

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- Since my last report, Marklund has received approximately **\$900K** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Developmental Training, through January 31 stands at \$3.1M. We have our entire \$5M line of credit available.

Still no sign of a **state budget**. The Governor's *State of the State* address gave no clue as to his thoughts on supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Illinois is simply a mess! His primary focus seems to be getting his turn around agenda passed and education funding. As I shared last month, our court ordered payments will continue through **June 30, 2017**. In the unlikely event that a state budget is not agreed upon by that date I would expect the courts to reissue their order. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely.

On January 18 I went to a meeting, along with **Lois Sheaffer** and **Shelley Lewis**, at the Elgin Chamber of Commerce to meet freshman **State Senator Cristina Castro**. Her top priority is to get a state budget passed but I shared with her that our inadequate reimbursement rate dates back to 1994 and needs to be addressed. We are hopeful that she will be assigned to the Human Service Committee.

- The plans for the **Marklund Day School – Elgin** are continuing to come along very well. Three qualified contractors bid on the project and we selected the low bid, HAPP Builders. We sent our plans to IDPH for their review, just to be safe, and they waived the requirement basically saying that they are understaffed. We are waiting on comments from Elgin. The plan is to be under construction by mid-March. We very much appreciate **Dan Foley** (Cobra Concrete) and his offer to perform the concrete cutting needed in the project.
- Speaking of the Marklund Day School, we had 40 students in the program at this time last year. Currently we have 57 students (over a 40% increase) with two more children ready to start this month and three more potential students. **Paula Bodzioch** and her staff are continuing to do a tremendous job! The new Elgin campus is slated to open in August.
- The **board-only** section of the Marklund website is now operational. I have attached the procedure for how to get into this restricted area. It is divided into three sections: Board Manual, Marklund News and Meeting Minutes. We currently have the following information available:
 - ✓ Board Manual
 - 2017 Board meeting dates
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Marklund Bylaws
 - FY16 Consolidated Financial Statement Audit
 - Glossary of Common Terms and Acronyms
 - Marklund locations
 - Various policies
 - ✓ Marklund News
 - Next Board meeting date – 3/30
 - Notice of date change for Board Retreat to Friday, August 18
 - Top Hat
 - ✓ Meeting Minutes

- No updates

In future *First Friday* reports I will only update you on any changes to the section. Please let me know if there is information that you would find particularly helpful. Let me or Kelly (kkramer@marklund.org or 630-593-5472) know if you have any problems or questions.

- We have been working with our corporate attorney and will be filing for both state and federal trademark protection of our **new logo** as of today. I will be sharing the new logo, for the first time publically, at Top Hat on Saturday.
- I want to commend **Dawn Lassiter-Brueske**, our Director of Marketing and Communications, on being one of only 40 contributing authors to the sixth volume of PR News' Book of Employee Communications Strategies and Tactics. It is a trade publication for those in the Public Relations, Marketing and Communications field. Her article is entitled: *How to Create a Winning Employee Social Media Advocacy Program*. A well-deserved honor to be included. You can buy a print version for only \$449!
- The **Top Hat Ball** is sold out! I have no doubt that **Heather Graves** and her team have another extravaganza in store for us. Our grateful appreciation to **Dave Pierro** for creating the video that will be shown tomorrow night just before the Fund-in-Need; this will be his 21st! We SO appreciate his passion, dedication and talent!
- Just a reminder that we changed the August Board Retreat from August 3 to **Friday, August 18**. We will meet at the Marklund Day School in Bloomingdale. A meeting change was sent through Outlook. Please check to make sure you have the new date.
- Here are the remaining **Board dates** for 2017: **March 30**, May 18 (Finance only), **June 29**, August 18 (Board Retreat), and **October 26**.

Thank you for ALL you do to advance our mission to...*make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities*. I look forward to seeing many of you at Top Hat.

God bless you!

Gil