



## Through the Years

### UMAR Timeline

**1983:** The Western NC Conference, United Methodist Church created a Health and Welfare Task Force to focus on “persons with handicapped needs.” The task force, led by Dr. Robert Pitzer, identified a need for residential services, and the formation of UMAR was approved by the Conference in June. Bill Ervin donated the first home for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This first UMAR home, aptly named the Ervin Home, was in High Point.

**1988:** Mike Dyson was hired as UMAR’s first president. UMAR collaborated with United Cerebral Palsy to open a home in Greensboro.

**1989:** The Pitzer Home opened in Lincolnton. In Charlotte, UMAR and Christ Episcopal Church worked together to open the Christ Church Home for women.

**1990:** The Weaver Home opened in Statesville. The Rider Home (later renamed The Hooper Home) opened on the property of The Children’s Home in Winston-Salem.

**1991:** The Arey Home, named after Dr. Vincent Arey who pastored the church instrumental in fundraising for the home, opened in Concord.

**1994:** UMAR expanded services to Asheville and opened the Haw Creek and Givens Estates homes. The Givens Home is on the property of Givens Estate, a Methodist retirement community; the Haw Creek Home is located in the Haw Creek area of Asheville.

**1995:** The first of three Gastonia homes, the Powell Home, opened. The Michael Tucker Home in Charlotte was donated to UMAR. The partnership with United Cerebral Palsy ended and the home in Greensboro closed.

**1996:** The Theresa P. Hall Home opened next to the Christ Church Home in Charlotte. A second home, The Waddell Home, opened in Winston-Salem. The Holt Home opened on the property of the Methodist retirement community, Aldersgate, in Charlotte

**1997:** UMAR expanded services to Hayesville and opened the Hayesville Home. A second Gastonia home, The Baytree Home, opened to serve three residents.



**1999:** UMAR expanded services to individuals with traumatic brain injury with the purchase of the ICF/MR home in Charlotte. A third Gastonia home, Laurel Woods, was purchased to serve three residents. A second home, Myers Park, opened on the Aldersgate property. The Christ Church Home was renovated and become a home for men.

**2000:** The original Ervin Home in High Point was replaced with a new Ervin Home. The Michael Tucker Home was replaced with The Hickory Grove Home. In Greensboro, two new homes, The Bowden Home and Westridge Home, were added.

**2001:** The Clingman Home opened as the third UMAR home in Winston-Salem.

**2003:** Steve Sellers was hired as UMAR's second president.

**2004:** The Baytree and Laurel Woods homes were replaced with a new six-bedroom Hoffman Home. UMAR began expanding services outside residential. A grounds maintenance crew, consisting of one supervisor and two resident employees, was formed to provide lawn care services to UMAR group homes and homes operated by Autism Services of Mecklenburg County.

**2005:** UMAR opened its first apartment home, Hickory Grove, in Charlotte. UMAR began managing a second home in Lincolnton called The Lincoln County Group Home.

**2006:** A third home, The Angel Home, opened on the grounds of Aldersgate in Charlotte. The Asheville home at Givens Estates was converted to a senior living home.

**2007:** The Rider Home in Winston-Salem was renamed the Hooper Home. UMAR acquired CandL Employment and Support Services to begin providing competitive employment options for residents. A replacement home for The Lincoln County Group Home in Lincolnton was opened and The Barnabas Home opened in Cornelius.

**2008:** UMAR opened the doors to an arts center in Charlotte's NoDa (North Davidson Street) district on the grounds of Spencer Memorial United Methodist Church. A new Lincoln County Group home was opened, replacing the old one. CandL Employment/Support Services was renamed UMAR Supported Employment Services. The Lanier Home opened in Lexington.

**2009:** UMAR acquired a second home in Hayesville.

**2010:** UMAR became the provider of vocational services in Rockingham County (north of Greensboro). With the addition of UMAR at The ROC, UMAR provided services to over 325 adults with disabilities.



**2011:** UMAR opened its first independent living home, The Disciple Home, in Cornelius and an arts program in Lincolnton. Bill Ervin, UMAR's first chairman of the board and one of its founders, was honored with the first ever UMAR Legacy Award at a May luncheon before he passed away in November. Ann Church was hired as UMAR's third president in October.

**2012:** The Charlotte arts center expands to a satellite location at Myers Park UMC and fosters a greenhouse partnership with Baucom's Nursery. The nine-unit McCleskey Apartments, named in honor of Margaret and Bishop Lawrence McCleskey, opened on the grounds of Huntersville United Methodist Church.

**2013:** This marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UMAR which had grown to encompass 23 homes, nine apartments, two art centers, day supports and vocational services. Margaret McCleskey was given UMAR's Legacy Award at a dinner in her honor during the United Methodist Annual Conference in Lake Junaluska in June.

**2014:** UMAR hired Marilyn Garner, former director of development, as its fourth president in January. In December, it officially opened its third art center, Art on Scales, in Reidsville, NC.

**2015:** UMAR helps more than 400 adults around western NC live, work and thrive.