Marklund™

OUR MISSION Making ***everyday life*** possible for individuals with profound disabilities.

CARE LETTER

A newsletter for those who care about Marklund

Winter 2017 | www.marklund.org

10-year Anniversary of Armbruster Walk

California or Bust for Marklund's Kids

Original Artwork from Armbruster's Walk Journal

*Ten years later, and Jim Armbruster is still "that guy" who walked to California. Starting on May 6, 2007 from his front porch in Aurora, he left the comforts of home and walked more than 2,300 miles to San Francisco in five months. What is even more impressive is that he did it all for a cause – **to share the story of Marklund, the place his son, Nathan, called "home."***

The adventure checked many boxes on any bucket list. It was a historical journey, where Jim witnessed how the American westward expansion shaped the country. It was an opportunity to explore his genealogy, where he saw firsthand the places about which his family reminisced. It was a trip full of new and old stories, where every turn offered an experience showcasing the depth of the human spirit that ties all mankind together, most evidently - the generosity that flows like the Mississippi from the Midwest to the west coast.

Jim's westward journey stepped through Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and finally, California. This incredible endeavor improved awareness throughout the Midwest and west about the struggles of caring for individuals with profound disabilities.

While this mission was most notably focused on raising awareness about care for children with disabilities, it resulted in Jim raising over $150,000 in support of Marklund. Over the 2,300 miles, he became a living example of perseverance: walking 20 miles a day beneath the beating sun, up hills (and mountains) to pass a 10,000-foot elevation increase, with blisters splitting in his shoes, against wind tossing dust against his glasses, amidst fog & rain, and through physical pain. He kept taking one more step for the Marklund residents.

Today, 10 years later, Marklund remembers the impact his walk made on those we serve. Heather Graves, Chief Development Officer at Marklund says, "We are so appreciative of Jim's longtime dedication and wanted to celebrate the anniversary of his extraordinary fundraising accomplishment to raise needed funds and awareness for Marklund", said Heather. Jim's commitment is just as strong today - as he serves on the Executive Committee of the Board, as the Development Committee chairman and member of the Top Hat Ball Committee. Thank you Jim for your service and generosity to further our mission for the children and adults we serve."

Marklund recognizes the strength and dedication it took for Jim to plan and complete this journey. He has helped shape what Marklund is today.

October 6, 2007
Jim Armbruster's Last Journal entry

There is an old Texas saying "If you are going to talk the talk, you better be able to walk the walk." By damn, I walked the walk!

My wish is that everyone is able to find their walk in life.

The Armbruster family and some Marklund staff joined Jim to celebrate the completion of his journey.

Marklund®

LOCATIONS

Marklund Hyde Center
1S450 Wyatt Drive
Geneva, IL 60134
630.593.5500 | 630.593.5501 fax

Marklund Wasmond Center
1435 Summit Street
Elgin, IL 60120
224.523.7530 | 847.622.5523 fax

Marklund Philip Center
164 S. Prairie Avenue
Bloomingdale, IL 60108
630.529.2871 | 630.529.3266 fax

Marklund Day School
164 S. Prairie Avenue
Bloomingdale, IL 60108
630.307.1882 | 630.307.5624 fax

Marklund Day School, *Elgin Campus*
1435 Summit Street
Elgin, IL 60120
630.307.1882 | 630.307.5624 fax

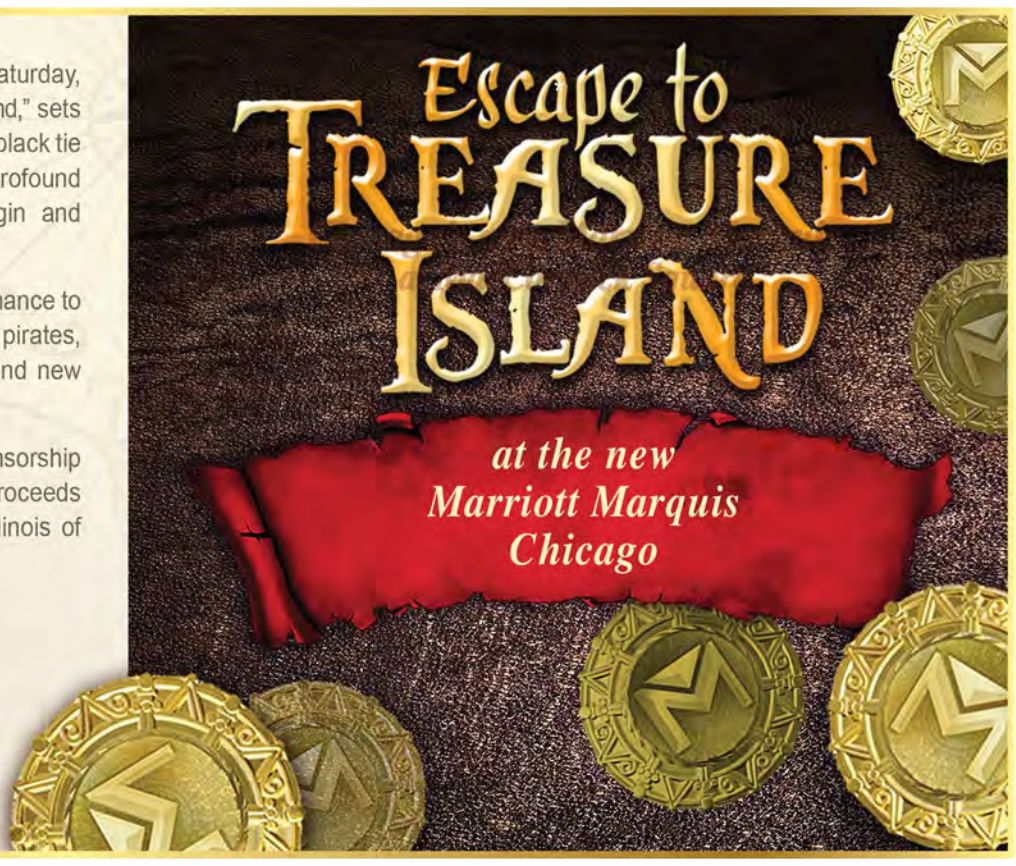
Escape to Treasure Island *at Annual Top Hat Ball*

Ahoy, mateys! Ready yer sea legs and leave the landlubbers behind Saturday, Feb 3, 2018, when Marklund's 22nd Annual Top Hat Ball, "Escape to Treasure Island," sets sail at the brand new Marriott Marquis Chicago. As one of the area's premier black tie fundraising events, it supports the care of children and adults with profound developmental disabilities served by Marklund at its Bloomingdale, Elgin and Geneva locations.

Having the "Treasure Island" theme, this popular event will give guests the chance to seek Captain Jack Sparrow and experience the days of swashbuckling pirates, hearty buccaneers, captivating lasses, roaring seas, priceless treasures and new adventures.

Individual tickets to the Top Hat Ball are $450 per person, with various sponsorship and group packages available. As Marklund's major fundraiser of the year, proceeds will help Marklund bridge the large funding gap created by the state of Illinois of $17,000 per year for each of Marklund's 174 residential clients.

To register, visit www.marklund.org/tophatball or contact Jeannine Zupo, Director of Signature Events, at jzupo@marklund.org or 630.593.5445.



RUN 5K/1 MILE WALK AND ROLL 5 Years *and Running Strong!*

More than 600 people helped Marklund celebrate its 5th Annual **Run, Walk & Roll** 5K & 1 Mile event, helping to reach a new fundraising record of **$67,000.**

The October event, which took place by Marklund's Hyde Center campus in Geneva, welcomed 575 participants who ran, walked and rolled in wheelchairs. In addition, dozens of volunteers supported the event before, during and after.

Among the participants were several "teams" who ran and walked together in support of specific clients or students who receive care or attend school at one of the Marklund facilities. Many of the participants ran personal fundraising campaigns in support of Marklund. The top fundraising team was **Tad's Tortoises** whose 32 teammates raised $2,447. The top individual fundraiser was **Maggie Bieritz.**

A big thank you goes out to this year's Presenting Sponsor, **Plante Moran.**

View photos from this year's event at www.marklund.org/5K.

FOR Marklund®

FALL FUNDRAISING

Pancake Breakfast: **The 7th Annual Pancake Breakfast brought in $12,300 for Marklund programs and client services!**

Angel Songs Soiree: **Thanks to the generosity of donors who attended the Angel Songs Soiree, Marklund raised $112,000.**

OUR EVENT CALENDAR

Feb. 3, 2018
22nd Annual Top Hat Ball

April 29, 2018
NEW 5K & 1Mile Run/Walk

June 6, 2018
36th Annual Marklund Golf Classic

D.J.

Photo Courtesy of Press Photography Inc.

We have all endured news that a loved one has fallen ill. From cancer. A heart attack. A stroke. **Now, imagine if your baby was the one suffering from devastating seizures and illness.**

What would you do?

At Marklund, all of our parents have faced a serious diagnosis for their child. They searched for help and support to ensure their child could thrive. **Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Marklund is here for them.**

Kate and Tito Biag arrived in the US from the Philippines in 1969, only a few years before the birth of their first son, DJ. After experiencing multiple seizures at only seven months, DJ was diagnosed with a brain tumor and given only one year to live. DJ underwent surgery and treatment to remove the tumor, and he survived well past the original prognosis – but the treatment caused permanent brain damage.

Throughout DJ's life-threatening battle, the Biags had two more sons, Jon and Jerry. All the while, Kate continued working days while Tito worked night shifts to ensure one of them was always home. But in order for each of their children to receive the care and attention they needed, they turned to Marklund. DJ moved into the Philip Center in Bloomingdale when he was 10, and has been a Marklund resident for nearly 35 years.

Today, DJ is a quiet guy but is always attuned to his surroundings. His brother, Jerry, describes him as very determined when he wants to be! DJ enjoys cartoons and going on outings with Marklund's Community Integration program, where he can meet new people and perform volunteer vocational tasks for local organizations.

The Biags were able to turn to the Marklund community to help them through their hardships, to build relationships and to care for their son.

Now the Biag Family would like to encourage everyone in the Marklund community to show their support: **the Biags have offered to match your gift - dollar for dollar - up to $10,000 if we receive it by December 31, 2017.** Your year-end gift can make twice the impact.

You are the Marklund community – thank you for all you do!

With sincere gratitude,

Gilbert W. Fonger
President/CEO
630.593.5476
gfonger@marklund.org

Photo Courtesy of Press Photography Inc.

You are the Marklund community. Thank you!

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ $_____

Payment Method

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Marklund)
☐ Please charge my credit card *(see back of form)*
☐ I commit to a monthly gift of $ _____.
(see back of form)

To give online, please follow the QR code or visit www.marklund.org/dj

This gift is ☐ in honor ☐ in memory of

_____

☐ I (we) wish to remain anonymous

I would like more information about

☐ Volunteering or taking a tour at Marklund
☐ Naming Marklund in my will
☐ Making gifts of stock or securities
☐ Doubling my gift with a match by my employer

Credit Card Information

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

_____
CREDIT CARD NUMBER

_____ _____
EXPIRATION DATE CVV NUMBER

_____
NAME ON CARD

_____
SIGNATURE

Marklund®
1S450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva, IL 60134 **630.593.5500**
www.marklund.org | info@marklund.org
Contributions to Marklund are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

#ILGIVE

#GivingTuesday #ILGive 2017

HUGE Success

Thanks to Matching Donor

Fisher nuts

Corporate Partner Fisher Nuts (John B. Sanfilippo & Son.)

After the frenzy of food, Black Friday lines, Small Saturday shopping, and Cyber Monday clicks, Marklund benefitted from the generosity of donors on **#GivingTuesday, Nov. 28.**

In one day of online giving, with Corporate Partner Fisher Nuts® matching the first $5,000 of new and increased gifts, Marklund raised approximately **$18,131.**

Fisher Nuts® is a brand of John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc. (JBSS), a well-known corporation headquartered in Elgin. As a significant, long-time partner of Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care, JBSS continued to support Marklund after the merger with Little Angels in November 2016.

In addition to the generous match for Giving Tuesday, JBSS (through the Fisher Nut brand) was a major sponsor at the Angel Songs Soiree, Run Walk & Roll 5k/1M event, and the Top Hat Ball.

Thank you to all of the #GivingTuesday supporters!

To learn how to become a Corporate Partner, visit www.marklund.org/cp.

rest®
RESPITE EDUCATION & SUPPORT TOOLS

REST honors 2 states for Respite Services

Respite organizations from two distinctly different states received high recognition awards from REST (Respite Education & Support Tools) for their efforts in bringing respite care to individuals in their region.

REST staff members acknowledged the efforts of respite Trainers and Companions from the states of Nevada and New York, at the Lifespan Respite Conference in Huntsville, AL.

Nevada received the *Forgotten Caregiver Award* for fulfilling REST's mission of "delivering education and support to those offering a break to caregivers." Jeff Duncan, supportive services program chief of the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, accepted the award.

New York earned the *Vision Award* for achieving REST's vision of "creating an international network of organizations that prepares individuals to support caregivers through respite." Doris Green, director of the New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition, accepted the award.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary in February, REST has trained 5,310 Companions and 486 Trainers in 29 states.

"It has been gratifying to expand across the country and meet so many people who are doing amazing things," said Lois Sheaffer, national director. "We have been so impressed with professionals, caregivers and volunteers, whose passion is to increase community resources, so people who are aging, and people with healthcare needs, can remain in their own homes."

Respite has been shown to improve family functioning, improve satisfaction with life, enhance the capacity to cope with stress, and improve attitudes toward the family member with a disability.

"Caregiving is hard work. Even helping caregivers for a little bit can make a big impact," Sheaffer said. "Respite care is a small piece of a bigger picture. It is such a needed service."

Learn more: www.restprogram.org.

OUR SOCIAL NETWORK

CARE LETTER

Winter 2017

A newsletter for those who care about Marklund

Marklund™
1S450 Wyatt Drive
Geneva, IL 60134

ACCREDITED CHARITY bbb.org

marklund

Our Guiding Principles

1. We have a Client-Centered Focus
2. We strive to be an Employer of Choice
3. We conduct business in a way that is Transparent and with Integrity
4. We are Committed to Excellence in all we do
5. We are Responsible Stewards of our resources *(*See below)*
6. We encourage Supported Independence for our clients and students
7. We develop relationships and partnerships in the Community

Spotlight – Responsible Stewardship

According to Merriam Webster, stewardship is "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

Here at Marklund, we strive to further our mission on the shoulders of some very important people—our donors and volunteers. You entrust your precious resources—time, talents, treasures—to our care to help us achieve our goals. With that, we promise to carefully manage these key resources in the most effective manner possible.

We not only abide by the *Donor Bill of Rights* – it's also part of our Governing Policy to:

- assure that all gifts are used in accordance with the donor's wishes;
- be transparent and forthright about how gifts are managed and used;
- be proactive and consistent in the acknowledgment and recognition of our donors and volunteers for their gifts.

As an **Accredited Charity of the Better Business Bureau,** Marklund meets all of the BBB's Standards for Charity Accountability.

With a fundraising gap of $17,000 per each of the 174 residential clients we serve each year—donations are critical for us to not only provide the care that we do, but allow us to offer opportunities and choices each and every day to those we serve.

Marklund Day School

Meet Meghan Edwards, *Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)*

Job Description: Provides training and support to staff regarding proactive behavioral strategies for students; develops behavior intervention plans for each individual student. "Behavioral decisions made are based on the analysis of behavioral data and progress made when interventions are put into place."

Experience: Board Certification as a BCBA. Master's Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis; teacher in special education classrooms kindergarten through high school; in-home behavior therapist with individuals ages 3-65.

One year later – *One team*

On the one-year anniversary of its merger with Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care, Marklund is showing that bigger is truly better. "A lot of hard work has gone into the transition over the past year to make us "ONE" organization; we truly are stronger together," noted Gil Fonger, President and CEO.

Over the year, Little Angels, renamed the **Marklund Wasmond Center** (in honor of its founders Pat and Bob Wasmond), has reaped the rewards of being part of an expanded company. Among the highlights of the incorporated changes are:

- Marklund's IT staff **upgraded the computer system** infrastructure at the Wasmond Center, giving staff new computers and access to a secure wireless internet and Marklund's server.
- **Computer kiosks** were set up throughout the building to improve employee communications.
- **Purchasing procedures** at the Wasmond Center have been streamlined and completely integrated with Marklund to create cost efficiencies.
- A **new phone system** was integrated into Marklund's agency-wide network.
- The fundraising department converted the Little Angels' donor information into Marklund's **secure and confidential donor database.**
- **New technology** to integrate with Marklund's current **electronic medical charting** process was purchased, and implementation and training has begun.
- Residents of the Wasmond Center now enjoy traveling in comfort on a **brand new accessible bus,**which replaced a 12-year-old bus.
- **The Marklund Day School – Elgin campus opened** with two specially-designed classrooms. They are licensed, staffed, and currently operating. Five children are already enrolled in the program,four of whom are Wasmond Center residents who had been unable to attend educational programming in the community due to their complex medical needs. With this program, they receive 5x the educational services they did before. The program also serves community students whose districts are unable to accommodate their medical needs during the school day.
- Marklund's Human Resources team **streamlined the recruiting and orientation processes** for new staff, while the Volunteer Department began **recruiting and training** individual and group **volunteers** to serve the Wasmond Center clients.

Combined, our 500+ full and part time staff now make *everyday life* possible for over 250 clients and students. "This could not have happened without the strong, dedicated, mission-driven staff and Board of Directors that Marklund is blessed to have," said Fonger. "I am grateful to our founders – **Claire & Stan Haverkampf (Marklund)** and **Pat & Bob Wasmond (Little Angels)** – for what they started over 60 years ago, as well as our administrative, direct care and support teams for what they continue to do today."

OUR VALUES **ACT** Attitude/Accountability Compassion/Creativity Teamwork