



Parent Letter

December 2017

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s) and Families,

The holiday season has begun and fun holiday festivities are taking place regularly throughout campus. On December 2, 2017, we held our annual Holiday Open House. We loved all of the participation from our families and there were lots of big smiles and happy faces all around!

Development:

Please see attached 2018 Event Schedule

Campus Updates:

We have a new face on campus! Please join me in welcoming Dennis to our Marklund Sayers Home.

Painting in the homes has been put on hold at this time to allow for our many holiday festivities. We will resume all painting activity after the new year.

Client Confidentiality: Please remember that the safety and security of your loved one is of paramount concern to all of us here at Marklund! I ask that all parents, guardians, and families help keep your loved ones safe by helping us keep confidential information private at all times. All visitors shall sign in at the front desk of the Hyde Center or the nursing station in each of the homes. Only those individuals whom the guardian has approved for visitation shall be permitted access to any of the homes or DT. Additionally, no client photographs may be taken in any area of DT. If you have any questions about any of the above information, please reach out to me.

Nursing Updates:

The nursing department would like to welcome Abby as the new 5-day nurse in our VanDerMolen Home. Abby is new to Marklund and has worked with the DD population for most of her career in nursing. She is a welcomed addition to our team. We would also like to welcome

Linda to her new position as the 5-day nurse in our Dreher Home, and lastly Megan assumed the 5-day role at Richard Home.

Congratulations to Nicole this month on her one-year anniversary as nurse manager in our Haverkampf and VanDerMolen Homes.

Our electronic medical administration record (eMAR) system is up and running in Dreher and Richard. What does this mean for your loved one? Our computers are now up to the minute accurate with our pharmacy. A scanning system provides additional checks to ensure the correct medication and dose are being prepared. An alert system monitors the medication pass times to ensure medications are not missed. It has been a successful transition thus far, and we are very excited to transition the rest of the group homes in the new year.

With the holidays approaching, if you are planning to take your loved one home, please notify the nurse manager for your home so any medications can be prepared (or additional medications ordered in the event of an extended stay at home).

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season! - Kristin Dolen, Director of Nursing

Community Integration:



Happy Holidays! 'Tis a busy season filled with nightly carolers, plays, and quickly approaching, the Christmas Eve Gift Opening! Community Integration is off to a great start and has over 17 agencies that we currently assist. In fact, in February, Marklund clients will be honored by the Pottawatomie Community Center in February at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Open House.

Overall, we have received lots of great feedback from the partner agencies and we are increasing our frequency of activity in the surrounding communities.

As an example, at the Northern Illinois Food bank in 3 months, we've packed a total of 1,469 pounds of food, which has provided 1,225 meals for local food pantries. Recently, we added visits to Hope Chest Resale Store, a faith-based organization that reaches out to surrounding communities, accepting and selling donations of various items. Clients help by passing out flyers, hand-over-hand labeling/pricing items, stocking, cleaning; anything that may be needed to help with the store.

Also, visits to Symphony of Orchard Valley, a nursing home, has been very beneficial to connecting their residents and our clients. We have participated with wheelchair exercises and everyone had a great time! Currently in the works, we're waiting on the go ahead for clients to assist with cleaning tables or have jobs such as sweeping. Fingers crossed! As the months go by, we are steadily growing, creating meaningful experiences not only for our communities, but for Marklund's mission: "Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities."

-Michael Jones, Community Integration Program Manager

Developmental Training Updates:



We have been busy in DT the last few months! November was packed with activities and preparation for Open House. Each year, we decorate a tree for Geneva History Museum's Annual Giving Tree Celebration. Each classroom made different ornaments to adorn the tree. Each client made an ornament and our tree was loaded with decorations this year! Our Developmental Training Team decided to dedicate our tree to the many volunteers who dedicate their time to help us make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities. You may view this tree at the Geneva History Museum until December 23th. Or, you can vote and donate to Marklund through their website: <http://www.genevahistorymuseum.org>

While getting ready for Thanksgiving we were simultaneously preparing for Open House. Our theme this year was "Christmas Around the World." Each of our seven classrooms focused on one of seven continents. We learned various facts about the continents and how they celebrate Christmas. We worked diligently to decorate the Marklund Hyde Center and prepare for our annual Open House. Each room made special decorations for the Christmas tree displayed in the multi-purpose room for all to enjoy.

We were thoroughly entertained by the Johnny Cash impersonator here on November 29th.

Many of our clients were happy to take a break from decorating and perked right up to the music. "Johnny Dough" played a mix of Johnny Cash hits as well as Christmas music.



Many of us have fond memories of baking cookies around the holidays, and it has become a tradition that is looked forward to all year. We have decided to start a tradition of our own here at DT. The clients are in the midst of "The 12 Days of Baking" leading us right up to Christmas! The clients are making cookies each day and delivering them to the various departments of Marklund, sure to bring a smile to many faces!

The DT Team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Social Services Updates:

We are still working toward obtaining social security cards and birth certificates for all clients so that we can secure State Identification cards.

Please see attached letter regarding Medicare benefits.

Parent Portal:

Please remember to check the Parent Portal for regular updates as it pertains to client activities and outings. You can also find relevant contact information for our staff and a copy of our Parent Letter.

Upcoming Events:

We always have exciting events taking place. Please notify us if you are interested in participating in any activities we have to offer.

Keep up with Marklund happenings on our social media sites: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube!

Dec. 16 – Quarterly Parent/Guardian Meeting 10:00a.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Gift Opening 10:00 a.m.

2018 Parent/Guardian Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

Please note that all meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Hyde Center Board Room on the following dates:

- March 17, 2018
- June 16, 2018
- September 22, 2018
- December 15, 2018

Extra! Extra!

Do you know anyone who is looking for an accessible van? If so, please share the following information: 2016 Dodge Caravan for sale, 22,000 miles, asking \$29,900. Further inquiries should be directed to Becky Stewart @ (630)-846-0640.

Wishing you all a blessed Holiday Season,

Rachelle Jewison,

Administrator of Marklund Hyde Center and Community-Based Services

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