

Margie and Michael Baldwin, and a small group of friends, create the **Marion Foundation**, a member-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit which pursued knowledge through informal workshops and seminars. It also acted as a resource center, distributing a quarterly "newsletter" with articles and information on a variety of thought-provoking topics.

"A group of friends (hunch bunch) whose lives have been enriched by the Marion Foundation who wish to stay in touch."

– Claude Pepin, 2001

The Marion Foundation changes its name to the **Marion Institute**, with core, staff-supported programs and global "Serendipity Projects" (supported administratively.) "Changing ourselves, changing our world" becomes the Institute's mission.

*Bioneers by the Bay* has its inaugural multi-day event, hosted at UMass Dartmouth (until 2009.) The transformative cultural conference is later renamed **Connecting for Change** and goes on to make a big impact in the lives of thousands of attendees throughout the years, until the last conference in 2015.

"The Marion Institute provides support and insight to emerging initiatives that make a profound difference in the world. Their work does not show up at the head of the parade, but it is often a reason there is a parade at all."

– Paul Hawken, Environmentalist, Entrepreneur, Author, CFC Keynote, 2012

MI begins working with local energy efficiency movements, making a sustainable Southcoast a part of its mission. In 2016, the grassroots program is adopted by MI and becomes a core program: the **Southcoast Energy Challenge**.

The final Connecting for Change Conference takes place in October. In November, the first **Connector Series** event takes place. The new core program focuses on more intimate, curated events throughout the year, designed to increase interaction, foster dialogue and bring innovative ideas to action.

Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Marion Institute continues to stay the course with its core mission and objective: to turn aspirations into action. With 5 core programs and 10 local and global **Greenhouse Initiatives** (formally known as *Serendipity Projects*) the Institute is looking toward another 25 years of fostering positive social change, locally and across the globe.

1993 1997 2003 2004 2005 2009 2011 2013 2015 2016 2017 2018

The Marion Foundation creates its first core program- the **Biological Medicine Network**. It begins to host seminars for patients and doctors and in time, grows into a referral-based network connecting patients with alternative medicine practitioners across the globe.

Wangari Maathai, founder of the *Green Belt Movement*, becomes the first African Woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The *Green Belt Movement* was an early **Serendipity Project** based in Kenya and focused on environmental conservation, community development and capacity building.

The *Sustainability Education Initiative* is created; the project seeks to create edible school gardens. In 2013, SEI refines its mission to focus on public schools in New Bedford, MA. The project becomes a core MI program and is renamed **Grow Education**.

**Root Cause Solutions:** The Marion Institute redefines its mission to reflect changing organizational goals: It "acts as an incubator for a diverse array of programs and Serendipity Projects that seek to find a solution to the root cause of an issue in the realms of sustainability and social justice."

The Institute expands its focus on alternative medicine with the creation of a new core program: the **Bioregulatory Medicine Institute**, or **BRMI**. It is founded to promote the science and art of bioregulatory medicine, and to increase public knowledge of bioregulatory medicine as a wholistic and evidence-based medical system. An inaugural conference is held in Louisville, KY in October.

The *BioMed Network* celebrates 20 years and commemorates with a slight name change to the **Bioregulatory Medicine Network**, in solidarity with its new sister program, BRMI. Together, they are the **Bioregulatory Medicine Programs**.