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## Mardag Foundation Supports MRCI Mission: Creating Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Disabilities

For some, a van may be a means to get from point A to point B. MRCI is giving the basic white van a whole new lease on life, putting meaning in every mile traveled by transporting individuals with disabilities to community experiences each and every day.

“True community inclusion is a feeling of belonging and fellowship with others,” explains MRCI CEO Brian Benshoof. “Community is not a place where people go for ‘outing.’ Community for people with disabilities should be a place to explore, learn, and connect with others, just like for people without disabilities.”

The Mardag Foundation believes in this mission and recently awarded MRCI \$25,000 in grant funding to help the organization overcome barriers such as transportation and staffing

“The Mardag Foundation is proud to support our non-profit partners in the East Metro and Greater Minnesota. We hope that the Foundation will continue to improve the lives of Minnesotans for many years to come through partnerships with community-based initiatives that seek to remove barriers and create opportunities for the communities we seek to serve,” says Mardag relationship manager Gina Suarez Reyes.

Community-Based Day Support Services provide the opportunity to gain skills that promote community participation. While receiving quality support, participants are offered opportunities to learn and apply essential life skills such as: self-advocacy, independent living, health and wellness, community safety, and social skills.

This award-winning, community-based day service is another way MRCI meets its mission of providing innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with disabilities at home, at work and in the community.

To speak to an individual impacted by the program, or someone from MRCI, please contact Lisa Cownie, 507-720-7376 or [lcownie@mymrci.org](mailto:lcownie@mymrci.org).

**About MRCI:** MRCI has been providing services since 1953. Making the move to community-based services during the pandemic is just one example of MRCI’s commitment to being relevant to ensure Minnesotans with disabilities will have choices for personal and professional development.

**About Mardag Foundation:** The Mardag Foundation supports Minnesota nonprofits to remove barriers and create opportunities for all by building capacity for organizations supporting arts and humanities.