Inside.....

Marklund Turns 65!

A Campaign for Marklund Day School–Geneva

24th Annual Top Hat Ball–Vintage Circus

Dental Office Renovation Completed

Honoring our Angel Award Recipient

A Run, Walk & Roll–Geneva Success

Project "Home Safe Home"

Friendships of a Lifetime–Annual Appeal

Calendar of Events

Little did any of us know how much one little boy would change our world; what a miracle and a legacy of significance Mark’s birth left us. Now, 65 years later, we strive to keep our mission – our promise – to make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities.
About this time 65 years ago, the unexpected happened to a young couple when they learned that their newborn baby had multiple health issues including Down syndrome and severe cardiac defects. He was not expected to live long. This was 1954. Back then, most parents did not bring these babies home—the children were institutionalized.

However, this child’s path would take a different turn when the family’s pediatrician instead found a special couple who agreed to provide the child with foster care. So at Christmas time, 4-day-old Mark William Lund arrived at the home of Claire and Stan Haverkampf. Claire, a nurse, knew the obstacles she would encounter trying to provide care for this baby. But she never could have imagined how this child would change her life and the lives of hundreds more.

Fast forward to December of 2019, and Marklund, the organization named for that baby boy, is celebrating 65 years of caring for children and adults with profound developmental disabilities. What started in the Haverkampf’s Northlake home has grown into the nonprofit organization it is today providing residential, educational and vocational services in Bloomingdale, Elgin and Geneva. It is still growing, with a new Marklund Day School-Geneva under construction and set to open its doors to students next August.

John Lund, Mark’s father, has kept in touch with Marklund staff over the years and was very pleased this past fall to bring his two other sons on their first visit to the organization named for their older sibling.

“The boys, Jim and Chris, have heard about Marklund, but only in conversations, yet were never really aware of the scope or the enormity of it all. They were stunned to actually see what an organization it is and what it takes for your staff to do what it does,” John wrote in an email after the visit. “It was a visit they will never forget, and they now realize the impact of Mark’s legacy to so many.”

According to Pat Pearce, who served as Marklund’s President from 1979-1992, Claire said that once they took Mark in, they realized how many others needed help. “We never intended to foster so many children,” she had said, “but each baby was so special, we couldn’t say no.” They all became “Claire’s children,” Pat noted, “but Mark was special. He was her first, her education in how to help a developmentally disabled child to thrive, how to understand the feelings of their parents.”

Although he lived less than 7 years, Mark became a part of the Haverkampf family, often staying at their own home and accompanying Stan, to Kiwanis meetings. “Stan grieved for Mark for many years, especially at Christmas time,” Pearce noted.

The story continues in the Spring 2020 CareLetter. To learn more about Marklund’s history, visit www.marklund.org/history65

Upon her retirement in 1981, Claire wrote a tribute letter to Mark, expressing her love for all those connected with Marklund.

Dear Mark,

It was nearly 27 years ago when you were first put into my arms. And you became very much mine to cherish, to care for, to tend during your many illnesses, and to make a world for you and others like you. Your wonderful and caring natural parents were giving you the best gift they could offer you—your very own place in your very own world where you would receive the best of much needed medical care.

Oh, how your foster family loved you! You lived less than seven years, my Mark Lund, but it was you who crept into my heart and stripped this “good” nurse of her complacency, and started it all. I pay tribute to you, my little one, and I pay tribute to all those whose compassion, vision, intelligence, special training, stick-to-itiveness have accomplished more than my partner and I could have done alone. More than anything else, Mark, I express my gratitude to you.

I love you Mark, and am proud to have been your stand-in Mom.

Claire
With the ballroom embellished to set the ambiance, and aerialists, jugglers, stilt walkers and fortune tellers entertaining the guests, Marklund’s signature fundraising event is set for Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Marriott Chicago Downtown on the Magnificent Mile. The evening includes a cocktail hour, champagne bar, dinner, silent and live auctions, dancing to the Al Sofia Orchestra, and late-night concessions. Marklund’s 2019 Friends of the Year, Becky and John Duffey, will also be honored during the program. *(Lyrics from “The Greatest Show” song in The Greatest Showman)*

Since its inception, the ball has raised more than $6,808,261 in net proceeds, which has supported Marklund’s general operating and endowment funds. Ticket and sponsorship packages are offered at www.marklund.org/tophatball.

---

Everyone at the Marklund Wasmond Center in Elgin is all smiles since the remodel of its Dental Office. The fundraiser Project: Brighter Smiles raised $62,000 thanks to generous Wasmond Center families and donors. With all new cabinets, countertops, flooring, dental tools/equipment, and a fresh coat of paint over the summer, the updated dental office is ready for use. At the Grand Opening on October 18, Lisa Sanfilippo of the Sanfilippo Foundation of Barrington attended to accept the Angel Award for the Foundation’s huge support of the project. Thank you all!
Geneva
Ran it, Walked It, Rolled it for Marklund

“We are happy to say that 2019 was another Run, Walk & Roll success,” said Natalie Sarby, Community Events Manager at Marklund. “We are excited to have netted $75,000, coming close to our goal of $90,000.”

Established in 2013, The Run, Walk, and Roll – Geneva gives runners of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs, the opportunity to raise awareness and support for Marklund’s programs and services. Since its inception, the Run, Walk, and Roll series has raised more than $500,000 in net proceeds, 100 percent of which goes to support the individuals that Marklund serves.

“It is always such a highlight to watch each participant cross the finish line. Everybody has a different, fun reaction,” said Sarby. “We were also honored to have the Iconic Allstar Wildcats cheerleading team, Special Olympic Gold Medalists, cheer on our participants this year as well as the Geneva Dance Team.”

A big thanks goes to the Fitch Foundation, the presenting sponsor for the past two years, as well as to Fisher Nuts, the “Race Crew” (volunteers) sponsor. Other premier sponsors included Stumm Insurance, DRW Trading, Forsite Network Services, JVM Realty, O’Carroll Electric, Dean’s Market and Dei, Konicek and Dillon, Pal Joey’s, Buona Beef, and 101.9 The Mix., several of whom also had participants run or walk in the 5K or 1-Mile events.

SAVE THE DATE:
The 3rd Annual Run, Walk & Roll - Bloomingdale
will be held Sunday, April 26,
with the Start and Finish line at the Marklund Philip Center, 164 S. Prairie Ave.

New Project: Home SAFE Home

In order to maintain our excellent standards of care and safety, Marklund’s security camera system needs to be upgraded. The current system is outdated, which causes it to freeze up and images are grainy and pixelated. The new technology will offer an umbrella of protection for our residents, students, and staff especially at night with clearer visibility in and around the homes and parking lots. Most importantly, the update will ensure that Marklund will continue to be the safest home possible for everyone!

We cannot reach our $110,000 goal by December 31st without you!

You can make our “Home SAFE Home” today  https://p2p.onecause.com/homesafehome
IMAGINE... what it is like to see eight consecutive schools fail your child. She has special needs and can’t communicate like you and I do. What if you were unable to get them to see that she IS capable?

For thousands of public school children, a disability prevents them from attending class; from communicating in traditional ways; or from reaching important milestones. Parents often feel like their backs are against a wall, with limited educational options for their child.

Now IMAGINE a place where children CAN learn and grow; where emphasis is placed on what every child CAN accomplish, not on what they can’t because of a disability. At the Marklund Day School, teachers “dig a little deeper” and create individualized educational plans based on the unique ways each child communicates and engages with their peers and the world around them.

YOU can help “Finish and Furnish” the brand new Marklund Day School campus in Geneva!

This state-of-the-art facility is being built from the ground up to meet the needs of children with multiple medical needs on level one, and those with autism spectrum disorders on the second level—with intentional design components, upgraded technology and places to meet, gather and grow!

“Thanks to an outpouring of support from our donors and staff so far, we are halfway to our goal of raising $6 million dollars to build our new Marklund Day School-Geneva campus,” said Frank Murnane, Chair, Marklund Board of Directors. “We truly appreciate those who are affording us the opportunity to advance the Marklund mission in such an impactful way.”

“We have been blown away by the generous support we have received so far for a new therapeutic day school in the greater Geneva community and look forward to the public helping us to reach our goal in time for the opening school bell in August 2020,” added Gil Fonger, Marklund President/CEO.
Did you know that the average person speaks at least 7,000 words per day?

The ability to speak to our family and friends is a simple privilege we take for granted, but for the residents at Marklund, the ability to communicate verbally isn’t always possible.

Heather and Dawn have been best friends for over 30 years. Amazingly, they built this friendship without being able to speak a word to each other! Both girls began living at Marklund as children, and then as young adults they became roommates and fast friends. Although they could not verbalize their thoughts, they quickly bonded and learned how to share their feelings with each other. If Heather is ever upset, you will find Dawn resting her head on her shoulder to comfort her.

Although they were unable to verbally communicate for years, Heather recently received a new communication device which she controls with her eyes. This new technology has opened up her world and allows her to communicate with Dawn in new ways – including telling her she loves her.

Heather and Dawn are inseparable – whether they are out to dinner, or pulling pranks on the staff – you can be sure to always find them together. In the rare event Heather is on an outing without Dawn, you might find Dawn waiting in their room for her to get home. Or, if Dawn is away, Heather’s smile will light up the room as soon as she gets back. They may not be able to speak to each other the way you and I do, but they have found a special way to communicate and become best friends at Marklund.

Your gift will help us make everyday life possible for all of our residents, and that includes giving them a safe, happy place to make friends!

Enclosed is my gift of: $__________

Payment Method
☐ Check enclosed (payable to Marklund)
☐ Please charge my credit card
☐ I commit to a monthly gift of $ ______

This gift is ______ in honor ______ in memory of

☐ I (we) wish to remain anonymous
My birthday is: ______/______ (MM/DD)

I would like more information about
☐ Volunteering or taking a tour at Marklund
☐ Naming Marklund in my will
☐ Doubling my gift with a match by my employer

To give online, please follow the QR code or visit www.marklund.org/friends

Credit Card Information

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE CVV NUMBER

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

MOBILE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

13450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva, IL 60134 630.593.5500

www.marklund.org | info@marklund.org

Contributions to Marklund are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

EVENT CALENDAR

Gift Opening—all sites
December 24, 2019

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

RUN WALK ROLL
3rd Annual Run, Walk & Roll—Bloomington
April 26, 2020

our social network

www.marklund.org
info@marklund.org

OUR LOCATIONS

Marklund Hyde Center
15450 Wyatt Drive
Geneva, Illinois 60134
Phone: 630.593.5500
Fax: 630.593.5501

Marklund Philip Center
164 S. Prairie Ave.,
Bloomington, Illinois 60108
Phone: 630.529.2871
Fax: 630.529.3266

Marklund Wasmond Center & School
1435 Summit Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120
Phone: 224.523.7530
Fax: 847.622.5523

Marklund Day School
164 S. Prairie Avenue
Bloomington, Illinois 60108
Phone: 630.307.1882
Fax: 630.307.6491

Ann Haskins Center
164 S. Prairie Avenue
Bloomington, Illinois 60108
Phone: 630.307.1882
Fax: 630.307.6491