



Parent Letter

January/February 2016

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season! It was great to see so many of you at our Open House and at the gift opening on Christmas Eve! I truly enjoyed being a part of this special experience this year. It was amazing to see all the families, loved ones, staff, and volunteers that joined together to create a remarkable experience for our clients.

Our giving tree program was very successful, bringing in more than 1,400 gifts for the clients at our Geneva and Bloomingdale locations, which is an increase of 14 percent over last year. A portion of the gifts were gift cards to various locations which will give our clients a chance to shop for even more items. We had giving tree cards in more than a dozen offsite locations extending awareness of Marklund to throughout the suburbs. A special thanks goes out to Cathy Nikrandt, our volunteer manager, who pulls this entire program together each year with the assistance of our Qs who work with the clients to create their individualized wish lists, and the many volunteers and staff who come together and make it all happen.

Thanks to a generous donor, we recently received a donation that covered the cost of a new bus. The bus arrived this week and went on its "maiden voyage" Monday afternoon with our staff and clients with the Community Integration

program. Having this new bus will allow us to expand our program and get more clients out to more partnering organizations each week!



Exciting Updates:

I am pleased to announce that Kristin “Krissy” Dolen has accepted the Director of Nursing position. Krissy began her official duties this past Monday.

We also hired two Nurse Managers this past week. Both were internal candidates and each have served our clients at Marklund for many years. Please join me in welcoming Susan Paustian and Ruel Nieto as our New Nurse Managers!

Susan Paustian will be the Nurse Manager for MRH and MDH beginning on February 1st.

Ruel Nieto will be the Nurse Manager for MSH and MTH beginning February 15th.

Patricia Dahmen will take over MVH and be responsible for MVH and MHH beginning February 15th. She currently oversees MVH, MHH, and MSH.

In addition to the new nursing positions, Mike Jones has also been promoted. His new official title is Lead CNA Coordinator. Mike will now oversee the two Lead CNA's on campus, Laurie Kaczmarek and Christine Wilkins.

Upcoming Events:

- February 13, 2016 – 20th Annual Top Hat Ball
- April 29, 2016 -- Arbor Day Celebration at 11:00 a.m.
- May 26, 2016 – 34th Annual Marklund Golf Classic

We always have exciting events taking place and appreciate your helping us spread the word about them. Please notify us if you are interested in participating in any activities we have to offer.

New on Campus:

I am pleased to announce that we have a new client in our residential program.

Julie D. has filled our vacancy in MHH at this time. Julie has been a DT classroom participant for over two years. Julie moved to us from her home in Aurora, IL. Please join me in welcoming Julie and her mother Mary to the Marklund family!

New Schedules:

The new 12-hour schedules are in full force on the campus now and the schedule adjustments may have resulted in staff changes. We appreciate everyone's patience in working with staff members that may be new to your loved one's home or classroom and know that we are always working to provide the best care that we can for our clients.

If you have any questions regarding any of the goings-on at Marklund's Geneva campus, please feel free to reach out to me anytime.

And remember, Marklund is on social media so follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube to see updated photos and news.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Jewison,

Administrator of Marklund Hyde Center and Community-Based Services

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