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Monday, December 14, 2009

Maryland Community Connection, hidden in plain sight.

[Maryland Community Connection wins award.](#)

Grassroots.org, a New York-based nonprofit organization that provides free web and technology resources for nonprofits nationwide, selected the Maryland Community Connection from more than 2,000 eligible organizations as its Member of the Month.

Each month, Grassroots.org selects one member whose work best fulfills its mission: To serve as a catalyst for positive social change by leveraging modern technologies and best business practices.

Based in Cheverly, MD, the Maryland Community Connection helps people with developmental disabilities pursue work, reach social and economic independence and achieve their goals.

Four main criteria are used to evaluate the websites: activity, growth, creativity and navigability. With its inviting web design and effective use of Grassroots.org tools, the Maryland Community Connection excelled in each of these categories.

"We want to see other nonprofits succeed and grow because of the services we provide," said Shane Hankins, Executive Director of Grassroots.org. "The Maryland Community Connection website is a great example of how nonprofits utilize technology tools to thrive."

Grassroots.org services let the Maryland Community Connection create a compelling and effective online community. One of the most valuable services was the volunteer graphic design program, said André Coates, executive director at Maryland Community Connection.

"The Grassroots.org volunteer created a professional image for our new website to increase visibility about our services to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals and be included as part of their communities," Coates said.

That image still helps the organization reach its ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for disabled community members.

"The Grassroots service has successfully assisted Maryland Community Connection to positively share our commitment to creating jobs and opportunities for people with disabilities in the community," Coates said.

Posted by Dan at [10:29 AM](#)

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