



MHC WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

A Letter From Our Administrator



Greetings!!

In light of the holiday season, I felt compelled to share with all of our families something that was meaningful to our Marklund family; our staff. Many of us use social media on a daily basis and scroll past dozens of postings, recipes, photos, and jokes.

Every once in a while you come across something that hits close to home. Something that you couldn't have said better yourself. Something that resonates in your heart and soul. On one particular evening somebody, somewhere shared such a post and by the next morning this posting had been liked, loved, and shared by most of our staff (myself included). In a world so busy, it makes you stop and think about how amazing our Marklund family truly is, and how much love goes into the care we give each day.

"I don't remember the exact moment my life was changed by someone with a developmental disability. The memories seem far away, blurry, as if they don't belong to me. But this is what happens after you've been working with adults and children with developmental disabilities for years. You change.

They don't tell you that when you're filling out your application. Instead, they tell you about the hours, the health benefits, the 401(k) plan, the programs and the strategies. But they don't tell you about the fact if you do it right, you'll never be the same. They don't tell you it will be the most amazing job you've ever had. On other days, it can be the worst. They can't describe on paper the emotional toll it will take on you. They can't tell you there may come a time where you find you're more comfortable surrounded by people with developmental disabilities than you are with the general population. They don't tell you you'll come to love them, and there will be days when you feel more at home when you're at work than when you're at home, sitting on your couch. But it happens.

They don't tell you about the negative reactions you may face when you're out in the community with someone with a developmental disability. That there are people on this earth who still think it's OK to say the R-word. That people stare. Adults will stare. You will want to say something, anything, to these people to make them see. But at the end of the day, your hands will be tied because some things, as you learn quickly, can't be explained with something as simple as words. They can only be felt. And most of the time, until someone has had their own experience with someone with a developmental disability, they just won't understand.

They train you in CPR and first aid, but they can't tell you what it feels like to have to use it. They don't tell you what it is like to learn someone is sick and nothing can be done. They can't explain the way it feels when you work with someone for years and then one day they die.

They can't explain the bond direct service personnel develop with the people they are supporting. I know what it's like to have a conversation with someone who has been labeled non-verbal or low-functioning. After working with someone for a while, you develop a bond so strong they can just give you a look and you know exactly what it means, what they want and what they're feeling. And most of the time, all it boils down to is they want to be heard, listened to and included. Loved.

When you apply for this job, they do tell you you'll be working to teach life skills. But what they don't tell you is while you're teaching someone, they'll also be teaching you. They have taught me it's OK to forgive myself when I have a bad day. There's always tomorrow and a mess-up here and there doesn't mean it's the end of the world. They have taught me to slow down, to ponder, to take the time to just look around and take in this beautiful world and all of the simple joys we are blessed to encounter every day.

So when did I change? I realize now there wasn't one pivotal moment. Instead, it was a million little moments, each important in their own way, that when added together changed me. And I'm grateful for each one."

As always, it is my privilege and pleasure to serve your loved ones each and every day. Wishing you all a blessed holiday season.

Best,

Kristin Dolen, RN

Administrator, Marklund Hyde Center

Upcoming Events

December 24th 2018
10:00am- Gift Opening
February 17th 1:00pm-
Family Council Meeting
March 16th 10:00am-
Parent Meeting



Social Services

Happy Holidays!! This year has gone by so fast! It was nice to see so many of you at the Holiday Open House, I know the clients and residents had an amazing time! I am so happy to announce that beginning December 30th, we will be transitioning the QIDPs in to new positions as Group Home Managers. They will each have ONE group home to oversee. They will be continue to do the case management work like normal but will be taking on additional duties in overseeing the PSPs for the home as well. I am also happy to announce that we have a returning staff member that will be the Group Home Manager at MDH, Ryan Tejero. He comes to us with MANY years of experience and has previously worked as the QIDP in Tommy Home. He will begin on December 30th. I am excited to see what he will bring to the home! The Group Home Manager for MSH will be Cathy Legaspi. She comes to us with over 10 years experience in the field. She will begin on January 13th 2019.

The Group Home Manager assignments are as follows:

MDH- Ryan Tejero

MHH- Lem Pablo

MRH- Gina Allen

MSH- Cathy Legaspi

MTH- Devyn Doering

MVH- Sue Molenkamp

If you have any questions regarding this change, please feel free to reach out to me!

-Brittany Sullivan, Social Services Program Manager





Updates from DT



I would like to welcome Ted Podolak and Angela Williams as the new Developmental Instructors of classrooms 4 & 5. We are thrilled to have them join us as part of our DT Team! We are so grateful for the opportunity to place a Developmental Instructor in each of our seven classrooms. Our Community Integration Program will also be undergoing some onward changes in January. I am happy to share we have restructured our Community Integration Program to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of our residents and community clients. This change will take place in January. Details to follow!

I would like to thank all those who attended our Developmental Training Open House on December 1st, this year. Our mission was to display all that we do on a daily basis at the MHC DT Program. I am happy to announce that we will be including paper invitations next year due to parent/guardian request. This year we had desserts to follow in the homes with live music. We had two Santas taking pictures with our residents and guests in the classrooms. I would love to hear feedback as to what you enjoyed or what we can improve for next year. Please feel free to email me at jstefanik@marklund.org.

Please go to the link below and vote for our "Grinch Themed Christmas Tree" at the Geneva History Museum!

<https://genevahistorymuseum.org/geneva-giving-trees/>

The Developmental Instructors have been busy incorporating curriculum and opportunities for the residents and community clients with the following monthly themes:

October-Fall Fest (Discussed all things related to Fall!)

November- Election (We also covered Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Giving Tuesday)

December-All things Christmas!

For more information, please check the Marklund website for our DT curriculum monthly calendars.

Wishing your family a Merry Christmas,
-Jeannie Stefanik, Developmental Training Manager



Community Integration

The holiday season is a busy and exciting time at Marklund! We were very busy getting ready for our Open House earlier this month. The residents helped purchase many items that were needed to make the Open House look so festive. Many of the Walmart and Dollar Tree staff recognize us and always greet us with a smile. Our residents enjoy being a part of the planning for these special events!

The Sewing Circle, a group from Montgomery, made the residents scarves and we were able to visit them at the Montgomery Fire Department. The residents brought them a thank you card and were also able to see the trucks and meet some fireman. This outing was so much fun and enjoyed by all.

Our residents have been working hard at our vocational outings. Helping out at the Illinois Food Bank in Geneva continues and we volunteer two to three times a month. In the past months we have helped package approximately 3000 pounds of food. Our residents also continue to help at the Chapelstreet Food Pantry and we also visit Chapelstreet to help with toy cleaning and other projects. We recently helped fill 175 treat bags for their Children's Ministry Christmas party. Residents have also been enjoying trips to the movies, bowling outing, shopping trips and visiting various festive holiday light shows in the area. The residents truly enjoy their time out in the community.

All of these recreational and vocational outings are fulfilling our mission "Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities". I am so proud and thankful to be a part of this special part of Marklund.

Codi Ash



From the Homes...

MDH

This month there is so much taking place! From the Open House on the 1st to gift opening on the 24th. The Boy Scouts put up and decorated trees outside the dining room, carolers visited, volunteers decorated; there is shopping and parties and lights and movies and a lot of good things to taste!

Having a December birthday is always complicated –so a shout out to Derick – our Christmastime guy!

We would like to give a huge welcome to Ryan – whom will be the new Group Home Manager/QIDP of Dreher starting on the 30th. Ryan had worked at Marklund previously and is very well acquainted with our residents. He will be a terrific addition to the staff!



MHH



Residents of Haverkamp are enjoying the new features of the Snoezelen Room. We have a new sensory board where residents can feel items with different textures and shapes. Fun mirrors installed on the wall. Light machine projecting different color designs and shades. Mat that vibrates with music input.

Our next home potluck will be on Wednesday, 1/16/19 at 6p. Haverkamp parents and employees are encouraged to participate.

We would like to thank the Kennedy Brothers for providing us with live holiday music during our Open House at Haverkampf.

MRH

We would like to welcome Tom to Richard Home. Tom joined as a new respite resident at the beginning of December. He has been a community client at the Hyde Center and we are excited to have him. He is a great addition to our home!

Huge THANK YOU to the Borchardt Family for the donation of an additional Christmas tree this year. Our volunteers had a great time setting both trees up on Giving Tuesday. Also, we had several other donations from parents for miscellaneous decorations and we are so grateful to our wonderful parents and guardians this holiday season!

Open House was a wonderful day for our Richard Home residents. We would like to thank those who came to enjoy the day with their loved one and brought treats to share in the home.



MSH

Julie joined the Sayers Home in October as a new resident. She is a wonderful addition to the home and we have enjoyed getting to know her!

Open house was so much fun for our Sayers Home residents. Thank you so much to everyone that was able to join us.

MTH

Our residents had a wonderful time at the annual Holiday Open House! It was really great to have the families come back to MTH and enjoy desserts, coffee and hot chocolate. Residents continue to enjoy going on outings into the community, especially the holiday themed outings! The annual Knights of Columbus Christmas Party is taking place Saturday December 15th and several of our residents from MTH will be attending this fun event. Our December monthly house meeting will take place on Wednesday December 19th at 3 PM and we will be discussing the topic of "What is my Community?" Residents are especially excited for our annual Christmas Eve Gift Opening with family, friends, and volunteers!



MVH

This month there is so much taking place! From the Open House on the 1st to gift opening on the 24th. The Boy Scouts put up and decorated trees outside the dining room, carolers visited, volunteers decorated; there is shopping and parties and lights and movies and a lot of good things to taste!

Having a December birthday is always complicated –so a shout out to Rosie W – our Christmastime girl!

And it is with a heavy heart that we mention the loss of a dear family member – Randall Tedei. A wonderful brother to Regina and loved by the MVH staff. He will be missed.

A Note From Development

As you know, there is power in numbers, which our Marklund families have proven so far through your generous support of our new Family Match Challenge, created to help INSPIRE guests at the 2019 Top Hat Ball to give generously.

If you have given already, THANK YOU! If you are still contemplating your support- we challenge you to be part of something BIG!

As I mentioned in my email to you in October, we have over 600 Marklund friends who come to the ball each year to donate nearly \$1 million to move our mission forward. \$320,000 of that comes from an incredible part of the event called the Fund in Need where guests donate to the mission of Marklund after seeing a video. Here is where we need your help.

We are building a Family Match that has reached over \$106,500 so that we can ask our donors on the night of the event to match what YOU gave. We want to grow that to the \$150,000 mark with your support! Most of our top hat donors don't have a personal connection to Marklund, they give because they believe in our mission. The INSPIRATION comes when donors realize YOU gave first, and YOU are doubling their donation that night!

Donors will be raising their paddles at levels anywhere between \$100, \$250, \$1000, \$2500, \$5000 and \$20,000 the night of top hat. We hope you might commit to a level comfortable for you and support the match and be part of the inspiration we need to ignite giving to its highest potential on February 2nd.

We've set up a special donation page where you can make your donation quick and easily and join all the families who have already said YES to this amazing endeavor! Included in our current total is a private family foundation match of \$50,000, which now triples guests' donations in February!

<https://www.marklund.org/top-hat-family-fund-in-need-match/#1537405724295-6e1a8f63-7e51>

Thanks for standing beside us and coming together with other families as we continue making everyday life possible for everyone we serve.