



MHC Parent Newsletter

Summer 2020

A Letter from the Administrator

Hello friends and families,

They say culture change takes a good two years to cultivate and blossom. When we went into our Retention Initiative in July 2018 our turnover rate was over 100% for our PSPs. There were necessary changes that were made (and adjustments needed along the way to make those changes), but at the end of the day we have built a strong team to support our residents and our staff who care for them. As we have hit the two-year mark, I am thrilled to share with you that we have hit 54% for PSP turnover; the lowest turnover rate we have had in well over two years and lower than the industry average of 60%. As we are coming out of probably the most challenging times any of us have every experienced, we are further ahead than we have been in years. I am so very proud of our frontline staff, managers, leadership, and the commitment they have to providing excellent services to your loved ones.

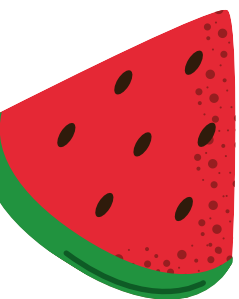
I would like to thank you all for your cooperation with the restrictions we must have in place for outdoor visits. We have had some very hot days which were not ideal for outdoor visits or having to wait at the doors, but we thank you for your patience with staff. They are working very hard to facilitate the visits and make them as enjoyable as possible for the residents and their visitors. Your unwavering support of our staff is greatly appreciated by all.

We have not received any further guidance from IDPH indicating any changes to the current restrictions and practices in place to protect our residents and staff from COVID-19. We are in somewhat of a holding pattern and will provide email updates as guidance is received.

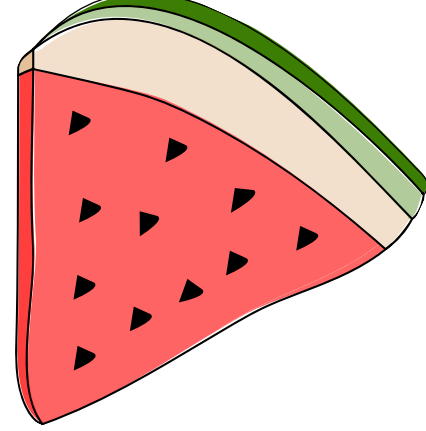
While we are still unable to go out into the community, our staff has been getting creative (as always) and keeping our community buzzing with activity here on campus! Waters Wars, backyard camping, outdoor concerts with Wes, arts and crafts, and continuing our Monarch Butterfly Project from last summer just to name a few! We hope you are all able to follow us on social media and stay connected to all of the happenings on campus.

As always, it is my pleasure and privilege to serve your loved ones. If you have any feedback, questions, or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,
Krissy



Nursing Updates



Our annual Flu Vaccination Clinic for residents will take place early in the month of September. You should have already received a flu consent in the mail. If we do not have one on file, your Group Home Manager will be reaching out to you.

Thank you for your patience as we implemented our COVID visitation policy. You have done an amazing job following the guidance provided to us by IDPH and we truly appreciate that. It's been great to see your faces again, as well as the delight your family members show when they see you!

We have been transitioning to our new medical director, Dr. Al Kerpe. It has been going smoothly to date. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or concerns to address with him.

A summer reminder – This has been a hot summer! Please make sure you are drinking plenty of water and using sunscreen.

-Bev Gallagher, Director of Nursing

Upcoming Birthdays

August

Tyler
Albert
Theresa
Julie N.
Delaunce
Marcus

September

Kristen
Joy
Matt
Kate
Tyesha
Shelia
Tracy
Mike B.
Tammy
Adam
Fatima
Rosie R
Nancy

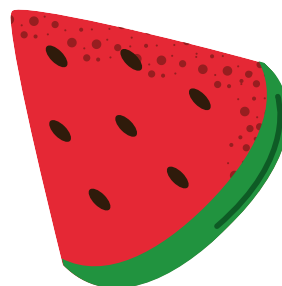
October

Lauren B.
Kandace
Andrew
Katie M.
Lesa
Evan
Nick
JD
Michele W.

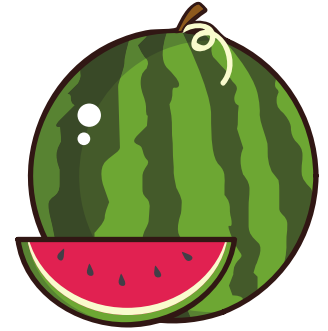
Important Dates

- *Pending* Parent/Guardian Group Meeting- [More information to follow](#)
- September 12, 2020*- 10:00am MHC Quarterly Parent Meeting **please note the change of date**
- October 18, 2020- Run, Walk & Roll- Geneva

If you have any thoughts on gift suggestions for the Christmas Giving Tree tags, please start sending that information to your Group Home Manager. They will be working on the tags soon!



CDS Updates



CDS Closure

We sure miss CDS! We miss seeing each other and being able to socialize with one another. Our community clients are particularly in our hearts! Please reach out to Cathy Nikrandt to become a virtual volunteer and sign up for one of our many opportunities to connect with the residents at Marklund Hyde Center.

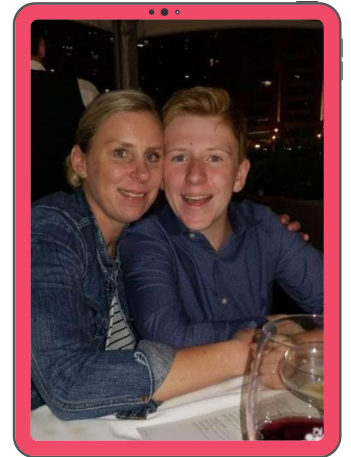
We have had some movement with staffing in our CDS Program. I have accepted the position as Director of Community Day Services, overseeing the CDS program at all Marklund locations. Kayla Clifton will be taking my role as CDS Program Manager at the Geneva Campus. Carly Spengler has accepted the position as Developmental Instructor in Classroom 7. I am thrilled to see what these two dedicated Marklund staff bring to the Community Day Services Program in their new roles. Bridgette Tyndall will be leaving us in August to pursue her education. We will miss her dearly!

Current guidance from the Department of Human Services suggests Community Day Services may resume on September 1st. We are working diligently to formulate a creative plan that allows us to adhere to guidelines upon reopening. More information to follow.

While CDS has been closed, I am pleased to report that there have been many wonderfully engaging activities taking place in the homes. Make sure to check in with our Facebook page to stay up to date!

Developmental Instructor Spotlight

Lorin Bergschneider is the Developmental Instructor in Classroom 4. Lorin started at Marklund as a Personal Support Professional providing direct care for our residents and community clients. Lorin enjoys the outdoors, including hiking and swimming. Lorin is quite adventurous, having lived around the world and traveled extensively throughout her life. She enjoys spending time with her family at home. Lorin loves animals and has an Animal Cruelty Investigator Certification.



Community Integration Spotlight

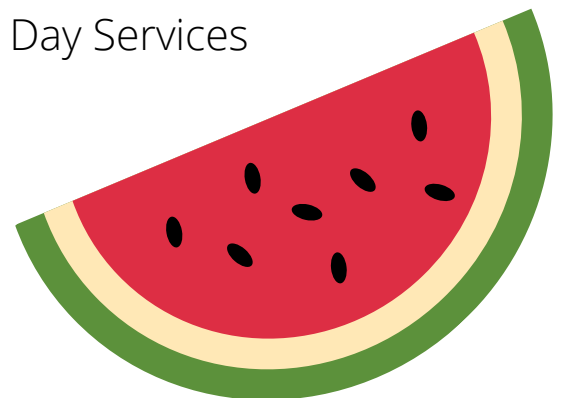
Bobby Hilsabeck will celebrate his 25th year with Marklund this August! Bobby started in 1995 at the Warrenville Developmental Training site. Bobby enjoys taking the clients camping. In his free time, Bobby enjoys reading and being outdoors.



We look forward to seeing everyone as soon as guidelines allow!

Best regards,

-Jeannie Stefanik, Director of Community Day Services
jstefanik@marklund.org.



From the Homes

MDH

Dreher Home is doing well! We have had a lot of fun packed into the past couple months. Preparing for Summer Games and participating in Summer Games. We absolutely missed family being involved this year, but it was such a hit and everyone had such a great time! The best change is the new IDPH regulations allowing for family visits outside! We have had so many patio visits and the residents LOVE the time they are spending with family. If you would like to set up a visit please call me at 630-593-5170 or by e-mail at awilliams@marklund.org Dreher Home sends their love and hope we see some normalcy soon! -Angela, MDH Group Home Manager



MHH

Haverkamp has had a very busy summer! Summer Games was a great success, all of the residents had so much fun! We had a modified "camping day" on campus where we played outdoor games and cooked on the grill to come as close to camping as possible! Patio visits are in full swing. If you would like to set one up please contact me at 630-593-5157 or lpablo@marklund.org Butterflies are indicators of a healthy environment. The residents are enjoying the "butterfly project" in the home. Different hands-on activities about the butterfly life cycle are ongoing. -Lem, MHH Group Home Manager



MRH

This has been a “different” summer, that is for sure, but we are making the best of every day here at Richard Home. I would like to first thank all the parents and guardians for their support during this Pandemic. We can certainly understand how difficult it is to not see your loved one and we appreciate your patience during this time. We are looking forward to the day we can all unite as we did before!

As we continue to utilize patio visits at Marklund, please remember to schedule your visit with Gina Allen, at gallen@marklund.org or 630-593-5500, extension 5564. (Please enter 5500 then extension 5564 to reach my desk) during regular business hours.

Additionally, on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for the generosity in providing meals! Those little gestures mean a lot during these trying times.

With the help of our CI team, we have kept busy doing a variety of activities in house and trying to get outside as the weather allows! We have celebrated several birthdays this past quarter, celebrated Summer Games 2020, had water wars on a hot summer day and enjoyed afternoon bookclub readings with Gina. We are on our second Nancy Drew Novel! -Gina, MRH Group Home Manager



MSH

The staff at Sayers Home continue to work hard to provide positivity to the residents during the stay-at-home orders. The residents have been able to interact with other homes (while maintaining social distancing) through activities provided by our Community Integration staff. They have so much fun playing Water Wars and Summer Games was successful. Video calls and in-person visits are going well! Sayers Home residents enjoy seeing some familiar faces! If you haven't scheduled a visit yet and would like to do so, please contact Bernadette Pauls at (630) 593-5164, or at bpauls@marklund.org. -Bernadette, MSH Group Home Manager



MTH

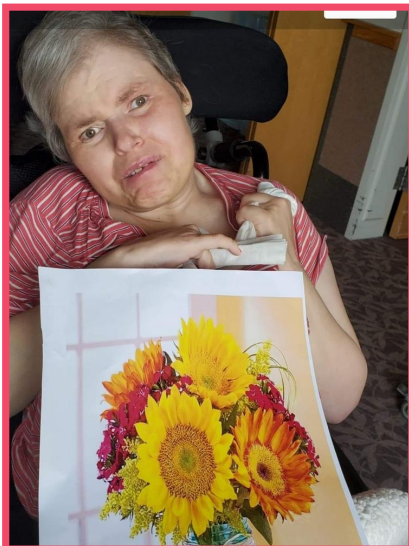
MTH has been keeping busy! We have been doing a lot of cooking and baking including blueberry pie, macaroni and cheese, donuts, and so many more. During cooler days, the residents try to spend as much time as possible outside on the patio planting flowers and going on walks. On warmer days, the residents enjoy having “water wars” with various homes to stay cool! In June, MTH participated in an adapted Summer Games, which went very well, and fun was had by all! We have also celebrated many birthdays and holidays, including Memorial Day and the 4th of July.

Our wonderful Community Integration staff, Cody, has come up with a fun and educational curriculum for the upcoming weeks. We will also be taking some time one day a week to do a small bible study for any of the residents who are interested. This week, MTH is celebrating Christmas in July by learning about Christmas traditions that take place all over the world. For the week of July 27th, we will be learning about Dinosaurs, and celebrating National Milk Chocolate Day with a chocolate fountain and lots of goodies to dip in the chocolate! The week of August 3rd is Color Week. We will be exploring how to make different colors, the meanings of colors in different cultures, and so many more fun facts. We will also be making homemade chocolate chip cookies for National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day. For the week of August 10th, the theme of the week is Exploring Egypt. MTH will also be celebrating National S'mores Day that week! -Devyn, MTH Group Home Manager



MVH

I can say without any hesitation and with full love – I am so proud of all that live at MVH and work here. We are a family. And we got through these last 3 months by leaning on each other, caring for each other, being kind to each other, and yes, actually having a good amount of fun! It has not been terrible that every day is Sunday J. We learned about Zoom, and then Zoomed like it would never end; music therapy, games, trivia, Wes, animals, classes, cooking, it goes on and on. We bake and cook, go for walks, play games outside, play giant Jenga and giant Connect 4, have water fights, tend the garden, make volcanoes, paint anything we can, dance, sing, read, and decorate. Maria and Michele, the activity aides (AM and PM), have been beyond magnificent. The people here have been busy. But, like any Sunday, we do not forget to nap! This combination has led for our folks to be living very much near to their best life! The missing part of course, is seeing loved ones – which thankfully has started in a modified manner. -Sue, MVH Group Home Manager



From Development

RUN^{5K/1 MILE}
WALK
AND ROLL
GENEVA

SAVE THE DATE

for our Eighth Annual Run, Walk & Roll - Geneva

Sunday, October 18th

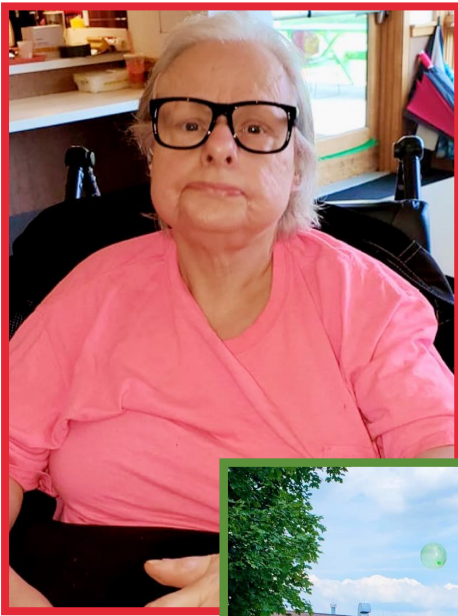
where we hope to all be reunited once again!

Event hoodie, race bib (5K chipped timing or virtual timing link), finisher prize, fundraising awards, after party, and much more!

We rely on our annual fundraising events to fill the service gap of \$13,200 per resident, per year – assuring the highest standard of Marklund care. Not only does the Run, Walk & Roll event help fill this gap, it gives individuals the platform to get active while celebrating Marklund with fellow friends, family and community members. We sure hope you will join us!

Though we cannot predict what is to come this October, we can guarantee proper action and accommodations will be in place to provide a safe, and fun event for all participants. Visit www.marklund.org/5kgeneva for event details and registration.

Additional Pictures



More Pictures!

