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2nd Annual Run, Walk & Roll-Bloomingdale 5K and 1-Mile Event

Runners, walkers, and wheelchair riders can take to the streets Sunday, April 28, for the second annual Run, Walk and Roll 5K and 1-Mile event, at the Marklund Philip Center. Net proceeds raised from entry fees and runners’ fundraising efforts will support the care and services provided to the children and adults at Marklund.

Registration is open at www.marklund.org/5kbloomingdale. Receive event t-shirt with advance registration.

Racing wheelchair entrants will begin at 7:55 a.m., followed by the 5K and 1 Mile racers at 8 a.m. Start and Finish lines are located at 164 S. Prairie Ave., in Bloomingdale.

5K participants will run, walk or compete using racing wheelchairs on a USATF Certified Course, which winds through the Westlake neighborhood. The 1-mile walk shares a portion of the 5K course and is open to individuals and families, as well as those with strollers, walkers or wheelchairs. A “Party in the Park” with live music and a variety of food will follow.

“We are thrilled to be putting on our second annual Run, Walk & Roll event in Bloomingdale,” said Natalie Sarby, Community Events Manager. “This is a great opportunity to get involved in the community, whether you decide to run, walk, or be a volunteer. Let’s all come together to make a difference in the lives of individuals with profound disabilities!”

To date, the Run, Walk & Roll events held in Geneva and Bloomingdale have netted $375,000. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Natalie Sarby at nsarby@marklund.org.

Marklund needs 200 volunteers each week to help with outings and activities.

Pledge Run Returns in June

If you like to ride with hundreds of other motorcyclists while doing charity work for a great cause, check out one of the Midwest's largest single-day motorcycle events this June and help support the care of children and adults with profound developmental disabilities.

The Little Angels Pledge Run returns Sunday, June 2, starting and ending at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, in Woodstock, IL. Motorcyclists and passengers must check in by 10:30 a.m., then will enjoy an 80-mile ride throughout McHenry County. An after-ride party and reception follows. “This gives our participants a chance to hang out with the other bike enthusiasts who come together in support of our residents,” said Natalie Sarby, Community Events Manager.

Participants pay a registration fee and are asked to collect pledge donations prior to the ride.

Registration is open at www.marklund.org/pledgerun to riders, passengers, and even friends who just want to join us for food and music.

The first Little Angels Pledge Run was held in 1988 and has raised $4,349,581 to date.

All makes and models of motorcycles are welcome.
Shelley Lewis is looking forward to getting some much-needed rest, traveling, and learning how to play the mandolin, a gift her husband had given her years ago.

It’s a change of pace for Shelley, who recently retired after serving the past 40 years as administrator of the Marklund Wasmond Center, previously called Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care. Her parents, Pat, a registered nurse, and Bob Wasmond, founded the home in Elgin when Shelley was just three-years-old. Today, the Wasmond Center is a 57-bed facility for children and young adults who are medically complex and have severe developmental disabilities.

“My mother was a powerhouse of a woman,” Shelley said. “She had boundless energy, raising 11 of her own kids and creating a home for children with medically complex special needs. It was her vision to create this home, but she couldn’t have done it without Dad. Watching the two of them work side-by-side to create this home, and to always do what was best for the kids we served, was a phenomenal thing.”

Prior to serving as administrator, Shelley, a registered nurse, worked in the burn unit at Loyola University Medical Center. “My mother had me brainwashed from the get-go,” Shelley said. “I wanted to be a nurse from first grade on. I never thought about doing anything else.”

Shelley recalled growing up next door to Little Angels with her 10 siblings. “Growing up around so many children – we didn’t know any different,” she said. “All of my brothers and sisters and I were involved in some way, shape or form over the years. My mother had us clean the facility from top to bottom, we did laundry, scrubbed floors, washed windows, and fed children. We even grew green beans that we used to feed the kids.”

“What my siblings and I got out of growing up this way was a strong work ethic,” she added. “We learned you have to work hard to succeed in life. We also learned that the people we cared for are precious souls. We grew up appreciating people with disabilities and differences.”

Shelley has a lot of fun memories, too. “All of the things we did to enhance the quality of life for our residents, like putting 20 children with profound disabilities on a Greyhound bus, stowing their wheelchairs underneath and taking them all to Brookfield Zoo.”

Shelley describes her service with Little Angels and Marklund as a “lifelong venture.”

“After 40 years, I am most proud that I have sustained this beautiful home, known in the community as a top-notch family-oriented facility, Shelley said. “I’m also proud that I have been able to fill my mother’s shoes – and oversee this home as well as she did.” She looks forward to continuing her relationship with Marklund by volunteering for events, like the Little Angels Pledge Run.

She has peace of mind retiring, knowing Marklund will continue her mother’s legacy of providing care and support to children and young adults with profound disabilities.

“What my mother created was so special,” Shelley said. “Sustaining the Wasmond Center for years to come is so important because there are still a lot of kids out there in need.”

Michelle Orwig, RN, CDON, LNHA, has been named the new Administrator at Marklund Wasmond Center, as the successor to Shelley Lewis. Michelle joined Marklund nearly two years ago as the Director of Nursing at the Wasmond Center. She previously worked as a Director of Nursing at other facilities for several years, and in a hospital setting for about eight years in the NICU/Labor & Delivery/Flight. Contact Michelle at morwig@marklund.org or 224-523-7544.

Residents enjoy over 50 hours of music therapy each month.
This year’s Top Hat Ball the Best Ever!

Whether it was the palm trees, the late-model Cadillac convertibles, or the feeling of tropical HAVANA NIGHTS, this year’s Top Hat Ball surpassed all records, breaking the $1 million ceiling all in support of children and adults with profound developmental disabilities.

The annual signature event, themed “Havana Nights,” grossed over $1 million, the first time ever for a Marklund event to do so.

“This event is always so much fun for the guests, and this year was no exception,” said Heather Graves, Chief Development Officer at Marklund. “It truly amazes us how supportive our donors are of our mission, helping us make this the best Top Hat to date!”

Over 560 guests attended the event held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown on the Magnificent Mile. Throughout the evening, they enjoyed cigar rolling demonstrations, salsa dance lessons, delicious food and cocktails, music by the Al Sophia Orchestra, and participated in exciting Live and Silent Auctions and Raffles. “Everyone’s generous support helped us raise a RECORD $790,000 in net proceeds!” added Jeannine Zupo, Director of Signature Events.

Visit the Marklund website to see event photos taken by Chris Guillon Photography, and to view this year’s Top Hat video!

SAVE THE DATE
TOP HAT 2020 - February 1, 2020
Vintage Circus Under the Big Top

2019 Friend of the Year
David Pierro

This year’s recipient, David Pierro, was first introduced to Marklund in 1996 when he volunteered to help create the first fundraising video for the inaugural Top Hat Ball. He adopted Marklund’s annual video as his personal project – a very significant philanthropic contribution that has allowed us to raise millions of dollars over the span of two decades. Simply put, David has been our storyteller for the past 23 years.

He has interviewed literally hundreds of Marklund families, staff, volunteers, and donors to show what “everyday life” means at Marklund, capturing the essence of Marklund, creating powerful visual statements about what we do, who we are, who we help, and why.

He was elected to the Marklund board of directors in 2008, where he served as a dedicated volunteer for almost 10 years. He continues to volunteer and give generously, along with his wife, Deb, and his team at Camera Originals. His tireless efforts are truly priceless, as we will never know the full impact of the stories he has helped us tell.
37th Annual Golf Classic Tees Off at Cog Hill in June

Golf enthusiasts are invited to the renowned links of Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont on June 5th for the 37th Annual Marklund Golf Classic, home of the Porter Cup.

Golfers have the choice to test their skills and endurance on the famously challenging Dubsread course, or may instead register to play on Course 1 of this legendary Country Club. The full day of activities include:

- Buffet breakfast with Bloody Mary Bar
- 11 a.m. shot-gun start
- 18-Hole golfing experience with various fun hole challenges
- Dinner buffet
- Auction and award ceremony
- 3rd annual helicopter ball drop
- Dubsread foursomes will take part in stroke play after their shotgun start and be part of the Annual Porter Cup championship!

Various sponsorships and foursome packages are available. All golfers receive 18-holes of golf with cart, premium goody bag, breakfast & dinner with open bar. The Porter Cup trophy will be presented to the lowest scoring team competing on Dubsread and kept by the winner until a new champion is crowned the following year.

More information and registration details can be found at www.marklund.org/golfclassic.

Fox Valley Career Center
Thank you for opening your doors to us

“Did you do something that helped someone today?” Whenever Dana Alterie asks her students that question after they have volunteered at Marklund, they always answer, “Yes.”

Since 2007, Alterie, health occupations teacher at the Fox Valley Career Center, has supervised students who volunteer at the Marklund Hyde Center as part of the Center’s Exploring Medical Careers and Basic Nurse Assistant Training classes. More than 700 high school students, with an interest in health-related careers, have gone through the program, serving approximately 3,000 hours over the past 12 years. The Center works with high school students in Kaneland, Batavia, Central, Geneva, St. Charles and West Aurora school districts.

The students help in a variety of ways from supporting residents with their physical therapy goals, to decorating classrooms. “The students make a positive difference because residents get more one-to-one assistance with activities,” said Cathy Nikrandt, manager of volunteer engagement. “Staff members appreciate the students because they provide the extra hands when doing a project.”

“The students are the voice for Marklund in the community,” Nikrandt added. “They spread the word of all of the good we do for our residents.”

Alterie describes the Center’s partnership with Marklund as a “win-win.” “These young people come in with energy, excitement and a desire to be of service,” Alterie said. “Likewise, students walk away with a great sense of accomplishment of forging relationships and learning so much from the residents and staff at Marklund. It works out to be a positive experience for our students and for Marklund, too.”

“All that Marklund stands for is very important to us, and we want our students to be a part of that,” Alterie added.

“Thank you for opening your doors to us and letting our students be a part of the facility. It’s a wonderful experience for our students.”
As an Everyday Supporter, your contribution provides an ongoing, reliable source of funding that helps Marklund fill the state funding gap of $17,000 per resident each year to ensure that all Marklund residents not only receive Marklund’s exceptional standard-of-care, but have the opportunity to live life to the fullest. When you enroll in our Monthly Giving Program, you will have the option to give at any level. Such as:

- $256/month - Purchase an EZ Stander to improve muscle alignment
- $142/month - Fund 10% of the annual fundraising gap for one resident
- $84/month - 10 groups of residents and community clients can attend a baseball game.
- $52/month - Purchase an appliance (washer or dryer) for life skills training.
- $28/month - Provide Netflix subscriptions for resident homes.

By making year long monthly contributions of $83.34 or more, you will be recognized in the Leadership Giving Circle.

Corporate Donor Highlight: Screws Industries

Eighteen years ago, Colleen McCauley’s heart led her to Marklund, and she brought Screws Industries with her. Since then, her employer, Screws Industries of Glendale Heights, has been an annual Giving Tree Sponsor—they display a set of holiday gift wish lists for more than 80 Marklund residents in their office. The employees purchase gifts and then come out to the Marklund Tommy Home, one of the residential homes in Geneva, on Christmas Eve to assist the residents as they open their presents. (See photo at right)

This past Christmas season was filled with tragedy for Colleen. Her friends and colleagues at Screws Industries came beside her and chose to honor the memory of her fiancé, Rich, as well as her daughter, Candice (who had special needs and had passed away many years earlier). They took up a collection, and Screws Industries matched it, which made it possible for Marklund to purchase fun and needed items to enhance the residents’ lives at its Geneva campus.

OUR LOCATIONS

Marklund Hyde Center
1S450 Wyatt Drive
Geneva, Illinois 60134
Phone: 630.593.5500
Fax: 630.593.5501
Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) for adults. 25-acre campus includes six 16-bed residential homes. Community Day Services program, on-site heated aquatic therapy pool, main administrative offices, therapy program, and Miracle League ballfield. 56 residents plus community day clients.

Marklund Wasmond Center & School
1435 Summit Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120
Phone: 224.523.7530
Fax: 847.622.5523
Medically Complex/DD Facility for children and adults. Skilled nursing. Community Day Services (CDS), therapy services, recreational and community activities. The five-acre campus includes the residential facility and CDS center. 57 residents. Site also features two Marklund Day School classrooms for students in the Multi-Needs Program.

Marklund Philip Center
164 S. Prairie Avenue
Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108
Phone: 630.529.2871
Fax: 630.529.3266
Medically Complex/DD Facility for children and adults. Skilled nursing. Community Day Services (CDS), therapy services, and recreational and community activities. 21 residents.

Marklund Day School
164 S. Prairie Avenue
Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108
Phone: 630.307.1882
Fax: 630.307.6491
A non-public, state-certified school that partners with area school districts to provide a highly specialized education experience. The therapeutic, sensory-driven Multi-Needs Program serves individuals ages 3 through 21 with medical, developmental, and physical disabilities.

Ann Haskins Center (same address as above)
Through the Life Skills Program, teachers and paraprofessionals provide individualized functional curriculum and supports for students who are diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum, those with emotional/behavioral disorders, specific learning disabilities, and developmental disabilities.

EVENT CALENDAR

2nd Annual Run, Walk Roll—Bloomingdale
April 28, 2019

Little Angels Pledge Run
June 2, 2019

37th Annual Marklund Golf Classic
June 5, 2019

Summer Games
Geneva - June 8, 2019
Bloomingdale - June 22, 2019
Elgin - June 29, 2019

7th Annual Run, Walk & Roll—Geneva
Oct. 20, 2019

24th Annual Top Hat Ball—Vintage Circus
Feb. 1, 2020