



First Friday Report – January 1, 2021

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- **Happy New Year!**

What a year...still not quite sure what the **NEW NORMAL** is going to look like in 2021. It won't look exactly like March 11 (pre-pandemic shutdown) but it will be a long ways from where we are today. The vaccine is here and over the next six months I am confident that is going to lead to significant and positive changes; it cannot come soon enough.

It is hard to believe that I am beginning my **11th 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 for *a happy, safe, purpose-filled life for every individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities*.

I am profoundly grateful for your continued confidence in the work that my team and I play in this 66-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 just under **\$2M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through December stands at \$4.4M (this has remained substantially the same for the last three months). The entire \$7M line of credit continues to be available.
- Here is an update on the **\$3.9M PPP loan** that we received in May:
 - We are going to request \$782K to be forgiven. We have a detailed breakdown of salaries, expenses and capital that qualify, if needed.
 - Approximately \$3.1M will be converted to a 1% loan that will be amortized over the next two years. The term will begin once the SBA approves the portion of the original loan that will be forgiven.
 - We plan to submit our application in Feb/Mar. We are required to apply before August 2021.
- We received a unanimous *Conditional Use* from the **Elgin Zoning and Planning Commission** on December 7 for the new facility (1210 Hunter Drive, Elgin) that we had under contract for an offsite CDS program. With Elgin's enthusiastic approval I made the decision to close on the property on December 21 for \$325,000; after January 1 the price would have increased to \$350,000. We will go before the Elgin City Council on January 13 for final approval of the zoning change. Here is a link to an article in the *Chicago Tribune* on the decision by Elgin:

[Marklund day services center for people with developmental disabilities proposed for Elgin site - Chicago Tribune](#)

- We are very excited that our first **COVID-19 vaccine** clinic is set for January 14 at the Marklund Philip Center. I plan to be first in line! So far, all of our residents (over the age of 18) are planning to get the vaccine. It looks like about 70% of our staff...so far...are planning to do so. We have not gotten word on clinics for either Elgin or Geneva but are hopeful that they will not be far behind.
- Thanks to the efforts of our State Representative Anna Moeller, we have a **pre-hearing date** on January 15 with an Administrative Law Judge in regards to the denial by BALC in October on our efforts to continue the CILA application process. We formally appealed the BALC decision on November 22 and then found out that there were *thousands of pending appeals* in front of us. We are grateful for Ms. Moeller's efforts. It is no wonder we honored her this year with our *Excellence in Advocacy Award*.
- I want to thank those of you who have registered for our **Top Hat Upside Down** on February 6! I have no doubt that it is going to be another fabulous event! Visit <https://www.marklund.org/top-hat-ball-2021/> to register for FREE and find out about the unique opportunities that have been put together for this virtual experience! Please contact Heather (hgraves@marklund.org or 630-593-5479) if you have any questions.
- We received good news this week that IDPH has finally approved our plans to replace the small **therapeutic pool** at the Marklund Wasmond Center. As are most things with the state, it was a long process but we are grateful to have our permit.
- Just as a reminder, here are the Board dates for **2021: January 28, April 8, May 20** (Finance only), **June 24**, August 12 (Board Retreat) and **October 21**.

Thank you for the selfless giving of your time as **key advocates** for those we serve, both now and in the future. The guidance and support that you provide is instrumental to making our mission and vision a reality.

I look forward to seeing you (in person or ZOOM) at the January board meeting. Wishing each of you and your families a **Happy and Healthy New Year!**

God bless you!

Gil

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President & CEO



Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities

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