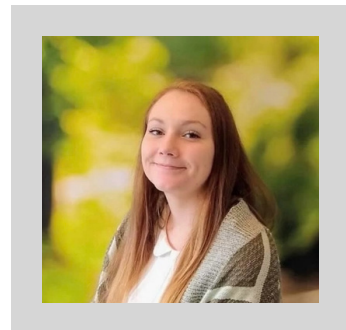


Staff Spotlight

Marissa Wafford

Since completing my bachelor's in criminology, I have been in various advocacy and community services arenas including sexual violence response and prevention roles, child protective services re-unification projects, and disability rights advocacy. Prior to starting at Marion Matters, I worked in a dual role as an abuse and neglect advocate and the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council Facilitator for the Disability Protection & Advocacy (P&A) organization that serves Ohio. My role included abuse/neglect investigations and compliance monitoring mostly. I primarily focused my caseload on youth residential treatment facilities, state psychiatric facilities, and DD providers (state developmental centers, intermittent care facilities). The PAIMI Act is a piece of federal disability legislation centered around people who are disabled by way of mental illness, a group often disenfranchised even within disability rights work. The PAIMI advisory council's role is to provide feedback, updates, and lived-experience driven proposals for improvement or reform to the P&A, with the ultimate goal of improving services and access for mental health services at all levels for Ohioans.

I'm very passionate about community outreach, connections, and education which are major parts of what I'm looking forward to in my role as COG ERN Coordinator/Coach. I bring in an understanding of the system-imposed challenges DD providers experience and I hope that means the ERN expansion for COG region employers will be more comprehensive and beneficial for employers, employees, and the disabled people they serve.



Bridge Loan Success Story

Marion Matters and the North Central Ohio Employer Resource Network® (NCOERN®) partnered with Pillar Credit Union to bring a new opportunity to employees called the Bridge Loan. This small-dollar loan helps credit unions, employers, and other community partners work collaboratively to help hardworking employees meet immediate financial needs and improve individual and family financial stability. Employees working at ERN® businesses within Crawford, Marion, or Morrow Counties have access to this unique opportunity to help with emergent needs, but also build a savings account and their credit score, simultaneously.

"I was in a jam financially, and the people at the employer resource network® and Marion Matters came through for me and my family. They are an amazing group of people. Coach Courtney Hanik has a heart of gold. I am truly blessed by everyone of these people that helped me." -NCO ERN Employee

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PARK NATIONAL BANK

Park National Bank is proud to be a supporter of Marion Matters. We continue to support Marion Matters because we believe in their mission. Focusing on generational poverty and financial literacy are crucial in the Marion community and Marion Matters continues to make a meaningful impact with their programming. The passion with which they work for our citizens is inspiring!
- Ben Albright, Commercial Lender



FUNDING PARTNERS

Thank you to all our funding partners! We cannot do the work without your continued support.
Marion Community Foundation
Marion County Job & Family Services
United Way of North Central Ohio
Ohio Health
Pillar Credit Union

EMPLOYER RESOURCE NETWORK® BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

RHAM, MARCA, & CLEARWATER COG PARTNERSHIP

Since 2018, The Clearwater Council of Governments and its member County Boards have worked with Marion Matters to bring the ERN® to agency providers who provide services to individuals who have developmental disabilities. The ERN has helped with the retention of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and has been a “no wrong door” for employees to access when challenges arise. In some cases, an employee **MAY** have ended their employment, but with the help of their success coach, they are able to keep working through these challenges while maintaining their employment. The ERN has been a supportive resource for many DSPs and because of its success, the ERN will now be expanding within the COG region. - Rachael Benson, Clearwater COG

The Residential Home Association of Marion, Inc (RHAM) has been a significant and dedicated business within the community for the last 50 years, proudly supporting individuals with Intellectual/developmental disabilities. The residents have become friends and family to the employees that support the homes. Seven years ago the ERN® was first offered as an additional resource for RHAM employees, we have since been added to the workplace culture, employee retention efforts, able to navigate resources, and be a unbiased person for many of the employees to vent to on a tough day.

MARCA was designed to be a place of education for individuals with Intellectual/developmental disabilities in 1967 and has blossomed into a place that provides employment, growth, support, and a community that beams with pride. In 2017, Marca became a fully independent private non-profit agency, by 2020 they expanded to new building locations and started providing additional services for their clients. MARCA has supported clients for decades and in 2020 was able to add the ERN® to provide additional support to their employees. MARCA and the ERN® Success Coach have created a partnership that has fostered a workplace environment that has been used as a standard and example across many of the businesses today.

“At Marca, we work with adults with developmental disabilities and although, very rewarding it can be equally as stressful. During those times we are pleased that our employees have the opportunity to seek assistance and resources through the ERN program. It’s a highly confidential source where staff can feel free to discuss things openly that they may not feel comfortable sharing with co-workers or administration.

At least, two groups of our staff have participated in in the “Getting Ahead in the Workplace” class and have taken away strategies to improve both their personal and work lives. The ERN has also become a welcomed extension of our Human Resource Department to assist with coaching, professional development, and community resources. Being a part of the ERN has been an effective way of connecting employees to appropriate information and resources that improve situations and promote success in many facets of life!”
- Marni Stiles, MARCA

Community Calendar

Money Matters Financial Wellness
9:30 - 3:30 (Lunch Provided)

No October / November 13 / December 11

MLK Jr. Neighborhood Association

Third Monday of Every Month
at Marion Matters

Upcoming Fundraisers

Business Sponsorship Opportunities
Year End Giving

Visit our website for more events!