At the beginning of February, we’ll be turning up the heat at Havana Nights, the 23rd Annual Top Hat Ball. Your Havana Night begins at 6 p.m., with cocktails, cigar rolling and dance lessons by the world reknowned Latin Rhythms. The dinner celebration and program kick off at 7:30 p.m., followed by our auction and dancing. Just when you think things are winding down, we invite you to join us for a Cuban Buffet at midnight!

As one of the premier fund-raising galas in Chicagoland, our Top Hat Ball features raffles and auctions throughout the evening, to help support the care of children and adults with profound developmental disabilities whom we serve at our three residential locations and two schools.

PLEASE NOTE: We are back at the newly renovated Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, 540 N. Michigan Avenue, 7th Floor Grand Ballroom!

Make your ticket and room reservations today. All event details are on-line at www.marklund.org/tophatball

INDIVIDUAL TICKET: $500
TABLE OF TIENTS: $5,000
LUXURY SUITE RAFFLE TICKETS $100 PER TICKET

PRE PURCHASE YOUR CUBAN RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT (women need to be present to win)
5 TICKETS - $100
16 TICKETS - $300
30 TICKETS - $500
65 TICKETS - $1000

KINDLY RSVP BY MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

Contact Jeannine Zupo. 630.593.5446 www.marklund.org/tophatball
Asking for help is hard...

John and Valerie Broschka agree. At age 3, their daughter, Katie, was diagnosed with Rett syndrome, an incurable condition that affects every aspect of her life: her ability to speak, walk, eat, and sometimes even breathe easily. Along with their other three children, John and Valerie provided Katie with nurturing and loving homecare for almost 20 years. They did their best, just as you would, to give her a wonderful quality of life at home.

As you might imagine, Katie’s limitations put a physical and emotional strain on the family. Feeding, bathing, and changing her, helping her in and out of cars and up and down stairs, were part of their daily routine. As Katie and her family got older, their challenges increased. John and Valerie grew concerned for their daughter’s future. Who would help care for Katie when they no longer could?

Thanks to the kindness of people like you, Marklund is here for them. “We needed to reach out and find someplace where we could partner in caring for Katie, helping her have the best quality of life. And we found that place — it’s Marklund.” — John Broschka

At Marklund, Katie has access to 24/7 nursing care, skilled therapists in every field, a nurturing staff, and lots of new friends! AND Katie is provided with special opportunities: she swims, plays baseball, goes to the local pumpkin patch, and shops for the holidays.

The partnership in caring for Katie has allowed for John, Valerie, and Katie’s siblings — Natalie, Jonathan, and Allison — to enjoy greater quality of time with her as a family. They often cheer her on at baseball games, enjoy community outings together, and even stop by to tuck her into bed at night. The Marklund community has answered their prayers by becoming an extension of their own devoted family, thanks to your support.

Did you know that Marklund’s standard of care is above what the State of Illinois funds? In fact, to provide services that Katie receives, the kind you would want for your loved ones, Marklund must raise an additional $17,000 per resident this year. With your year-end gift, you can help provide the highest level of care for the 174 individuals who call Marklund home in Elgin, Bloomington, and Geneva.

“Just as we reached out to Marklund for help, we need others to partner with us in giving to Marklund to help fund the programs and opportunities for residents like Katie.” — John Broschka

As an expression of their gratitude, the Broschka Family has offered to match your gift — dollar for dollar — up to $20,000 if we receive it by December 31st, 2018. Your year-end gift can make twice the impact for Katie and all of Marklund’s residents!

Thank you for helping Marklund continue our mission — our promise, to make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities. Marklund is here because of YOU. Your year-end gift provides the best quality of life for residents like Katie at the Waamoon, Philip, and Hyde Centers. Thank you!
Meet some of our Therapy Specialists

Wesley Kochan, CTRS
Recreation Specialist / Activity Coordinator
At Marklund: 19 years

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES YOU DO:
I coordinate morning Recreation Therapy groups; Gym Games, Musical Fusion, Money Skills, Socialization Skills, Spanish 101 and More, and Aquatic Therapy. Additionally, I work on special events, such as Summer Games and leading some special volunteer-based activities. This is to provide a nice range of activities for our residents and clients that are fun, therapeutic, and safe, within the physical, cognitive, and social-emotional domains inherent in therapeutic recreation.

FAVORITE MARKLUND MEMORY:
Marklund Hockey League (MHL), numerous Summer Games events and any daily 1:1 interaction or intervention!

Rita Moore, MSOT, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
At Marklund: 2.5 years

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES YOU DO:
I complete annual occupational therapy evaluations for every resident and community client at Marklund Hyde Center. I also perform individual and group therapy treatments including: aquatic therapy, upper extremity groups, activities of daily living, Snoezelen room, sensory groups, hand treatment, vocational, upper extremity splinting, hot pack applications as needed, and more. I assess and issue adaptive equipment to increase our residents’ participation and independence with daily tasks. I also consult with family, staff, and all team members regarding many aspects of resident care.

FAVORITE MARKLUND MEMORY:
A great part of my job is getting to know our residents better and learning what activities they enjoy and what motivates them. Recently, a resident who usually does not engage or participate very much in group activities joined us for our upper extremity group. During this session, I had set up an adapted “fishing” hole and asked the participants to catch the “fish” with the adapted pole. I was surprised to see this resident actively participating and succeeding at holding the pole and catching fish! This resident caught the most fish out of any other group member that day and had the biggest smile I’d ever seen! I have so many great memories with Marklund and I’m grateful for every day that I get with my Marklund family.

Sybil Alex, M.A., CCC-SLP/L
Speech-Language Pathologist
At Marklund: 6 years

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES YOU DO:
I aim to do activities that capture the students’ interest and motivation so that they will communicate their needs and ideas. For example, choosing a favorite song, playing with a puzzle, reading a book, or completing a craft gives a student multiple opportunities to request more, ask to stop, describe items and indicate preferences to make choices. Communication of these messages allows the students to express themselves and helps us understand who these students are as individuals.

FAVORITE MARKLUND MEMORY: One of my favorite memories was working with Justin on his graduation address which he presented at the Marklund Day School ceremony a few years ago. Justin chose which words would describe his feelings and ideas about the day. I wrote it out and his dad recorded it on the voice output switch for Justin. At the ceremony, Justin’s smile was so big as he activated the voice output switch and gave his address.

Jalpa Pandya, MPT
Physical Therapist
At Marklund: 18 years

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES YOU DO:
I complete Physical Therapy evaluations, consultations, aquatic therapy, supervise physical therapy assistants as needed, in-service staff, various treatments with the residents, assist with orthotics, assist with wheelchairs evaluations.

FAVORITE MARKLUND MEMORY: I have several, but one of my favorites was when one of the residents accidentally video called me through Facebook at home. My phone rang it said this resident was calling me. I was shocked, and when I picked it up, there he was, on my screen. He started laughing when he realized what had happened and saw me on the screen. I was proud of him to figure out how to do it via his iPad. I felt pretty special that he called me. And I loved seeing his laughing face. I also enjoyed doing the cerebral palsy awareness video with him (which by the way, has over 40,000 views on YouTube). He was pretty amazing as he relayed a very important message with his augmentive communication device.
Friends volunteer together at Marklund

Good friends Nick Byrd and Tim Moore have enjoyed hanging out with one another, since meeting 13 years ago while students at McHenry County College. Recently, they discovered a new way to spend time together – and give back to a good cause – by volunteering at the Marklund Wasmund Center.

Since February, Nick, of Dundee, and Tim, of Crystal Lake, have given their time once a week, engaging with residents and assisting with games, arts and crafts, outings and other activities. They also have served as course marshals at Marklund Run, Walk & Roll events in Geneva and Bloomingdale.

Wanting to give their time to a good cause, Nick and Tim began exploring volunteer opportunities last year. “When we came across Marklund’s website, something struck a chord,” Tim said. “Marklund’s mission, making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities, really had an impact on us.”

They signed up to help at a Halloween party, through VolunteerMatch.org. Two months later, they served at the Christmas gift opening.

“I get such a positive feeling by volunteering at Marklund,” Nick said. “It’s rewarding to help out, and to get to know the residents and their personalities.”

“I try to add a little extra to the residents day and engage with them as much as possible,” Tim said. For example, he recently brought a resident out to the courtyard at the Wasmund Center to enjoy the autumn sun and fresh air. Together, they collected leaves and talked about their changing colors. “Every time I leave, I feel like I’ve contributed to something worthwhile,” Tim added.

Nick and Tim recently attended a bonfire at the Wasmund Center, with staff, residents and their family members. “There is a very strong sense of family and community at Marklund,” he said. “I feel like we’re part of the family too.”