

CARE LETTER

A newsletter for those who care about Marklund



*Jesus cannot contain his laughter,
excitement and joy about aquatic therapy!*

INSIDE

- ▶ Our 2022 Story
- ▶ Fiscal Year '22 Annual Report
- ▶ Conversations with Staff
- ▶ Breaking records at #27TopHat
- ▶ Marklund's *Friend of the Year*
- ▶ Ready to Run, Walk & Roll for Marklund
- ▶ A New M2030 Update
- ▶ Hey! Hi! Hello! Our Spring Appeal
- ▶ Project Playground Update
- ▶ Event Calendar
- ▶ Join the Marklund Team

SPRING
2-0-2-3

Our 2022 Story



Despite the day-to-day challenges of COVID's continued presence, and the increased struggle with healthcare recruitment, Marklund faced 2022 head-on, continuing to thrive and grow, making *everyday life possible* for the 178 residents, 15 community clients and 70+ students being served.


During the year, we enjoyed many **CELEBRATIONS** including:

- our **20th** anniversary at the Marklund Hyde Center campus in Geneva. Many staff and residents who transitioned to this site from other Marklund homes back in 2002 are still with us today!
- the return of our Marklund **volunteers** supporting residents onsite!
- our formalized commitment to **DE&I** (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) with the development of a staff-driven DE&I Committee
- a return to **in-person events** that included a record-breaking Top Hat Ball
- milestone anniversaries for our Run, Walk & Roll-Bloomingtondale **#5**, Run, Walk & Roll-Geneva **#10**, Marklund Golf Classic **#40**, and Marklund itself **#68**
- breaking ground on **3** capital projects, and completing **2** of them so far (story on page 6)
- earning a renewed **3-year** accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) confirming what we already knew to be true—that we provide excellent care

Looking back, our biggest achievements continued to be made by our employees, whose dedication and commitment to the residents, community clients and students, in spite of facing enormous challenges, were nothing short of awe-inspiring. As I have said for many years, "I work with **HEROES!**"

With the flip of the calendar into 2023, Marklund looks forward with optimism and purpose in this post-pandemic time to continue to build off the momentum of 2022 through new initiatives, new programs and the continuation of our mission—*our promise*—**making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities.**

God bless you -


Gilbert W. Fonger,
President & CEO



Fiscal Year Annual Report 2022 IMPACT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

OUR VISION

A happy, safe, purpose-filled life for every individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

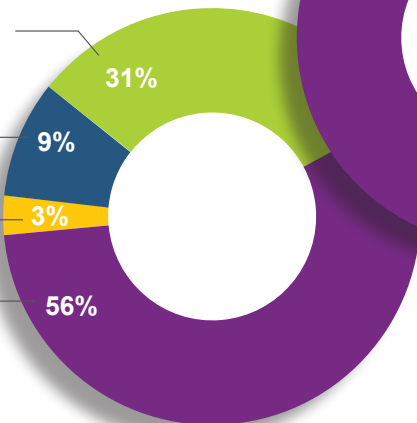
Total Expenses

\$12,100,891
Non-residential program activities

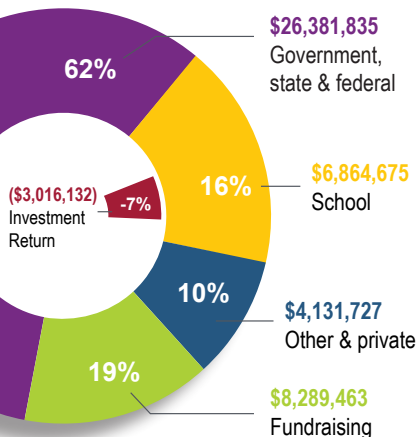
\$3,594,426
General & administrative

\$1,302,492
Fundraising

\$21,667,561
Residential



Total Revenue



\$11,517

FUNDING GAP PER RESIDENT



201,000

HOURS OF COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAMMING



11,700

HOURS OF RECREATIONAL THERAPY AT WASMUND CENTER

265 PEOPLE SERVED
Ages 7-71

178 Residents receive 24/7 residential, medical and therapeutic services
72 Students at Marklund Day Schools

FAST FACTS

849
New Donors

\$399
Average Gift Amount

87 CENTS
of every dollar go to program services

480
Dedicated and Caring Staff

2,775
Active volunteers served for
4,081 hours

1,920
Community Outings

924
Aquatic Therapy Sessions at Hyde Center



We are
ONE OF EIGHT
Providers in the entire state of Illinois to serve medically complex individuals

A Conversation with Cassie Bieberstein, Instructional Coach



Cassie has been with Marklund Day School for five years, moving up from a Paraprofessional to Teacher to Instructional Coach with Marklund Day School-Geneva.

Q. What attracted you to Marklund Day School as a teacher?

A. I actually started my career here as a paraprofessional, even though I had applied for a teaching position. But this was for a good reason, I had no idea that schools like Marklund existed as I was just coming out of college. I was so intrigued after my initial tour and observation that I accepted and embarked on this adventure. Over the next 8 months, I became a full-time sub and finally a full-time Life Skills teacher!

Q. What inspired you to become the Instructional Coach?

A. Being a first-year teacher is very challenging. This ignited a new passion of mine; supporting teachers. I want to help teachers to navigate their role at Marklund so they can provide the best education for their students! I love figuring out how people (teachers/students) learn information/skills.

Q. What would you say to other teachers thinking about a career move to Marklund Day School?

A. I would say it is 100% worth all the work! When you finally see a student succeed it is like magic before your eyes!

See more of Cassie's story at www.marklund.org/staff-stories/



Marklund's #27TopHat

A Record-Breaking Evening at Studio M!

It was a groovy and memorable night! With the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Marriott Downtown on the Magnificent Mile transformed into an exclusive 70s disco club, Marklund's 27th Annual Top Hat Ball, *A Night at Studio M*, topped \$1 million net for the first time in the organization's history.

"It's an honor and privilege to host an event of this magnitude," said Jeannine Zupo, Signature Events Director. "To see the love and support in the room on February 4 was a true blessing, and a testimony to how much our donors, volunteers, staff and families love Marklund and our mission. Thank you to everyone who helped in ways, big and small, to create the best fundraising event of the year. We are beyond grateful for the support that keeps growing and growing each year."

The whole night was a blast from the past with the 600+ guests encountering 70s-era "celebrities" from Travolta and Liza to Cher and Diana Ross, and enjoying energetic performances by The Village People and Elton John. Dancers, roller skaters and LED stilt walkers added to the ambiance and photo opps, along with a vintage game room and retro candy bar. Guests generously participated in live and silent auctions as their way to support Marklund's mission of making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities.

One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the 2023 Friend of the Year award to Catie & Max Schmidt (see story below).

"My sincere appreciation to our dear friends Kelly and Tom Roule and Sandy and Mike Herlihy for being our fearless leaders the next three years," Zupo added. "I cannot wait to see what we keep accomplishing together!"

For a link to event photos and video, visit the website at www.marklund.org/tophatball and check out Marklund's social media sites.



Photos by Chris Guillen Photography

Catie and Max Schmidt Marklund's Friend of the Year!

Congratulations and thank you to Catie & Max Schmidt, recipients of Marklund's "Friend of the Year" 2023 award.

This award honors someone who has demonstrated publicly or privately, a heart of gold and the willingness to serve Marklund's residents in ways that will affect their lives significantly, now and in the future.

Catie and Max Schmidt began their involvement with Marklund nine years ago when they attended their very first Top Hat Ball. Little did anyone know that their extreme generosity would continue, not only as donors – but as leadership volunteers, for a mission that has become near and dear to their hearts. They have attended many Marklund events and even served as Top Hat Ball leadership chairs from 2019-2022. During their tenure, they led Marklund's first-ever virtual Top Hat event, raising record revenue numbers during one of the most challenging times in America's history.

"Max and I have been so blessed in our lives, it is our only hope that we have been an inspiration to others, to the future generation of Top Hat attendees," Catie said upon receiving the award, "because, as it says in the Bible, Acts 20:35, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: it is truly more of a blessing to give than to receive."



Sign up today to

Run It, Walk It or Roll It for



The 6th Annual Run, Walk & Roll-Bloomingtondale is just around the corner, with participants hitting the pavement on Sunday, April 16. This USATF-certified race is open to adults and kids of all abilities — from walkers and runners to those who use assistive devices like wheelchairs, racing wheelchairs and standers.

“We’re coming in strong from our record-breaking fall event and we’d love to keep the momentum going!” said Celine Pierce, Marklund’s Community Events Manager and Race Director. “Our Run, Walk, and Roll events raise funds for operations across all three Marklund campuses, so by registering and donating you are supporting our mission at its core. And you get to enjoy time with our community while doing so! This spring we welcome new sponsors and old friends – including our famous Devanco gyros station, so come hungry! We can’t wait to see you in April, rain or shine.”

- Start and finish at the Marklund Philip Center, 164 S. Prairie Ave., Bloomingtondale. 8:30 a.m. 5K/1Mile start time
- Medals awarded to top 5K male/female finishers in various age categories.
- REGISTRATION ALSO INCLUDES: Event Shirt or Headband (while supplies last), participant medal, chipped 5K timing, entry into our post-race “Party in the Park,”... and much more!
- Join in-person or virtually!
- Fundraise and win! Individuals and team captains that fundraise \$250+ will be entered into a GRAND PRIZE drawing. Raise \$1,000+ to get your name entered twice!
- Volunteers needed!



5K/1MILE

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

OUR SOCIALS



APRIL 16, 2023
6TH ANNUAL
RUN, WALK & ROLL
BLOOMINGTONDALE



JUNE 1, 2023
41ST ANNUAL
MARKLUND
GOLF CLASSIC



OCTOBER 15, 2023
11TH ANNUAL
RUN, WALK & ROLL
GENEVA

A Conversation with *Nicole Molleur,* Nurse Case Manager



Nicole has been with Marklund for four years, moving up from a PSP to Nurse Case Manager for the Marklund Richard & Dreher Homes on our Geneva campus.

Q. What attracted you to Marklund?

A. When I was in nursing school, I saw that there was a position open for a PSP and I had to jump at the opportunity. I was drawn in by the positive attitudes of the staff coupled with the amazing residents who truly made me realize how special life is.

Q. What are your priorities for your staff?

A. My goal is to focus on creating an environment that empowers the nurses to confidently work their shifts. I want my staff to come to work feeling supported, safe and excited to spend the shift with our amazing residents!

Q. What would you say to other nurses thinking about a career move to Marklund?

A. I would say "do it." This job has allowed me to have the work-life balance that I was craving, and to have built long-term relationships with the residents and their families.

Q. What vision would you like to see for Marklund's nursing department as the world moves on from the pandemic?

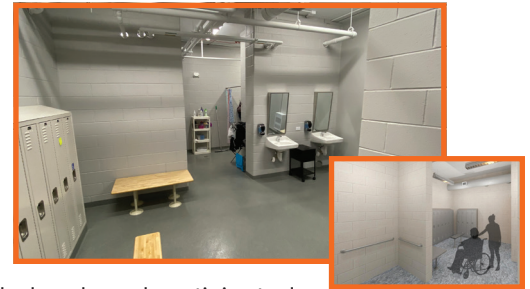
A. Marklund is an inviting, safe space, where you can provide amazing nursing care while also having the work-life balance that you so desperately need post-COVID-19. I am optimistic for the future.

See more of Nicole's story at
www.marklund.org/staff-stories/

from **M** 2030 Update **V**ision to **R**eality

In 2022, we broke ground on three capital projects: two in Geneva and one in Elgin.

Geneva: In October, we opened a **modern locker room expansion** adjacent to our existing therapeutic pool. This large addition has given our residents, staff and volunteers a much better staging area which has allowed us to double the number who can benefit from our aquatic therapy program.



In December, we also opened a long-needed and much-anticipated

maintenance building for our growing facilities and fleet of vehicles.



Elgin: We broke ground in April on the new **Nathan Education Center** which will create a combined Marklund Day School and our first external community-based Community Day Services program, *Bridge Builder*, which is designed for students on the autism spectrum transitioning from our school to an adult program.



Playground Update

We're excited to announce that Marklund Wasmond Center's new playground and sensory garden will be open to our residents, students and community clients this spring. Installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of April (weather permitting). Everyone is looking forward to fun-filled sunny days ahead in the new courtyard!

Thank you to all of our donors, fundraisers and friends that made Project Playground a huge success. We can't wait to share updates leading up to the grand opening event in the coming months.

Questions? Contact Natalie Sarby at nsarby@marklund.org or 630-593-5461.



Project **PLAY**
GROUND

hey! hi! hello!



#HeyHiHelloMarklund

Hey. Hi. Hello. How old were you when you learned to say these words? You didn't realize it at the time, but you unlocked learning opportunities about the people and world around you. As children, we say "hello" indiscriminately, waving hands, happily engaging without thought. With age, we start to limit ourselves to a community that shares some commonality – a look, shared interests, similar abilities. Without realizing it, our world narrows.

In February, Marklund residents visited 4th and 5th grade students at Geneva's Mill Creek Elementary School. They were joined by 9-year-old author, Malena Heath Lindberg. Her book, **Hi Max**, is based on her own experiences as the older sister of an individual with disabilities. **Hi Max** captures the power behind a simple **hello** – the catalyst for understanding, kindness and friendship. Max, like many Marklund residents, uses a wheelchair and a communication device. This story tells of the curious looks Max often gets in public. His discomfort instantly shifts to excitement with a new friend's greeting – a greeting that represents the possibility of connection. Coming together, these students and residents discussed the importance of embracing human diversity. *Planting seeds of acceptance, awareness and inclusivity.*

Lindberg writes, "Life is way more fun when everyone is included." The Marklund community sees this every day on our campuses. *Enriched lives through individual differences – first linked by an initial "hello."* **TODAY** we will carry this experience out into the community. It only takes **FOUR** easy steps!

- **DONATE** to make *everyday life* possible for individuals with profound disabilities.
- **DISPLAY** the "Hey, Hi, Hello" sticker received with a donation on personal items (water bottle, lap top) and show-it-off!
- **SHARE** the #HeyHiHelloMarklund movement on **YOUR** social media.
- **TALK** with people about what "Hey, Hi, Hello" is all about!

Together we will start the conversation, broadening the awareness, support and understanding of Marklund residents and students. And it starts with three simple words – **HEY, HI, HELLO!**

With gratitude,



Gilbert W. Fonger
President & CEO

P.S. - Your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000 thanks to an anonymous donor.

Hey! Hi! Hello!
3 words opening hearts and minds.



YES!

I would like to contribute:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____

Payment Method:

- ☐ Enclosed Check (made out to Marklund) ☐ Credit Card (Please fill out information below)
- ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

CVV Number

Name on Card

Signature

☐ I commit a monthly gift of \$ _____ ☐ I/We wish to remain anonymous

This gift is in ☐ HONOR or ☐ MEMORY of: _____

I'm interested in:

- ☐ Volunteering ☐ Taking a tour of Marklund ☐ Naming Marklund in my will
- ☐ Doubling my gift with a match by my employer

To give online or make changes to your information, please scan the QR code or visit <https://www.marklund.org/give>



Contributions to Marklund are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

hey! hi!
heLLo!



1S450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva, IL 60134

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #128
ELGIN, IL



CARELETTER

A newsletter for those who care about **Marklund**.



NOW HIRING TEACHERS



- Bloomingdale
- Elgin
- Geneva

- ▶ Paid Training
- ▶ Sign-on Bonuses
- ▶ Tuition Reimbursement Program
- ▶ Industry Leading Benefits

**Apply
Today**



Scan Me

Making *everyday life* possible for individuals with profound disabilities.