

Feb. 5, 2021

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$1.9M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through January stands at \$4.4M (this has remained substantially the same for the last four months). The entire \$7M line of credit continues to be available.
- Based on our discussion at the Finance Committee and Board last week and after further reviewing the SBA criteria with Wintrust, we now feel confident in requesting a full forgiveness of the **\$3.9M PPP loan** that we received last May. Once approved, management will seek approval of the Board to move \$3.1M to the endowment. ☺ That would bring our endowment to almost \$22M!
- On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome **Carol Donahue**...back...as a member of the Board of Directors. It was an easy decision and the Board looks forward to your continued leadership, wisdom and passion.
- We received approval of the zoning change, as part of the consent agenda by the Elgin City Council, on January 27; this action gives us the necessary authority for our offsite **CDS Elgin** program. We are working with our architect on the final plans and will bring the plans and renovation budget to the April board meeting for your approval.
- We were very excited to have a **Letter to the Editor** (attached) published in the *Chicago Tribune* this past Saturday (1/30). It was our first! The letter was regarding our opposition to legislation that would restrict the use of prone therapeutic physical restraint as part of a student's IEP. We have received positive feedback from fellow educators on the letter.

Thanks to **State Rep Keith Wheeler** we had a ZOOM call with the Illinois State Board of Education this week to talk about this subject. They recognized and appreciated the fact that we take on kids with very challenging behaviors. They expressed interest in including us in grant programs through ISU and as part of an ISBE workgroup focused on how to provide services to children with difficult educational challenges.

- We had our second **COVID-19 vaccine** clinic yesterday at the Marklund Philip Center. We did 131 vaccinations, 106 of them were receiving their second shot (I got mine...feeling great!). Geneva is schedule for their first clinic on Feb 12 and Elgin on Feb 15. Practically all of our residents will be receiving the vaccine and about 60-70% of our staff. We expect more to sign up as they see their friends and co-workers getting them.
- BALC has agreed to give us a new **CILA interview** but has not committed to a date yet. We will be going before the Administrative Law Judge on Feb 11 and hope that he will force them to give us a date prior to March 1.
- I want to thanks all of you who have registered for our **Top Hat Upside Down** THIS Saturday (February 6)! We have 693 signed up for the event and 38 watch parties! I have no doubt that it

is going to be another fabulous event! Please contact Heather (hgraves@marklund.org or 630-593-5479) if you have any questions.

- Through the efforts of the IHCA, we finally got IDPH to contact us about the **health survey** that we need in order to receive final approval for the four new beds at the Marklund Wasmond Center. With the approval we will increase our census from 57 to 61.
- I want to thank **Frank Murnane, Howard Brandeisky** and **Laura Karlins** for serving on the Claire Haverkamp Selection committee. This is our highest staff award and is given at the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner which will be held on September 11 this year at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club in West Chicago.
- Just as a reminder, here are the Board date for **2021: January 28, April 8**, May 20 (Finance only), **June 24**, August 12 (Board Retreat) and **October 14 (new date!)**. All of these dates should be in your Outlook calendar.

As of yesterday we have received 13 of 14 **board surveys** back...a record! ☺ Thank you for the continued guidance and support that you provide to make the mission and vision of Marklund a reality.

Looking forward to a great time at our 25th annual Top Hat Ball...even if it is virtual...on Saturday.

God bless you!

Gil

GILBERT FONGER
President & CEO



Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities

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