



## Parent Letter

December 2016

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the 2016 already. We have been very busy planning for our Holiday Open House which is scheduled for this Saturday, December 3, 2016.

All families should have received their invitation for this event. We are asking that each family bring a dessert to share. Marklund will be providing a full range of appetizers which will include: BBQ meatballs, chicken wings, egg rolls, mozzarella sticks, mini pizzas, and many more!

### Development Announcements:

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Run, Walk, and Roll was a huge success this year. We had more than 600 people register and participate and our Development department raised over \$59,000!

Our golf outing is getting a makeover for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we're all really excited! We've changed venues to Coghill in Lemont (a nationally ranked public course). We are also moving to a June date – Wed, June 7<sup>th</sup> – and the format will include brunch, an earlier shotgun start and a shorter evening program – which will wrap up at 6 p.m.

Preparations for “The Gatsby Ball,” our annual Top Hat black-tie event, kicked off in September and is in full swing with plans for guests to go back to the Roaring Twenties and the glitz and glam of that era.

### Client Updates:

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of our dear Angela S. from MTH. Angela was receiving medical services away from Marklund at the time of her passing. She has been a part of the Marklund family since 1989. Angela touched the hearts of those who knew her and she will be greatly missed by all of her housemates, Marklund staff, and Marklund volunteers.

## Campus Updates:

Little Angels Acquisition- On Nov. 1, we officially merged with Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care and welcomed the newly merged staff to the Marklund Team. The Elgin-based facility will now be known as the Marklund Wasmond Center.

We would like to thank several organizations for their service to Marklund in the past few weeks:

- Hello Broadway/Angel Voices came to MHC and did a live production of "The Little Mermaid." The play received rave reviews and was enjoyed by many.
- Christ Community Church, in conjunction with ROCK mission team, provided church services and helped over 30 of our clients decorate scarecrows. These scarecrows are currently on display in the patio area of each of the homes.
- Wheaton Christian Grammar School visited clients in their homes and assisted clients with decorating over 60 pumpkins. This activity was a lot of fun and our pumpkins looked great!

### Direct Care Staffing Update:

I am thrilled to announce that we have filled the majority of our direct care positions in the last several weeks. We are continuing to see a huge influx of applicants. As of today, three homes are fully staffed. The other three homes have only 1-2 positions open.

### Management Update:

We have hired a new Nurse Manager for the Geneva campus. Please join me in welcoming Nichole Worthem as the new Nurse Manager for MVH and MHH. Nicole has been with Marklund for several months. She currently works as the NOC R.N. in MVH and MHH. Nicole will begin her official duties on December 5, 2016.

I am pleased to announce that Brittany Sullivan will be joining the team on Monday, Dec. 5 as the new Social Services Program Manager. Brittany will be replacing Tony Quinones, whose resignation was accepted on Nov. 14, 2016. Brittany comes to us from Day One/Pact where she has worked for several years as a PAS/ISSA. Brittany has a wealth of knowledge about funding mechanisms, regulations, and placement options for people with disabilities.

Jeannie Stefanik has accepted the role of the Interim DT Program Manager as of November 16, 2016. Jeannie replaces Stephanie Bushong in this role, as Stephanie's resignation was accepted on Nov. 14, 2016. Jeannie will continue to carry her DI duties for classrooms 5 & 6 in addition to her new responsibilities. I am very grateful for Jeannie's willingness to assist during this time of transition.

## Developmental Training Updates:

Our clients and staff are really enjoying the use of the curriculum in each of the classrooms. Earlier this month our clients learned about the Electoral College, voting, and they also

conducted research on the presidential nominees. On Nov. 8, clients were able to cast their vote. A lot of them really enjoyed the experience. For sake of political talk, I won't disclose the winner. ☺

Classrooms 5 and 6 are working diligently to meet the demands for their embossed cards. Jeannie Stefanik, DI, has taken the lead on this project and the cards are looking great. Cards will be for sale at MHC's holiday open house.

Remember to come watch our annual Christmas play! Details are below in the Upcoming Events Section.

## Parent Portal:

Please remember to check the Parent Portal for regular updates as it pertains to client activities and outings.

## Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 29, 2016- Giving Tuesday-Decorating the Homes, 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 3, 2016- MHC Open House, 12-2 p.m.
- Dec. 10, 2016- Quarterly Parent meeting at MHC 10 a.m., 12 p.m.
- Dec. 20, 2016- "Sarah finds Christmas" play at MHC in Multi-purpose Room, 1:15 p.m.
- Dec. 24, 2016- Christmas Eve Gift Opening, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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!

## Request for Donations:

Every year, we ask for your help in securing monetary donations that are used for the purpose of a purchase of a Christmas gift for Dr. Bednar and Dr. Newman. If you are interested in making a donation, please send a check to the Hyde Center with a memo indicating what the donation is to be used for. You may also drop off a check or cash at the front desk with my assistant, Susan. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season! I look forward to seeing many of you this Saturday. Please remember, if there is anything I can do for you, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Jewison,

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