



MACON/BIBB CITIZEN
ADVOCACY, INC.

COMMUNITY CURRENTS

WINTER 2019



A Bigger Vision

Verda and Matthew met in January of 2018 over burgers and fries at McDonalds after some deep conversations with the Citizen Advocacy Coordinator about the expectations for Matthew's life. At just 19 years old, Matthew will graduate from high school in May of 2019 and of course, he is wondering, "what's next?" College? The military? How about a steady income and his own apartment? Naturally, all of these things are possible, but will any of this happen? Verda believes that any or all could come to pass, but not without a vision. Verda encourages Matthew to think big – what does he enjoy? What could he see himself doing five years from now?

To make this happen, Verda will enlist some support from others in the community who can help Matthew to see that the possibilities are endless. A recruiter might show Matthew what being in the military is all about; an education, a career, a future. A young

person attending college can share with Matthew the joys of acing a final exam, one step closer to graduating. A young man who is working fulltime and maintains his own apartment can show Matthew how a budget works. With Supported Decision Making, big things can happen! Stay tuned.....

What is Supported Decision-Making?

Supported decision-making (SDM) allows individuals with disabilities to make choices about their own lives with support from a team of people. Individuals with disabilities choose people they know and trust to be part of a support network to help with decision-making.

Supported decision-making is an alternative to guardianship. Guardians make decisions *for* the person with a disability. However, supported decision-making allows the person with the disability to make his or her *own* decisions instead of having someone else make them for him or her.

Supported decision-making promotes self-determination, control, and autonomy. It fosters independence. We all engage in supported decision-making. We consult with family or friends, colleagues or classmates, mechanics or mentors before we make decisions. We may seek support to decide whether to go on a blind date, buy a used car, change jobs, renew a lease, or undergo cataract surgery. We confer and consult with others, and then we decide on our own.

People with disabilities may need assistance making decisions about living arrangements, health care, relationships, and financial matters. But they do not necessarily need a guardian to make those decisions for them. A trusted network of supporters can field questions and review options to help the person with the disability make their own decisions. Supporters are selected by the person with the disability. They can be family members, educators, friends, advocates, and citizen advocacy board members. The individual should select supporters who know and respect his or her will and preferences, and who will honor the choices and decisions the individual makes.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

Macon Bibb Citizen Advocacy celebrated 40 years of creating relationships, building community and protecting those who experience disabilities with beautiful and inspiring events throughout the year!

Intimate Dinner

On July 17, 2018, Macon Bibb Citizen Advocacy gathered with advocates and their proteges, board members and friends of the organization for an intimate dinner, held at and catered by Wesleyan College. Dinner was accompanied by the soft tones of R&R and Jazz piano and advocates and proteges alike spoke about the importance of their relationships and the impact on their lives.



"The gift is to the giver, and comes back most to him-it cannot fail..."

Walt Whitman

Gospel Concert Fundraiser

On September 8, 2018, four Macon churches came together with special guest Soul's Desire to present the 2nd Annual Macon Bibb Citizen Advocacy Gospel Benefit Concert. Center Hill, Union, St. John and Mount Vernon Baptist Churches gathered at Center Hill Baptist Church to celebrate the power of two people standing together as one. Long-time advocate and Judge Pam White Colbert spoke of her love of citizen advocacy and the need for more who will step up to the plate and into someone's life. The mass choirs and Soul's Desire performed traditional and contemporary gospel numbers to attendees who praised and gave generously to support the ongoing work of citizen advocacy.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kendra Russell, Board Chair
- Larry Bond, Vice Chair
- Connie Flair, Secretary/Treasurer
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- Jim Crisp
- Sandy Flatau
- David Mann
- David G. Nelson
- Jodi Palmer
- Rabbi Aaron Rubinstein

STAFF

- Amanda Smith, Coordinator
- Cindy Tengelsen, Office Manager

"I refuse to allow a disability to determine how I live my life. There is only one way to go in life and that's forward."

Christopher Reeve



"Community is about the common life that is lived in such a way that the unique creativity of each person is a contribution to the other."

John McKnight

And now here is my secret, a very simple secret. It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.
-the little prince-

"Citizen Advocacy is a straight forward way of saying that everyone matters."

Scott Hewit

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An Invitation to Action

Citizen Advocacy is an opportunity to stand by, for and with another person, taking action to ensure a better life and an enrichment of opportunity for a person who may, because they have a disability, have been subject to isolation and segregation, rejection and abuse, poverty and injustice.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY

A Valued Citizen, unpaid and independent of human services, creates a relationship with a person who has a developmental disability and is at risk of social exclusion.

The citizen advocate represents and responds to that person's interests, and brings the gifts and concerns of the person into circles of ordinary community life.

Donate online at:

maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.org

or by mail to:

Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy

613 Cherry Street

Macon, Georgia 31201

We welcome and depend on your support!

Thank You

Citizen Advocacy is a community-strengthening endeavor that depends on the support of local citizens. All investments directly benefit the Macon/Bibb County community. Our thanks to these folks who have invested from January 2017 through January 2019.

INDIVIDUALS

Brian P. Adams, LLC	Bernard & Diana Fletcher	Jeff & Laura Paschke
Phillip Bean	Arja Forester	Kelly Philbrick
Al Bond	Julie Fortney	Connelly Poole
Katina Clay	Donald & Alicia Hicks	Jack & Susan Poole
Angie Coggins	Lindsay & Marie Holliday	John & Terri Ramsey
Pam White-Colbert	James & Joan Huffman	Adah Roberts
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Carl & Connie Flair	John & Dianne Newsom	John Willingham
Bill & Sandy Flatau	Dr. & Mrs. Charles Ogburn, Jr.	Meridith Woodruff

GRANTS/CONTRACTS

/FOUNDATIONS

Community Foundation
The Georgia Advocacy Office
Macon/Bibb County Commission
Peyton Anderson Foundation

CHURCHES

Center Hill Baptist Church
Congregation Sha'AreY Israel
Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
Soul's Desire
Union Baptist Church

BUSINESSES &

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Macon Civic Club
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