

November 2, 2019

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 September, stands at \$3.7M. We are currently using none of our line of credit; we have the entire \$7M available.
- This morning (Friday, November 1) we met with the new Director of the Department of Human Service – Developmental Disabilities Division, Allison Stark, along with our State Representative Anna Moeller (Elgin), State Representative Robyn Gabel (Chair of the Human Service Appropriations Committee) and other DHS staff in Chicago to discuss our **LIFTS initiation**. They were supportive of our initiative and gave us some very helpful advice as we move forward. Director Stark even offered, which we gratefully accepted, to participate in our meeting next week in Chicago with BALC (Bureau of Accreditation, Licensing and Certification) as we begin the initial licensure process.
- The **MDS – Geneva** school construction is continuing to come along very well. Despite the early snow, the walls arrived on Wed, Oct 30 and are quickly going up. There are a total of 106 panels with each weighing 33,000 lbs...WOW! They anticipate having all of the panels up by the end of next week! We are ahead of schedule...currently...and on track to receive our Certificate of Occupancy next May. Just in case you missed my email this week, I have attached pictures of our progress as of today.
- We had 556 participants in our **7th Annual 5K/1M Run, Walk & Roll** on Sunday, October 20 and had a net of over \$75K! I want to thank the following for your participation: **Jim Armbruster** (who won his age group!), **Gerry Estes** (who came all the way from NC!), **Duane Fitch, Mike Herlihy, Laura Karlins and Frank Murnane**. Further, I would like to thank Duane for being our Presenting Sponsor (for the sixth year in a row!), Jim for having the largest corporate group (43) and Laura for having the largest parent/guardian group (30 w/ Team Scott). Thank you SO much for your support!
- Last week, **ABC Channel 7 Chicago** came out to Geneva and did a story on one of our residents, Heather, and the way our staff worked with her to program her eye gaze communication device to interface with *Alexa*. She is now able to control her lights, the color of her lights, music selections and volume...all on her own! The story will be shown on the *Celebrate Abilities* section of their news program during the 8 am hour on Sunday, November 17.
- The board and staff of the **Dunham Fund** toured the school site in Geneva on Monday, October 28. We have submitted a \$500,000 proposal for the school expansion. They wanted to be able to see the current construction, learn more about Marklund and hear about the school program. I want to thank **Jim Armbruster** for his personal relationship

with members of the fund that has been instrumental in us getting to this stage. We are hoping to hear next month on their formal commitment.

- As was shared at the Board meeting last week, **Brian Little** has resigned from the Board effective October 8. Brian was lured out of retirement for a terrific job in a lead HR role at Intel in California. He is going to be traveling back-and-forth for a while until he and Anise are able to sell their home. We are going to miss him and wish Brian the best.
- Just as a reminder, here are the remaining 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 a very Happy Thanksgiving! God bless you!

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