

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

New director wants growth

Carol Manne takes over leadership role at Greater Marlboro Programs

By Crystal Bozek
DAILY NEWS STAFF

MARLBOROUGH — Local business owners might find Carol Manne knocking on their doors this summer.

The newest director of Greater Marlboro Programs Inc., which provides services to the developmentally disabled, is trying to expand the nonprofit's membership and donation base.

"We aren't the Boys & Girls Club. We don't have that name recognition," said Manne. "So we have to get out there. People need to know what the agency is about."

Manne started July 10. The job opened after Director Terry Sloat left after just a year on the job. Sloat also served as the city's former Council on Aging director.

"What GMPI needs to do is grow," said Chuck Stradford, chairman of the board of directors. "I saw, and I think everyone

else did too, a leader in Carol, someone who can help the organization spread its wings."

The nonprofit offers social and recreational events, homes, jobs and transportation to the developmentally disabled. They participate in the Special Olympics every year.

Manne comes from a three-decade stint with the Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut, where she recently served as acting president and CEO. She worked mainly with African-Americans, minorities and disadvantaged populations.

"This is a totally different population from what I worked with before, but it's all about helping people," Manne said. "And I plan to help this organization look outside the box."

After only a month on this job, she has already whipped up some of those big ideas the board was looking for.



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY BEAR CIERI

Carol Manne is the new executive director of Greater Marlboro Programs, Inc.

She envisions the nonprofit, which services more than 200 area residents, moving from its cramped Walker Building suite to its own three-story facility.

"The bottom floor would be a thrift shop where some of the younger ones can work at," Manne said. "We could hold recreational activities there, have offices and maybe even some living space."

She wants to offer more job opportunities to the developmentally disabled community, or even help them start their own landscaping or maintenance busi-

nesses.

But expanding the donation base is the predecessor to any of her big ideas, since funding is stretched out thin. The majority of funding comes from the state Department of Mental Retardation. Then there's fees from clients, donations and some federal Housing and Urban Development funding.

"And you never know what will happen with state funding," she said.

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