

# WHAT MATTERS

## TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

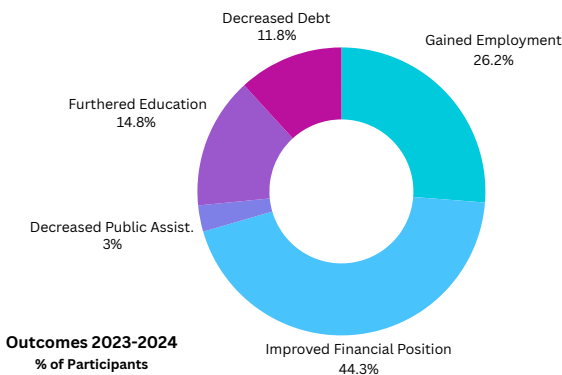


## Board Spotlight

“My grandparents raised my brothers and I because my parents struggled with substance use issues. We were the working poor with all the baggage that goes along with it. I was the only child to complete high school and that led me to work for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections. After leaving that role, I took a position as a Probation Officer with Marion Municipal Court.

Based on my experiences working with people in prison, people on probation and growing up in a family of working poor, I can unequivocally say that most people who are struggling with instability simply need a hand-up, and not a handout. People want opportunities to improve their current situation, regardless of where they are in life. Marion Matters does just that. Marion Matters provides opportunities for people to improve their lives through education, employment retention and connection to resources. I’ve heard graduates of the Getting Ahead program refer to it as “providing a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Marion Matters board members are a group of dedicated volunteers working to improve the lives of people in our community. Board members give their own time to ensure that programs are working to produce the best possible outcomes and the organization is using resources in the best possible way. This organization serves all people regardless of financial status, race, sex etc. Marion Matters is having a positive impact on my community, and I feel honored to serve with this incredible organization.” - Cliff Smith



## Getting Ahead Grad Story

“Daniel, my husband, and I are working to become better people and the Getting Ahead class has helped us do just that. During this class, we meet new people with different backgrounds who are seeking the same outcome and it has given us the chance to learn to trust others again. We learned tools to apply to everyday life such as a better understanding on credit and how to utilize it in a way that benefits us instead of hurt’s us. We have also set goals to be more productive in our downtime and created a plan to budget and save money to pay off old debts. The experience has also helped us take a serious inventory of the “life of poverty” and an understanding on how to apply the “hidden rules”.

We both have jobs, a stable home with lots of support from people who truly care. I plan on going back to school to further my education, while Daniel focuses on becoming a AAA maintenance tech. We are now equipped with valuable information and a great support system. Our goals are set in place and we are ready to make positive changes in our lives. **To be better today than yesterday.** Thank you to all who have helped see us through. We couldn’t do this without you.” - Tiffanie Brown

# BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP JOHNSON PROPERTY SERVICES

**Johnson Property Services** is proud to be a supporter of Marion Matters. This great non-profit organization has a multitude of classes and programs to teach and allow individuals to raise themselves to the next level. With the help of these resources and tools, Marion Matters is making a positive impact to better our fabulous community.

- Amber Johnson, Co-Owner/Business Operations Manager

## 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



## ERN® BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Marion Technical College has been a staple of higher education for more than 50 years. With every decade that has followed MTC has expanded, advanced, and stayed community focused to ensure they are providing an accessible path to successful careers for every student. MTC offers more than 60 degrees majors, which includes a bachelors of nursing, associate degrees, certificates, and post-secondary enrollment courses for high school students. MTC partnered with Marion Matters in the fall of 2019 to provide support for students as they juggled life and school.

"The Marion Matters ERN has been instrumental in providing students at MTC with the resources to combat non-cognitive barriers and keeping them enrolled at the college. Through the guidance of our Student Resource Navigator, students have received assistance in connecting to community resources and received financial support in conjunction with the Believe in Students Fund to provide gas cards, text books, testing fees and other emergency funds to assist students in combating barriers that impact their ability to be successful in the classroom. Our internal data suggests that students who receive a service from the SRN are more likely to persist in times of crisis. Having the SRN on our campus 12 hours a week has helped to bring awareness to the campus community that there are supports in place to help students when those inevitable hardships conflict with their ability to attain their goal of completing a degree or certificate and earning a sustainable living wage. Our partnership with Marion Matters over these past five years has been invaluable and has played an important role in MTC's increase in the retention of students these past couple of years. - Craig Sohl, Director of Title III

## Community Calendar

Money Matters

Financial Wellness

9:30 - 3:30 (Lunch Provided)

August 14 / September 11

Getting Ahead Fall Session

Classes Start

Tuesday, September 10

Upcoming Fundraisers

August Online Giving

Business Sponsorship Opportunities

Visit our website for more events!