



## Marshfield Area Respite Care Center, Inc. MARCC

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Marshfield Area Respite Care Center (MARCC) began its social program for participants with dementia with a Brookdale Foundation seed grant in 1995. The program started with a few participants two days a week, directed by Marilyn Seidl-Kramer, the only hired staff. MARCC is now open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Marilyn continues to direct the program with three additional hired staff. The program is state certified in Wisconsin to serve 12 participants per day. For the last 29 years, MARCC has offered support to hundreds of families challenged by dementia.

MARCC's program is designed to engage the participants in meaningful activities. Family visits and intergenerational activities have always been integrated. One family's grandchildren visit regularly and enjoy playing table tennis, dice, bingo, scrabble, and many games with the participants. Over the years, participants have taught several children how to play balloon ball. MARCC's most recent balloon ball graduate just turned one. His first birthday party was a joyful event at MARCC. A participant who normally is not that talkative stated that *"this was a great place to bring the family."*

YMCA and Community Center instructor, Marcia Lindow leads participants in exercise including Tai Chi every Monday. Balance exercises are offered every Tuesday by community member Renee Danof. Marcia returns on Fridays with music and rhythm sessions. Marshfield Community Foundation awarded MARCC a grant to start a drumming circle. Programming also includes pet therapy and arts and crafts.

Dedicated volunteers visit daily to MARCC to socialize with participants, telling stories and making them laugh. Since 2015, MARCC co-hosts Memory Café monthly for those living with dementia and their care partners. 4-H Club leaders and students, North Wood County Historical Society, Main Street Conservatory of Dance, Schalow's Nursery and Garden Center, Discovery Education Station, Heart O' Wisconsin Sweet Adelines, Marshfield Ukulele Group, The Good Tymes Band, News 9 Meteorologist Justin Loew, Altrusa have educated and entertained at Memory Café. Thanks to active community volunteers and their creative presentations, Memory Café attendees have toured Croatia and Greece, gone birdwatching in Costa Rica, learned the hula and swam with dolphins in Hawaii, made quilt squares, and painted masterpieces.

Caregivers make connections daily at MARCC, at Memory Café, and at monthly support groups. Marshfield Area United Way and Marshfield Community Broadcasting have invited MARCC caregivers to share their stories to increase community awareness of families challenged by dementia. Caregivers can also connect at MARCC's Annual Garden Tour. MARCC site is on the tour offering the public entertainment, refreshments and beautiful donated florals on raffle.

Thank you, Brookdale Foundation, for beginning MARCC's history. Thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers, MARCC has continued to provide its social program for the last 29 years inside the Wesley United Methodist Church 211 S. Maple Avenue in Marshfield.



Partner Program