Inside.....

Marklund Day School Expanding
Employee Celebrates 50 Years at Marklund
Register for Run, Walk & Roll-Geneva
Advocate through the Marklund Action Network
Corporate Donor Highlight
Get Ready for Holiday Season Giving
Calendar of Events

Marklund Earns Re-Accreditation After Perfect Survey
Earlier this summer, Marklund received a three-year re-accreditation from CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Out of 982 standards that were reviewed, the surveyors had NO recommendations for changes. “The survey was focused on Marklund’s Community Day Services program (CDS) in Geneva but we asked them to do an evaluation of the entire organization,” said Gil Fonger, President & CEO.
Marklund Day School
Expanding into Geneva

Construction is in full swing for a new 26,000-square-foot Marklund Day School in Geneva that will provide much-needed services to 66 children and young adults with profound developmental disabilities and those on the Autism spectrum. Located on Marklund’s Hyde Center campus, at 15450 Wyatt Drive, the school will include:

- 9 Classrooms
- Therapy rooms
- Observation areas
- 2 Multi-purpose rooms (which will also be used by the 90 full-time Hyde Center residents)
- Model apartment
- Nursing and administrative offices
- Outdoor Play Area

For information about the day school, visit www.marklund.org/school.
To make a gift, contact Heather Graves, Chief Development Officer, at 630-593-5479 or hgraves@marklund.org

Currently there are only three therapeutic day schools in the Kane and DeKalb county areas that serve children with complex medical needs, and/or on the Autism spectrum, compared to 24 in DuPage County. As a non-public, state-certified school, Marklund Day School (MDS) currently provides high quality educational curriculums for these students aged 3-21 in its schools in Bloomingdale and Elgin. Students with multiple medical needs attend MDS’s Multi-Needs program, while those diagnosed on the autism spectrum are enrolled in the Life Skills program.

“We are so pleased that the Kane County Board realized the need for this new school and gave the green light for us to move forward on this project that will allow us to serve up to 66 more students each year,” said Gil Fonger, Marklund President & CEO. “It’s exciting to watch the construction progress that will make the dream of the Marklund Day School-Geneva a reality!” The school is expected to be open for the Fall 2020 school year, and is expected to create up to 100 new jobs.

An official groundbreaking ceremony took place in July, attended by Marklund staff, residents, day school students, teachers, board members, and volunteers. In addition, Kane County Board member Drew Frasz and State Sen. Jim Oberweis joined in the official first dig, along with local Mayors Kevin Burns of Geneva, Ray Rogina of St. Charles, and Jeff Schielke of Batavia.

The new school is being built with the needs of children with Autism and developmental disabilities in mind, Fonger explained. All classrooms will have the latest in technology—from Prowise smart boards and iPads to eye-gaze devices and voice-output switches—to allow for sensory-integrated programming and the latest in communication options. Classrooms have low teacher-to-student ratios and all students have Individualized Education Plans tied to Illinois Learning Standards.

Marklund Day School currently partners with 35 public school districts in the Chicago suburban area to give them a placement alternative for students whose needs are unable to be met at their home school.

“I have already been contacted by officials from school districts in Kane and DeKalb counties who are expressing interest in the new school,” said Paula Bodziotch, Director of Education at Marklund.

“The limited options currently available to them within the one-hour travel restriction make Geneva an attractive location.”
“These are the guys I’m supposed to take care of”
Ruth Gustafson celebrates 50 years of working at Marklund

Fifty years ago, in 1969, Richard Nixon was sworn in as the 37th president of the United States, the Beatles released their Abbey Road album, Apollo 11 landed on the moon, and Ruth Gustafson started as a nursing assistant at The Hilltop Foundation in Bloomingdale.

“Because I enjoy what I do, it seems like yesterday,” Ruth says about her long tenure with the organization that became Marklund. “I was focused on what I was doing, and I didn’t worry about the years.”

Ruth had wanted to be in the medical field since she was young. She worked to put herself through school until eventually she came to what is now the Marklund Philip Center. At that time, the building had 66 children with severe and profound developmental disabilities. There were no closed walls; windows were everywhere so nurses could keep an eye on what was happening. Its residents were bottle-fed, used cloth diapers with pins, and the only outing was a trip to church on Sunday.

Ruth remembers that it was always hard to find staff to care for residents. “Not everybody is meant to do this kind of work.”

Not long after starting, Ruth was asked by Marklund founders Claire and Stan Haverkamp to work as the dental assistant with Dr. Max Brammer, D.D.S. “I was just delighted,” Ruth says of being asked to work with Dr. Brammer. “We didn’t have clinicals in school like they do today. I was book smart, not hands on, and I was eager to apply myself.”

Ruth says that Dr. Brammer was instrumental in giving her those hands-on opportunities so she could apply the knowledge she had gained in school.

The first true dental office opened at the Bloomingdale facility in 1980 with the help of a $16,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus. Ruth was on-hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Since then, she’s worked alongside five different dentists.

“I’ve seen a lot,” Ruth reflects. “And it’s amazing where dentistry is now. We didn’t have masks, we didn’t have gloves. You had to scrub, scrub, scrub your hands!”

In her 50 years with Marklund, Ruth estimates that she has worked with more than 300 residents. Some of those she worked with back at the start are still living at Marklund today—like Joy. “I took care of her 50 years ago, and she’s still with us,” Ruth remarked. “Does that not speak to the type of care that Marklund gives to our residents?”

Today, still in her role as dental assistant, Ruth oversees the oral health of every one of our residents, making sure each resident visits the dentist twice a year, has teeth brushed three times a day, and has toothbrushes replaced every two to three months. In addition, she conducts monthly assessments on all residents. Quarterly, Ruth provides in-service training on oral health to Marklund staff at all three facilities and in an orientation segment for new staff.

“I’m always on a mission,” says Ruth. “These are the guys I’m supposed to take care of, and with the care everyone else gives, they have a better life.”

For her 50th anniversary, dubbed “Ruth Day” by staff, Ruth requested that staff at every Marklund location have a pizza party in celebration. According to Ruth, “it couldn’t be any other way.”
Advocating for our Residents, Students & Community Clients

This past year, Marklund has made legislative advocacy a priority. With a Government Relations Manager keeping an eye on all the state bills that are being proposed and that are making their way through the complicated labyrinth of the bill passage process in Illinois, we are positioning ourselves to be ready to act as advocates for those we serve.

In the Spring, we launched the Marklund Action Network which we now use to inform those who care about Marklund when their specific elected official needs to hear from them on important pending legislation. This easy-to-use program, which is housed on the Marklund website, allows people to reach their elected officials with the click of a few computer keys.

This process does make a difference! For example, Marklund Action Network’s efforts helped pass the MC/DD (Medically Complex/Developmental Disabilities) Rate Modernization Act that went into effect April 1st, which helped increase the state reimbursement for our Philip Center and Wasmond Center residents. The last time that rate had been changed was 1994. This year, the State also passed the first Cost of Living Increase for all MC/DD staff since 2008.

We have made some progress for those we serve, but we still have a lot of work to do. To be part of the solution, join the Marklund Action Network and help be a voice for our residents, students and community clients on important legislation.

It’s easy to do–simply go to www.marklund.org, click on GET INVOLVED in the top navigation options, and then click on TAKE ACTION.

By entering the basic information on the online registration form, you agree to receive occasional emails when your voice is needed. The email will inform you who your legislators are, their contact information, and wording to use (if you so choose) when reaching out to them.

“Legislators keep track of how many of their constituents are for or against a bill,” said Mary Kobbeman, Marklund’s Government Relations Manager. “That brings attention to a matter and helps them decide how best to vote in Springfield.”

Corporate Donor Profile

Comcast has made a commitment to impacting the communities it serves through a variety of channels, including Comcast Cares Day.

For the 11th year in a row, Comcast Cares Day was held at the Marklund Wasmond Center in Elgin (formerly Little Angels) – and this is the longest running independent Comcast Cares Day project in the Greater Chicago Region.

Each year, Comcast assembles more than 100 volunteers to create a positive impact at Marklund – working on various projects, including deep cleaning, vehicle washing, resident spa day, building sensory gardens and adapted games, and bonding with the residents. In addition, Marklund has received generous financial support from Comcast over the years. Marklund is grateful to have a corporate donor like Comcast who is committed to providing service and support to those who need them most.

If your company is interested in scheduling a corporate volunteer day or would like to partner in other ways, please contact Vicki Watts, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, at vwatts@marklund.org.
Run it, walk it, or roll it for Marklund!

Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities as well as those using regular and racing wheelchairs are welcome to participate! Create a fundraising page, spend the morning with us, and support children and adults with profound developmental disabilities! Check out all details below and register today!

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
20, 2019

Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities

- USATF Certified Course
- Prizes
- Zip-up Event Hoodie
- Live Music
- Food
- Hot Chocolate Bar

PRICE
$50 - 5K (includes zip-up event hoodie)*
$40 - 1 Mile (includes zip-up event hoodie)*
*Prices Increase October 1st!

SCHEDULE
6:45-7:45 a.m. - late registration/packet pick-up
7:55 a.m. - racing wheelchair start
8:00 a.m. - 5K and 1 Mile walk start

REGISTER & FUNDRAISE AT
www.marklund.org/5Kgeneva

Thank you for your Support!

Prices increase on October 1, 2019!
Register today!

For more information or to start your registration and fundraising today, visit www.marklund.org/5Kgeneva

Marklund
Marklund Hyde Center
1S450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva, IL 6013
Support Marklund during Giving Season

As the leaves change color and the days get shorter, there is one thing that’s certain—the holiday season is approaching. As busy as it is, the holiday season is a wonderful time to show your support for Marklund, and there are many ways to do so:

Giving Tuesday: After Thanksgiving Thursday and Black Friday comes Giving Tuesday! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 3rd, as we take to social media for this annual fun and fast fundraiser! #GivingTuesday is a worldwide movement promoting donations to local nonprofit organizations, so follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn where you can LIKE, SHARE, and RETWEET posts to encourage others to support Marklund with online gifts on this special day. Information on how to give will be available prior to the event on our website and social media, so stay tuned! #GivingTuesday, #ILGive

Year-End Appeal: Wrap-Up 2019 with your year-end philanthropic donation! Fundraising campaigns like our year-end appeal are very important for nonprofit organizations like Marklund and help make it possible for us to keep our promise of making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities. Watch your mailboxes (and email in-boxes!) in November and December for information on Marklund’s Annual Appeal. If you have friends or family members who would also like to support us, visit www.marklund.org to make a gift. Interested in making a stock or IRA gift? Contact Heather Graves, Chief Financial Officer at 630-593-5479. All donations are tax-deductible.

Giving Trees & Gift Drive: Each of our 174 residents has a personal wish list, and during our annual Gift Drive, these items are featured on individualized tags that hang on Marklund’s holiday Giving Trees, and others throughout the community. Simply grab a tag or two, purchase gifts from that list and return the wrapped items to the appropriate Marklund residential location by Dec. 18. Once sorted, the presents are given to our residents by hundreds of volunteers who show up at our sites to assist them with gift opening. The volunteers love it as much as the residents do, and many come back year after year.

Visit any Marklund location to select resident gift tags from our lobby trees. Any store or business that would like to host their own Marklund Giving Tree can request an assortment of the resident tags by emailing Cathy Nikrandt, Manager of Volunteer Engagement, at cnikrandt@marklund.org. To volunteer on Gift Opening morning, contact Cathy Nikrandt for the Geneva campus, and Lisa Esposito, Volunteer Engagement Specialist, at lesposito@marklund.org, for the Bloomingdale and Elgin campuses.

Our Wish List: Did you know Marklund has a general wish list that can be helpful when shopping for gifts? If your school or church group, business or family wants to put together a gift basket for Marklund, you will find many ideas on this list. Items range from arts and craft materials, personal care items, room décor and even gift certificates. Find it at www.marklund.org/wishlist.

Volunteer Visits: Schedule a special visit with our residents, to sing carols, throw a party, bring gifts, or treats for staff. Contact our Volunteer department staff ahead of time to arrange a visit.

---

**OUR LOCATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marklund Hyde Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1S450 Wyatt Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva, Illinois 60134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 630.593.5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 630.593.5501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marklund Philip Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>164 S. Prairie Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 630.529.2871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 630.529.3266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marklund Wasmond Center &amp; School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1435 Summit Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elgin, Illinois 60120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 224.523.7530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 847.622.5523</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**EVENT CALENDAR**

**Giving Tuesday**
Dec. 3, 2019

**Annual Gift Drive**
Nov. 1-Dec. 20, 2019

**Holiday Open House**
Geneva – Dec. 7, 2019
Bloomingdale – Dec. 14, 2019
Elgin – Dec. 14, 2019

**24th Annual Top Hat Ball**
Feb. 1, 2020

**3rd Annual Run, Walk & Roll**
Bloomington
April 26, 2020

---

**OUR SOCIAL NETWORK**

www.marklund.org  info@marklund.org