

December 6, 2019

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$1.6M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through November, stands at \$3.9M. We are currently using none of our line of credit; we have the entire \$7M available.
- I have no doubt that you are well aware of the emergency rules that the **Illinois State Board of Education** released last week to eliminate seclusion rooms and prone/supine therapeutic physical restraints. We DO NOT use seclusion rooms but a number of our students do require the prone/supine restraints in order to keep them safe. One of our students who needs this type of restraint – literally – punches his own head and ears. He has punched himself so hard over the years that he has had to have four ear operations to repair damage.

Fortunately, because of the leadership, hard work and recognized expertise of Paula Bodzioch and her staff and our relationship with State Rep. Keith Wheeler, we were able to get ISBE to modify the emergency rules which, once again, allows for the prone/supine therapeutic restraint. The new rules will be in effect for the next 150 days and then new permanent rules will go into effect. There is still a lot of advocacy work that we are going to need to do over the next few months to work with the state and help them understand the need for allowing these therapeutic restraints.

- Our meeting in Chicago with **BALC** (Bureau of Accreditation, Licensing and Certification) on Nov 5 to begin the initial CILA licensure process did not go nearly as well as the DHS meeting on Nov 1 with Allison Stark (DHS-DD) and State Reps Moeller and Gabel. The state did not show any interest in granting us a waiver that would allow our **LIFTS initiative** for creating new group homes on our Elgin property. We have a meeting set up with Anna Moeller, who has been very supportive of our efforts, on Dec 18 on how to move this process forward.

There was a front page article and editorial in the *Chicago Tribune* this week on the lack of housing and supportive services for individuals with developmental disabilities. How ironic when we approached the state just weeks before on the very same issue and they refused to see beyond their arcane rules, when it is within their purview to grant a waiver, and partner with us. We continue to be confident that reason and the overwhelming need is going to prevail...even in the State of Illinois. [Sorry for the sarcasm...sometimes I just can't help it!]

- The **MDS – Geneva** school construction is continuing to come along very well. A lot of progress has been made over the past month. The structural steel is almost all done and the roofing will start next Tuesday (Dec 10). The roof is scheduled to be completed by the end of January. I have attached a picture of our progress. We are planning to have a time lapse of the construction at Top Hat. It should be fun to watch.

- I also wanted to share a **capital campaign** update note that **Frank** made on Nov 20. He shared the following:

*Noteworthy, and of particular significance, the Capital Campaign Committee would like to acknowledge the wonderful and awesome effort by Melissa Kud to share her personal Marklund story and ask for participation in funding the Geneva Marklund Day School. She has sent over 70 letters inviting friends, family, and business associates to contribute at any level. She has received immediate responses from several donors including two \$5,000 gifts. (Please see a **copy of Melissa's beautiful, kind, warm, and thoughtful letter** below which she is delighted to share with the Board).*

A copy of **Melissa's** letter is attached along with the latest campaign brochure. The campaign will be entering the public phase next month.

- The **Dunham Fund** committed \$250,000 for the school expansion. They decided to make the payment in one lump sum rather than over the five years of the campaign. I want to thank **Jim Armbruster** for his personal relationship with members of the fund that has been instrumental in us receiving this generous gift.
- I want to thank the following board members for participating in our annual **Thank-a-thon** on November 26: **Jeff Blanchette, Howard Brandeisky, Mike Herlihy and Laura Karlins**. We made a lot of great contacts with our generous donors thanks to your efforts.
- I also want to thank **Jeff Risch** and his family for coming out on Giving Tuesday (Dec 3) to help decorate the Haverkamp Home for the holidays. A picture of Jeff and his beautiful family is attached.
- Just as a reminder, here are the Board dates for **2020: January 30, April 2, May 21** (Finance only), **June 25**, August 14 (Board Retreat) and **October 22**. All of these dates should be in your Outlook.

Thank you for all you do to *make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities*.

Wishing each of you and your families a joyous Christmas season and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

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