

MCDO MISSION STATEMENT

The Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO) is an organization under the laws of the State of Ohio, not-for-profit. The mission of the organization shall be to act as a coordinating body to assist local organizations meet the changing needs of the Marion Community through planned development while maintaining its agricultural profile. The activities will be directed toward, but not limited to, development of infrastructure, housing, family care, education, small business, recreation, and agriculture.

President's Message—Ted Bertke

Thank you to everyone who supported the MCDO in 2026! We appreciate your continued support! The 2026 Business Members are highlighted below. Thank you again for your support!

3-WAY MACHINE TOOL	AFFOLDER EQUIPMENT SALES	BETTY'S NATURAL FOODS LLC
BLUE RIBBON FEED MILL LTD	BRICK HAUS SALON & SPA	BROOKSIDE TRUCKING
BUSCHUR CUSTOM FARM SERVICE INC	BUSCHUR FEEDS	CHICKASAW GARAGE INC
CHICKASAW MACHINE & TOOL INC	DAYCARE DISCOVERIES	EVISION EYE AND WELLNESS, LLC
GARMANN/MILLER ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS	HESS HOME RENOVATIONS	HMS PARTS & SERVICES LLC
HOMAN INC.	HOMAN INSURANCE AGENCY LLC	HUELSMAN AUTO
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	J & J LEASING LLC	JOHN FLECK & SONS
KLOSTERMAN CONCRETE & CONSTRUCTION	KOESTERS MECHANICAL SYSTEMS LLC	LEUGERS INSURANCE AGENCY
LUNAR LAGOONS LLC	MANCO MFG INC	MARIA STEIN ANIMAL CLINIC
MARION LOCAL SCHOOLS	McCRATE & DeLAET & CO	MESSENGER PRESS
MIDWEST ELECTRIC	MIKE SANITATION, INC.	MINTON VETERINARY SERVICE INC
MJR TRUCKING LLC	MOELLER BREW BARN	MOELLER REAL ESTATE
MOELLER TRUCKING	MOORMAN & HARTING & CO	MS WELDING LLC
N & J WENDEL TRUCKING	OHIO PRODUCTION PAINT & ASSEMBLY CORP	OSGOOD STATE BANK
PRENGER'S, INC.	RB ADVERTISING LLC	RETHMAN BROTHERS INC
ROBERT F WINNER SONS INC	SCOTT'S CARRYOUT	SPIRITUAL CENTER OF MARIA STEIN
ST HENRY BANK - MARIA STEIN BRANCH	STELLAR TOOL	T & S HOMANPROVEMENTS LLC
THE EDGE	THOBE BODY SHOP	WINAN'S CHOCOLATES & COFFEE
TUENTE TRUCKING INC		

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

The state report cards were released in September, and the Marion Local school district has a lot to celebrate. Shown below is our five-star rating system and also the top ten performance index scores in the state. Marion Local ranked **2nd** for all K-12 public schools in the state for our performance index score which is based off the success of students taking state assessments at the end of this past school year.



Rank	School	Performance Index Score
1	Solon City Schools	112.9
2	Marion Local Schools	111.6
3	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools	111.3
4	Mariemont City Schools	111.2
5	Rocky River Schools	110.6
6	Versailles Exempted Village Schools	110.1
7	Fort Loramie Local Schools	109.8
8	Maderia City Schools	109.5
9	Minster Local Schools	109.5
10	Oakwood	109.4

We are incredibly thankful for the support of our community and the importance you place on education. Raising children and guiding them through the learning process is not always easy, and on behalf of the Marion Local Schools, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation for your patience, encouragement, and dedication throughout the school year. The accomplishments reflected above are the result of hard work and a strong partnership between home and school.

As parents and educators, one of the greatest gifts we can give our children/students is the opportunity to develop resilience. As a parent and educator, I often find the urge to remove all obstacles for my own children and our students at Marion Local. The challenging part has been changing my focus to providing them support and allowing them to work through those opportunities on their own. While it can be difficult to watch our children face adversity, allowing them to persevere through difficult moments helps prepare them for the realities of adulthood.

The Retreat House: Spiritual Centers—Steve Pulskamp

Our first annual outdoor Christkindlmarkt on December 11 and 12 is quickly approaching! Inspired by traditional European 'Christ Child' markets, our "Maria Stein Christkindlmarkt" will be held on the grounds of the Maria Stein Retreat Center, with support from the Shrine of the Holy Relics.

36 vendors will display their wares during the festive two-day event, including 20 set up in beautiful outdoor wooden huts decorated and lit with Christmas lights. Plan to join us for a selection of traditional German food and drinks, including Two Dads food truck and warm spiced wine. Music will be provided by the Quartets from St. Augustine Men's Choir and The Minster Brass.

For the children, there are many free activities. They can ride a train through the Christmas light display, visit Santa Claus, and even pet his reindeer! The Candy Land Café allows kids to buy a bag of candy and play in Santa's bouncy house.

The online silent auction will go live soon, with proceeds benefiting our Giving Back fund that supports high school youth retreats.

We are honored to have Archbishop Casey join us Saturday at 11:30 for an opening blessing ceremony. Music will be provided by the local musical group "Altar Ego," which includes Roger DeMange, Candy Hemmelgarn, and Brenda Bohman.

Saturday will culminate with an extremely popular FREE outdoor Christmas concert by Nashville artists Caleb + Kelsey, starting at 6:00 PM and running until 8:00 PM!

Visit this Maria Stein Christkindlmarkt – Maria Stein Retreat Center for all the information you need to celebrate the approach of Christmas!

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS- Our facility is now 75 years old and thanks to the staff and volunteers, it has been continuously maintained and improved since it was purchased from the Sisters of the Precious Blood in 2000. Improvements to our 74 guest rooms were a great accomplishment, but the team has shifted its focus to the maintenance of a less visible area. The 1960s cast iron plumbing is near its end of life and needs to be replaced. This will be a huge ongoing effort that will require significant funding to complete. As a non-profit, we are always grateful for donations to support our cause!

Here are a few events happening in the coming months:

- Healing Masses will be held on November 10. Mass begins at 7:00 pm in the Chapel "at the Lake" in Montezuma.
- Christkindlmarkt outdoor winter festival will be held on December 11 and 12.

Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning

Here's what's happening at the library.

- Book discussion group meets the first Tuesday of every month November thru March at 6:30 pm and April thru October at 7 pm. This group is very informal—come join us and meet fellow book lovers. Books are provided by the library.
- Story time every Thursday morning at 10:30 am. Children will have fun learning dances, songs and listening to stories.
- Family night is the second Tuesday of every month (with the exception of August) at 6:30 pm. Join us for crafts, stories, activities and a special treat. November 10th will be Thanksgiving themed, December 8th Santa will visit and January 12th will be walrus themed. A list of all dates is available at the library.
- Lego night will be held on the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Parental supervision required for younger children as some pieces are rather small.
- DINOVEMBER is back! Stop in the library during business hours in November and pick up a Dino activity pack for your child; while you're there try our dinosaur I Spy and get a prize and check out five books to get a chance to win a prize.
- Stop in the library each month for our take and make crafts. Available while they last.

No pre-registration required for any of these events.

Come join our team! Part-time library assistant (Marion Branch Library/Floater), 17-29 hours/week, must be available evenings and Saturdays. If you have any questions, contact Juli at 419-925-4966. Please submit or email a completed job application to Elizabeth Muether at contact@mercerlibrary.org. Copies of the job application and complete job description are available at MercerLibrary.org/about/employment

Marion Township Park—Lee Heitkamp

The Park Board of Marion Township Park meets monthly. We continue to focus on improving and maintaining the park for our community.

At the time of this writing, the Park Board is wrapping up and celebrating another successful Soup Party that was held at the Park on Sept 27, 2026. It was a wonderful evening that ended with a tour given to our park patrons of what has been completed of the Park Place thus far. Construction continues this fall on the Park Place and plans to be under roof over the next several weeks. We are now taking reservations for your rental needs in 2027. Please contact Ryan Stucke-419-852-5088 for more information.

This fall you may have also noticed the increase of traffic on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. This is due to our hard working youth getting out and enjoying those early crisp mornings and Tuesday evenings! We would like to thank our hard working youth soccer program for selling approximately 2350 dinners chicken and pork dinners this year. These dinners were distributed on October 11th. Thank you to our youth athletes!

The Park Board would also like to bring to attention how wonderful it has been to see the use of the park this summer. We would like to thank everyone who continues to make our park a wonderful and clean place for families and friends to gather and make memories.

If you have suggestions for the park's future, we welcome those discussions. Current Park Board members include: Lee Heitkamp (President – 419-305-8238), Troy Luebke (project manager- 419-733-1675) Jeff Wolters (Treasurer – 419-953-0373), Diane Alexander (Social media/email coordinator – 419-733-5968), Ryan Stucke (Rentals – 419-852-5088), Greg Hartings (419-852-8177), Jodi Winner (419-953-3290), Secretary/Concession stand Brenda Hamberg (419-852-0292).

Maria Stein Shrine—Heidi Pierron

Changes at the Shrine--There have been several exciting changes at the Shrine, including new members of our staff and updates to some of our spaces!

Welcome to Our New Staff

- **Sara McGowan** has joined us as our new full-time Gift Shop Manager.
- **Hannah Schmitz** has stepped into the role of Director of Ministry.
- **Grant Garke** has joined our Ministry team and will be assisting with weekend ministry needs.

Updates Around the Shrine--If you haven't visited the Shrine lately, it's worth the trip to see some of the recent updates! The Adoration Chapel now has newly constructed pews, designed in a style similar to the pews found in the chapel in the 1930s. This new seating helps preserve the historic character of the chapel while providing a beautiful and comfortable space for prayer and adoration. The Pilgrim Gift Shop has also received an update with new carpeting. We invite you to come visit, spend some time in prayer, and see the changes for yourself!

Upcoming Events at the Shrine

November 12–15 — Christmas Open House
Pilgrim Gift Shop– enjoy 20% storewide in stock items

November 26 — Closed for Thanksgiving

November 27 — Attitude of Gratitude Sale
Pilgrim Gift Shop – enjoy 20% storewide in stock items for one day only

November 27–January 10, 2027 — Christmas Nativities Display

December 1 — Giving Tuesday

Christmas Holiday Hours
The Shrine will be closed **December 24–25** and **December 31–January 1, 2027**, as we celebrate the Christmas season with our families and loved ones.

301 Club—Doug Bender---

In an effort to keep our $50 membership the same again this year, the committee would REALLY like to add some new members! If you are interested, please contact a committee member. The MCDO 301 club membership is separate from your MCDO membership. The 301 club has weekly drawings for $100 and you are automatically entered to win with your $50 membership. The 301 club directly supports and supplements our youth sports programs as well as projects at all of our local parks. Please reach out to one of the committee members below or fill out the attached slip if you would like to become a member***

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our local parks and youth leagues. Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership in 2026 and an additional thank you to our new members. If you would like to become a member, please return the slip below, contact Doug Bender through email mcdo301.group@gmail.com or phone 419-252-0763 or any of the other committee members (Luke Bertke, Alex Moeller, Aaron Timmerman Danny Liette, Kyle Mescher, Greg Wolters & Dustin Seitz).

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club was able to donate this year to Marion Little League, Youth Softball, Youth Soccer, Pony League Baseball, Acme, & Jr. Acme programs. The 301 Club was also able to donate to Chickasaw Parks, Marion Township Park and Osgood Park for various improvement projects.

Please keep your eyes peeled for our annual renewal letter, which will be going out later this fall for existing members. Membership is $50, as it always has been, and enters you into a weekly drawing of $100 as well as an invitation to our annual appreciation party (January 22nd). Thank you in advance for your continued support!

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club is a non-profit that has been actively supporting Marion youth programs and our local parks since 1996. Our goal is to help sustain active programs and the development of our parks. We accomplish this through membership fees, donations & our annual chicken dinner sales. Our community and children benefit from your generosity.

301 Club New Membership	
Name:	Phone:
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Annual Membership: $50. Remit to: 301 Club / PO Box 65 / Maria Stein, OH 45860 or Venmo with "301 Club" (code attached).	

Marion Community Develop...
@MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg

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