

January 3, 2020

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- **Happy New Year!**

It is hard to believe that I am beginning my **10<sup>th</sup> year** at Marklund. There are many exciting (and challenging!) things going on that it (almost ☺) feels like I am just getting started. It is a privilege for me to work with you and the great staff that we have on this important mission, our promise, to ***make everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities*** and our vision, ***a happy, safe and purpose-filled life for every individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities.***

Thank you for your continued confidence in the work that my team and I play in this 65-years-old organization. I truly believe that as great as our past has been, our future is even more exciting!

- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$1.8M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through December, stands at \$4.0M. We are currently using none of our line of credit; we have the entire \$7M available.
- The **MDS – Geneva** school construction is continuing to come along very well. A lot of progress has been made over the past month. The unusually warm and dry December has allowed us to make great progress on the roof; it is slated to be finished by next Monday! The drying in of the building means that we are weather tight and our schedule to be in the building by mid-May is looking very solid.
- The **Marklund Action Network** was activated on December 13 regarding a resolution that was needed to include language in a year-end spending legislation regarding “Complex Rehab Manual Wheelchairs.” The bill was passed with bi-partisan leadership and signed into law by the President. Upon sending out the alert we quickly had 41 respond, eight of whom were board members. We were able to reach seven of our congressional districts. Thank you SO much!
- I want to thank **Laura Karlins, Frank Murnane** and **Jeff Risch** for participating in the Christmas Eve Day gift opening in Geneva.
- As I shared with you previously, **Mike Donahue** passed away on December 12 in Naples, Florida from complications due to ALS. He and his wife Carol have been wonderful friends of Marklund for many years. They chaired Top Hat from 2010 – 2012 and were honored in 2013 as our *Friends of the Years*. Carol served on the Board for three years. Mike was instrumental in our receiving approval from Bloomingdale in 2014 for the construction of the Ann Haskins Center. Just this past summer I talked to him about the issues we were having with the Water Reclamation District on the construction

of the new school in Geneva. Without question, those we serve have greatly benefited from his generosity, wisdom, expertise and passion.

A *Celebration of Life* will be held on **Saturday, January 18** from 3:30 – 7:30 pm at the Geneva Golf Course (831 South St). The invitation read:

*Come in casual attire and bring a picture of Mike we may not have seen. No tears, just cheap Scotch and great stories.*

- 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 help make our mission and vision a reality.

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks at the January Board meeting. Wishing each of you and your families a Happy & Healthy New Year!

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