

February 7, 2020

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$1.8M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through January, stands at \$4M. The entire \$7M line of credit is available.
- The **MDS – Geneva** school construction is continuing to come along very well. We continue to be on track for our Certificate of Occupancy in mid-May. Please be sure to have the following dates on your calendar:
 - Board/Major Donors - Preview 6 - 8 pm Thursday, June 18
 - Ribbon Cutting – Grand Opening 10 am – 1 pm Friday, June 19
 - Patron Reception 6 - 8 pm Friday, June 19

We invited the Governor to the Ribbon Cutting so that could affect the exact time of the opening.

- The 24th annual **Top Hat Ball** was a HUGE success! A great theme, wonderful entertainment, time-lapse of the school construction, fantastic packages...simply...the best yet! These numbers are close...very close...but not absolutely official yet! Here they are:
 - **615 guests** (largest ever at the Chicago Marriott! Second largest in Top Hat history)
 - **\$1,204,713 gross** (largest ever!)
 - **\$871,617 net** (largest ever!). Our net was over \$100K better than budget!

An amazing job by Heather Graves, Jeannine Zupo and the entire Development Department. What an incredible team!

I want to thank the following board members who played such an important role in making it a success:

- In attendance: **Jim Armbruster, Howard Brandeisky, Carie Carney, Maria Dombrowski, Mike Herlihy, Laura Karlins, Melissa Kud, & Frank Murnane**
- Donated (but could not attend): **Jeff Blanchette (BMO Harris), Gerry Estes, Sonya Evanosky & Jack Zimmerman**

Frank did an amazing job with the metaphor he shared about the stone thrown in the water 65 years ago, with the birth of Mark William Lund, and the concentric ripples that have touched so many lives over the years through our mission.

- I want to thank **Jeff Risch** for his counsel in helping us to craft a Cannabis policy for Marklund. **We continue to have a no tolerance policy for any kind of impairment.** As you might imagine, with the legalization of recreational cannabis, we needed to create a special policy to address the issue. We actually lean on Jeff's expertise on a regular basis and greatly appreciate the way he makes time for us in his schedule.

- The **Marklund Advocacy Award** was approved at the January Board meeting. The award will be presented each year at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We will be honoring **State Representative Anna Moeller** for her help with our LIFTS initiative to build CILAs in the Elgin area, and **Kane County Board Member Drew Frasz** for his help in obtaining the necessary adjustment to our PUD in order to build the new Marklund Day School – Geneva.
- **State Representative Keith Wheeler** (Geneva) visited the Marklund Day School in Bloomingdale this morning to see – first hand – the challenges that our staff face with the students we serve. The emergency rules that the Illinois State Board of Education put into place in November only made a hard job, even harder. Keith serves as the co-chair of a key legislative committee that will be reviewing the new rules that ISBE has proposed. He is a HUGE advocate for Marklund and we are so fortunate to have him working for us.
- We are touring **State Senator Cristina Castro** (Elgin) at the Marklund Wasmond Center next Monday. It will be her first time to visit.
- The **St. Charles Chamber of Commerce** will be honoring Marklund tonight for our 65 years of service. Our Director of Marketing and Communications, Dawn Lassiter-Brueske, a life-long resident of the St. Charles area, will be accepting the recognition.
- We have submitted a proposal to the Illinois Department of Public Health to increase our number of beds at the **Marklund Wasmond Center** from 57 to 61 beds. The administrator (Michelle Orwig) determined that two rooms, that are currently for single residents, could accommodate two residents, and a medical records room could be easily configured for two residents. We will see what the state thinks! ☺ The additional beds could be used for full-time residents or respite clients.
- I am very excited about the creation of a **Marklund 2030** vision/strategy. We have almost tripled in size and service since 2011; it will be exciting to dream and plan about what the next ten years hold for us. I look forward to tapping your wisdom and expertise as we move forward in this process. The final plan will culminate at the all-day Board Retreat in August.
- Just as a reminder, here are the Board dates for **2020**: **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 help make our mission and vision a reality. God bless you!

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