

October 28, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian(s):

I am thrilled to share with you an announcement made by our CEO, Gil Fonger, earlier this morning:

As you are aware, since February we have been in merger discussions with **Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care** in Elgin. I wanted you to know that the Marklund Board of Directors voted UNANIMOUSLY last night to join with Little Angels.

Little Angels has a history that is very similar to Marklund. They were founded in 1958 (Marklund in 1954) by Pat Wasmond and her husband who were asked to take in an infant with developmental disabilities. Marklund was founded by Claire Haverkamp and her husband who were asked to take in an infant, Mark William Lund, as our first client.

Little Angels currently serves 57-clients with severe/profound developmental disabilities at the same level as those we serve at MPC in Bloomingdale. They have a staff of 118 which will bring Marklund to almost 450 staff in total. The new center will be called the **Marklund Wasmond Center (MWC)**.

We are currently in the planning stages to add two classrooms to serve children with multi-needs and create a Marklund Day School – West campus. The new classrooms will serve up to an additional 20 students.

I want to share the following quote from their Executive Director:

“Little Angels has always been a labor of love for the entire Wasmond Family,” said Shelley Lewis, longtime executive director of Little Angels, whose parents founded that organization. “Of utmost importance to us is that we carry on my mother’s legacy of providing care and support to children and young adults with profound disabilities and complex medical needs in a place that feels like home. My family and our dedicated staff have **entrusted this legacy to Marklund who shares a very similar history and passion for caring. Joining the Marklund Family feels very much like home to us and we are excited about what the future holds.**”

The merger will become effective as of **Tuesday, November 1**. We are grateful that Shelley Lewis will be continuing as the administrator of MWC.

A tremendous amount of hard work, by both organizations, has gone into the due diligence needed to evaluate the merger and integrate MWC into the Marklund organization. I am grateful for everyone who has been involved in the process.

**I am absolutely convinced that the two organizations are stronger together than apart.**

As of Tuesday, Marklund will serve a total of 174 clients (24/7), 55 students and 14 day clients. Thank you for all you do to fulfill our mission to...*make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities.*

God bless you!  
Gil

We are incredibly excited about this merger and look forward to all of the opportunities it will bring!

At this time, I have completed the 2017 Quarterly Parent Meeting Schedule (see below for dates and times). I do hope you will all be able to attend these meetings! As a reminder, our last 2016 Quarterly Parent Meeting is scheduled to take place on December 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hyde Center in the Multi-purpose Room. I am pleased to announce that we will have a guest speaker at the December meeting. Attorney Mark Russel will be joining us to share information about Special Needs Trusts and future legal planning for your loved ones.

## 2017 Quarterly Parent Meetings:

Date/Time:		Location
March 11, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Hyde Center Multi-purpose Room
June 3, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Hyde Center Multi-purpose Room
September 23, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Hyde Center Multi-purpose Room
December 16, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Hyde Center Multi-purpose Room

Also attached for your review is our updated Client Accounts Policy. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me at (630)746.9073.

Have a blessed weekend and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Thank you,

RACHELLE JEWISON,  
ADMINISTRATOR OF MARKLUND HYDE CENTER AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

“Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities”

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