



# Building Dreams Together Campaign

## Case Statement



MINUTE MAN ARC FOR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

# Building Dreams Together Campaign

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Minute Man Arc believes people with developmental disabilities deserve a dignified, aspirational life – a life full of individual freedoms and opportunities for education, jobs, friends, worship, solace, and advocacy.

Since its founding in 1958, MMA has grown into a respected leader in the human services field. We are the agency of choice in this region for children and adults with disabilities, with a long track record of providing a community of exceptional care. We achieve this by delivering exceptional therapeutic services, meaningful employment, supportive living opportunities, recreation, and active community involvement. Minute Man Arc supports more than 800 infants, children, and adults who are distinguished by living with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual, emotional and physical disabilities.

Now, in response to increasing unmet demand for more community-based services and MMA's long-term goal of providing uninterrupted care to our clients from infancy through adulthood, Minute Man Arc leaders are undertaking a major fundraising campaign to support our plan for growth. More services to more people, across the lifespan, will secure Minute Man Arc as an essential partner to families, individuals, local towns and the human services system throughout our area.

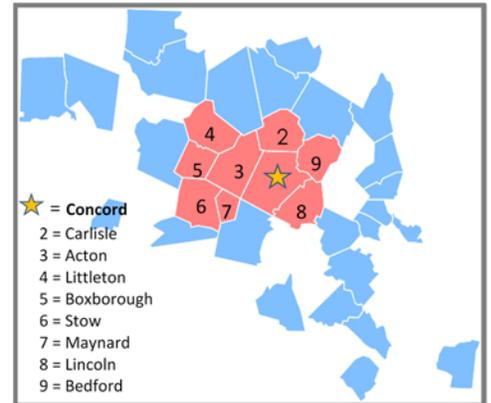
*With more space and resources, we are launching a new program benefiting children with disabilities after age 3 when Early Intervention services end but the need for therapeutic support often continues.*

**Alex Chatfield, Director of Early Intervention**



## WHAT WE DO

Our primary programs take place in our two centers in Concord, and support is also integrated into many home environments, work sites, group homes, and a wide variety of community settings. Our core service area includes nine communities around Concord, but clients attracted by our strong reputation travel from other regions of the state and southern New Hampshire. In total, clients join us from more than 35 communities.



We are inspired every day by the individuals we are proud to serve, including:

- Adults with significant physical and cognitive deficits who thrive through rich learning experiences and therapies that set new standards of care.
- Residential clients who are able to enjoy dramatically enhanced personal freedom and social interaction through our many customized choices for independent and group living. Additionally, their families gain peace of mind knowing their loved ones are safe, fulfilled, and have a future in the community.
- Individuals joining in community activities with their neighbors who find joy in living next to one of our group homes, interacting with our clients at work, or worshipping side-by-side.
- Infants and toddlers who need and receive progressive early intervention therapies and have brighter futures through exceptional outcomes. Roughly half of the children with whom we work do not require special education services when they reach school age. We are reshaping their futures and that of their families, while saving our schools millions of dollars.

*Funds raised through this campaign will increase our ability to provide more hours of clinical services, incorporate more state of the art adaptive equipment and offer increased group activities like music, horticulture, and movement therapies.*

**Joshua Weidenhamer, Director of Day Habilitation**



*Our headquarters and surrounding property could afford many more opportunities for our residents to participate in a rich array of recreational and educational opportunities.*

**Andrew Forti, Director of Residential Services**

*We are excited to expand and have more physical space, technology, and equipment to provide specialty employment training with career paths. This will enable individuals with disabilities to have better paying jobs and a higher quality of life.*

**Barbara Jean White, Director of Employment Services**



## EXPANDING TO MEET THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Today we find ourselves at an exciting crossroads, with the opportunity to broaden our mandate to ensure dignified and rich life experiences for our clients.

For more than 60 years, Minute Man Arc has effectively expanded to meet the needs of the individuals we serve. In May 2015, MMA began an exciting new chapter when we moved our adult programs and administrative staff to a bright, roomy, more cheerful and suitable facility on Forest Ridge Road in West Concord. Our clients now enjoy an open floor plan, floor-to-ceiling windows, outdoor recreation spaces, and a natural wooded site.

As our reputation grows and our facilities improve, so too does the demand for Minute Man Arc's expertise and services. Our specialists are without peers in terms of their skills, training, and ability to craft the right services for each individual and achieve remarkable outcomes. As the needs of our families and community evolve, we are right by their side, developing optimum programs and services for their loved ones.

The deep personal connection that develops between caregivers and clients is profound and joy emanates from every corner of the building. It is therefore no surprise that MMA is experiencing unprecedented increases in referrals. Our current strategic plan calls for serving more families and expanding our programming while ensuring the highest standards of excellence and securing long-term financial viability. To achieve our long-term vision, we are launching two brand new programs that are designed to fill the gap in services for clients aged 3 through 22.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND INNOVATION

### EXTRA STEPS: CONTINUING PEDIATRIC THERAPIES FOR CHILDREN OVER 3

We have identified a profound need among recently graduated Early Intervention children. Although 50% of our EI children need no further services after the initial intervention, others continue to need support in speech/language therapy, physical and occupational therapy, music therapy, feeding/nutrition, and behavioral intervention.

Therapeutic resources for these children are scarce and studies support the growing need for innovative programs and services. This is especially true with a documented rise in autism and ongoing occurrences of children born with special needs such as prematurity, chromosomal disorders, cerebral palsy or other neurological disorders. This shortfall in pediatric services is taking place at the same time fiscal constraints at the local, state and federal levels are resulting in fewer services being available through schools.

To address this unmet need and to provide multiple, coordinated services in a single, trusted location, MMA launched a brand new pediatric therapy program, Extra Steps Pediatric Therapies, in January of 2019, serving children aged 3-8.

With funding from partner foundations and the Minute Man Arc community, we anticipate supporting up to 200 children annually and building on the considerable knowledge base and renown of our Early Intervention program.



*Minute Man Arc's dream is to serve people with disabilities across the lifespan, from infancy through adulthood, and that goal is well within reach. Once Extra Steps is self-sustaining, we intend to expand the age range into the early teenage years.*

**Jean Goldsberry, CEO**



## **JUMP START: EMPLOYING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Teens and young adults with disabilities find it challenging to land that all-important first job. Employers are reluctant to hire people who are different from the typical workforce, even though with proper training many are exemplary employees.

MMA's new Jump Start program offers young people with disabilities the necessary guidance and job placement to gain workforce experience that can lead to permanent, paid employment.

MMA and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission have teamed up to offer young adults between the ages of 14 and 22 a groundbreaking work experience. Participants receive extensive job preparation from seasoned professionals, then are matched to paid internships where they are coached to do their best work.

The first training session was held in 2017 at Minute Man Arc and resulted in three of four participants finding permanent jobs. Instructional classes occurred over four Saturdays and included hands-on workshops in resume writing, interviewing, life skills, and exploration of the career experience from beginning to end.

Jump Start serves as an entry point to our successful Employment Services program by providing a specific plan for teens and young adults to begin to develop the skills they will need for successful employment when they finish high school. Upon completion of the program and at least one internship experience, Jump Start participants are well positioned to seek paid employment that is both challenging and rewarding.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

After four years in our Forest Ridge location, we have witnessed the profound, positive impact this cheerful new home has had on our clients. Accordingly, the board and administration have resolved to make Forest Ridge Road our permanent headquarters.

As an independent, not-for-profit agency, Minute Man Arc is funded through state, local and federal grants and contracts, public and private insurance, and generous philanthropy. Funding from government sources is always precarious, especially so now. To better control future costs, we purchased our headquarters in late 2018, saving the agency approximately \$13,000 in monthly expenses that will continue to benefit us as we move forward.

Owning our headquarters outright is creating the equity and degree of financial certainty needed to ensure that MMA can continue to focus our attention and resources on providing exceptional services that transform lives. Making better use of our unique, wooded area at the Forest Ridge Road site, we seek to create a quarter mile of accessible walking paths through the woods, an outdoor music garden, a basketball court, accessible sitting areas for socializing, and more parking. Additionally, we are actively pursuing solar and other alternative energy sources to lower our expenses, support Concord's sustainability goals, and help the planet.

After improvements have been completed, Minute Man Arc's state-of-the-art facility will convey respect for the people we serve, their families, and our staff, helping to reduce the stigma some feel when seeking interventional and therapeutic services. Additionally, it will enable Minute Man Arc to serve our clients and community across the lifespan, from early childhood through the senior years, all under one caring and financially solvent organization.

*Improving our building site will enable us to expand our programs to serve more people, provide more therapies, and continue to improve the lives of hundreds of children and adults. This campaign will allow so many more people to strengthen their abilities and become even more vibrant members of the community.*

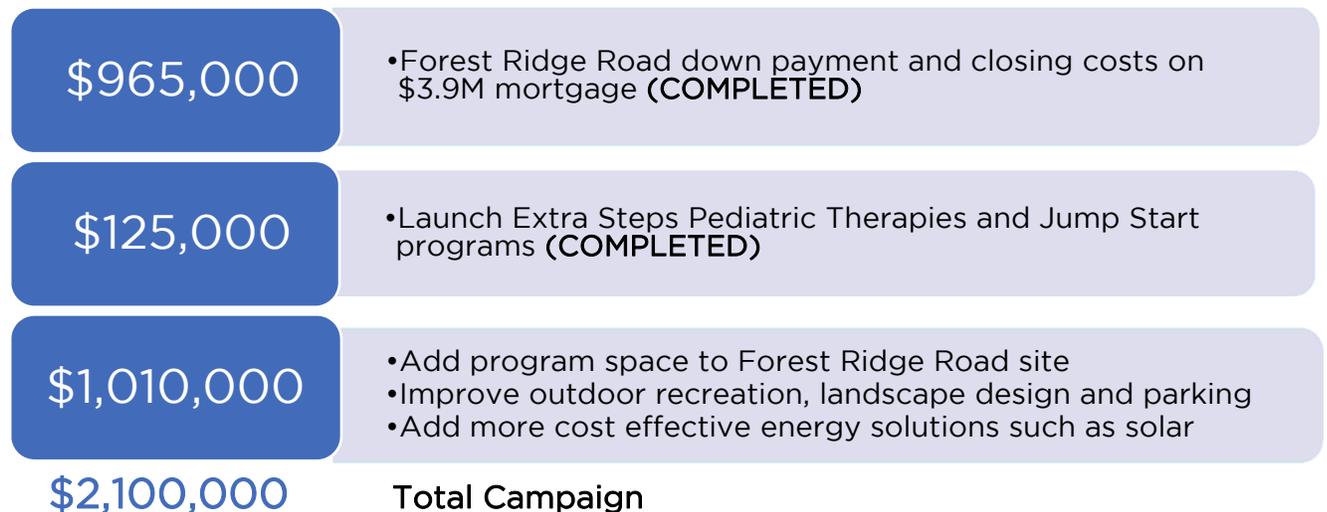
**Jean Goldsberry, CEO**



## BUILDING DREAMS TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

To continue as a leader in serving those with developmental, emotional and physical disabilities, Minute Man Arc has established a fundraising campaign to secure **\$2.1 million** to expand and improve programming, hire additional specialists, purchase our site, and build the agency's financial security.

Campaign gifts will be used for the following:



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Today, we ask you to join Minute Man Arc on the most important journey in our history, our *Building Dreams Together Campaign*. With your help, we will achieve our long-term vision to serve people with disabilities across the lifespan, with an outstanding continuum of care.

Philanthropic support is essential to MMA's ability to bring greater access to those in need and to ensure optimum outcomes. Your generosity will help shape our future and enable hundreds of people with disabilities to live their very best lives.

Thank you in advance for considering this unprecedented opportunity. We hope you will play a vital role in Minute Man Arc's transformative effort.

For more information contact:

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