

## community news

# GMPI welcomes new executive director

"The Urban League," Manne said, "works mainly with African-American, minorities and other disadvantaged [populations] on training, housing and social services. Both [the Urban League and GMPI] are really about helping people, even though it's a different population we're serving."

According to the Catalogue of Philanthropy, "GMPI responds to the needs of developmentally delayed and mentally retarded citizens and their families in the greater Marlborough area. From recreation and socialization programs, to a residential and advocacy program, GMPI serves over 200 individuals and 100 families annually."

For the Connecticut-raised Manne, moving to Massachusetts was also personal.

"I have some very close and dear friends and family in Massachusetts, but I've always loved [the state], particularly Cape Cod. I felt it was time

to look into moving to Massachusetts, and I came across the opportunity at GMPI," Manne said.

"What attracted me most to GMPI," Manne said, "was the Board of Directors. When I came for my first interview, I was really attracted to this committed, hard-working team. They were very devoted to the organization, and I realized this was the kind of organization I would really like to work for and lead."

The feeling between Manne and the board members was mutual.

"Carol was selected based on her credentials," GMPI Chair of the Board of Directors Chuck Stradford said. "She had vast experience in the human services area, having worked with the Urban League, and she also had demonstrated a great capacity for fund-raising and an ability to manage."

"My wish or hope with Carol as [executive director] is that we will be able to add more

to our client base [and] draw from the businesses and corporations in and around Marlborough to help us grow."

During a July 14 phone interview, Manne sounded equal parts exhausted from her first week on the job and thrilled about the possibilities at GMPI.

"There's so much potential," Manne said. "I'd like to see the whole organization think outside the box. My main goal is to really market GMPI so that the communities we serve and beyond really get to know us."

"I'm looking to grow not only financially but program-wise. I want to get into job coaching for our clients, and have our clients start some small entrepreneurial businesses, possibly opening up a thrift shop or a maintenance or landscaping business," Manne said. "I also want to begin to expand on special events. I would like to get some celebrities here, maybe musical [ones]. We might be looking at starting a

gala ball annual event.

"How I will serve the population and GMPI is all I've been mainly thinking about. I want to expand everything," Manne said. "With this team

I have now, and the folks we serve, and the community, I think we are all going to work together as a team, and there will be great things happening at GMPI."

### GMPI welcomes new executive director



PHOTO/JOAN W. PROKOWIEW

Carol Manne

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Contributing Writer*

**Marlborough** - Greater Marlborough Programs Inc. (GMPI) welcomed a new executive director July 10, as Carol Manne joined the GMPI team.

Manne came to GMPI after a near three-decade stint at the Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut. Her latest position in that organization was acting president and CEO.

Continued on page 12