



Parent Letter

October 2016

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

I hope this letter finds you well. It's hard to believe that the holiday season will be upon us in just a little over a month. We are actively preparing for all of the upcoming festivities! Currently, our QIDPs are working to complete wish lists for all of our clients for the Christmas Eve gift opening extravaganza. Your suggestions for gift ideas are welcomed and very much appreciated. You may email me any ideas you have, or contact the QIDP who works with your loved one.

Announcements:

On September 10, 2016, an Art Show for our "Artists" and their families was held at Aspen Lane Wine Co. in Aurora. Seeing the finished works on display was incredible! If anyone is interested in learning about Marklund's partnership with ALWC you can visit aspenlanewinecompany.com or view the Marklund website for more information.

Our Pancake Breakfast was held on September 17th. We are pleased to announce that we had a wonderful turnout for this event. Marklund raised over \$19,000.

Our golf outing is getting a makeover for the 35th 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 7th – and the format will include brunch, an earlier shotgun start and a shorter evening program – which will wrap up at 6 pm.

"The Gatsby Ball," our annual Top Hat black-tie event, kicked off last month and planning is already in full swing, where guests will 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.

We have a new face at Dreher Home! Please join me in welcoming Courtney L. to MDH. Courtney was admitted on October 5, 2016. Prior to joining the Marklund family, Courtney lived at home with her parents and sisters.

Campus Updates:

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 look great!

Staffing update:

We continue to focus our attention on recruitment and retention efforts. As you all know, we anticipate the acquisition of Little Angels in the coming weeks. In preparation for the acquisition, our HR department has been working very closely with Little Angels management staff to determine their needs, and explore the systems and practices implemented throughout their organization. Little Angels provides similar services as our Marklund Philip Center. Both are licensed as Medically Complex Developmental Disabilities facilities (MCDD). Little Angels employs both CNAs and DSPs as their front line direct care staff and they have done so for numerous years. In an effort to attract a larger pool of qualified candidates for our direct care positions, Marklund has made the decision to offer in-house DSP training for eligible candidates. Please review the attached Q&A for any questions you may have regarding this matter. You may also contact me for any additional questions.

Developmental Training Updates:

Our curriculum is in full swing. Each week, there is a different topic and each day has a different lesson which supports weekly topics. In September, we discussed the change of seasons and corresponding subjects such as harvests, weather, and sports. This month we are discussing awareness, fire prevention, and we are beginning preparations for Halloween.

St. Charles Scarecrow Fest was a huge success. "Marklund's Halloween Party" placed 3rd in the Mega Category with a prize of \$200. The clients and staff did an amazing job creating the scarecrows and everyone had a blast doing so.

Classrooms 5 and 6 have begun their own special project of embossing cards. Jeannie Stefanik, DI, has taken the lead on this project and the cards are looking great. Cards will be for sale at MHC in the near future.

Parent Portal:

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

Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 23, 2016- Marklund's 4th Annual Run, Walk & Roll
- Nov. 29, 2016- Giving Tuesday-Decorating the Homes 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 3, 2016- MHC Open House 12-2 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!

Sincerely,

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