



the **harvest** foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARC Workshop, Inc. to Create a Mobile Employment Program for Disabled Adults with Harvest Foundation Funding

Martinsville, VA (October 30, 2009) – MARC Workshop, Inc. has been awarded a three-year grant from The Harvest Foundation in the amount of \$241,976 for the start-up of a mobile employment program for disabled adults. Competitive, minimum wage jobs will be created for special education students graduating out of the public school system.

“This new program,” says David Draper, Executive Director of MARC Workshop, “will create employment opportunities for students in transition with disabilities, resulting in greater independence and an overall improvement in their quality of life. For some, this program will provide the training and skills that can lead to permanent employment with local businesses, or afford them the opportunity to start their own small business.”

The Mobile Employment Program will increase the capacity of MARC Workshop to serve 75-100 more individuals a year with disabilities. It is transformative in nature by creating minimum wage jobs out in the normal work world for disabled adults instead of in a sheltered workshop setting.

“What is exciting about this program,” says Nancy Cox, Harvest Foundation Program Officer, “is that it is community integration at its best and it is mobile --- it will come to you. Whether you are a business or a private individual, you can employ a mobile work crew to mow the lawn, do grounds maintenance, shred documents on site, assist with moving, or run personal errands. The possibilities are endless! We are extremely pleased to be able to partner with MARC Workshop, the VA Department of Rehabilitative Services, and the special education programs in the Martinsville and Henry County school systems to help get a program, that is transformative in nature, off the ground.”

The Harvest Foundation researches and responsibly invests in programs and initiatives to address local challenges in health, education, and community vitality. The Harvest Foundation is dedicated to making Martinsville / Henry County the residence of choice by enhancing opportunities and quality of life for all its citizens. The Harvest Foundation was established in 2002 from the sale of the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville & Henry County. For more information, please go to <http://www.theharvestfoundation.org>

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