

Oct. 4, 2024

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$4.3M** from the State of Illinois (includes \$1.8M retro payment from FY24 rate adjustment). Our A/R for Residential and Community Day Services, through September is **\$4.7M** (\$1.1M less than last month).

We are currently using **\$1.3M** (\$1.3M less than last month) of our \$10M line of credit. Still waiting on the ERC funds (\$4.3M)...that we applied for...June 2023!

- The **MWC expansion/renovation** is continuing to come along great but there have been some surprises along the way...

As I shared last month, the roof of the **MWC CDS building**, totally unrelated to the construction project, was found to be in need of being completely replaced. Since we already have a roofer on site for the construction project and given the approaching late fall conditions it was decided to go ahead and do the job now. This cost (approximately \$100K) will not be part of the construction budget but will come out of the FY25 capital replacement budget.

And then, while replacing dilapidated and dangerous railings that are used to screen the roof top units on the current residential building, we found significant damage on the **flat areas of the roof**. This repair will necessitate the expenditure of another \$72K. Both of these increases to the FY25 capital budget will be shared at the Board meeting this month. We are hopeful that this will be the end of any major “surprises.”

The City of Elgin approved the **sidewalk connection** to the subdivision (Ginger Lane) to the south of our facility. The sidewalk will be completed this month. 😊

- After waiting over three month (when it should have been completed in less than two) we finally received a reply last week to our request for a **Proximity Waiver** from DHS for our LIFTS concept...and it was a DENIAL. 😞 We immediately reached out to **Director Tonya Piephoff** (DHS – DDD) to request clarification. We had a ZOOM call with DHS-DD this week and pointed out that their denial did not follow the requirement of Rule 115. They assured us that they would have the lawyers at DHS review their denial to make sure that it was done in accordance with the rule (which it absolutely did not!). We already have a meeting set up with **Senator Castro**, who was instrumental in getting Rule 115 modified to make a such a denial very difficult. This fight is not over!
- I finished my annual **Listening Tours** for each of our facilities (seven in total) last month. A total of **61** staff (almost twice as many as last year!) attended one of the sessions and an additional **38** submitted an online survey (surveys were sent to all staff). I found the overall atmosphere of the in-person interactions candid, positive and helpful. It was abundantly obvious that this isn't “just a job” but that they deeply care and are engaged.

There will be more to come but here are seven things that came out of both in the in-person and online feedback:

- The well-being and happiness of the people we serve is #1
- Great co-workers and quality teams
- Workload management can be an issue
- Review the Extended Sick Bank (ESB) policy [this is used for a documented sickness that extends beyond three days]
- Good organizational communication, open door policies and *Connections* [weekly staff newsletter]
- Leadership engagement and support has improved, feeling of family and supervisors genuinely care
- Need more acknowledgement of long-term employees

- I have met with four **strategic planners** and believe that one, in particular, could be a good fit for us. I still have more due diligence to do but feel that we are very close. I would like to have someone on board by the first of the year or sooner.
- I am very happy to share that **all** of our facilities now have **back-up Internet connections**.
- Just a reminder that...**Carie Carney** is organizing a **board brunch/volunteer activity** on **Saturday, November 23**, from **9:30 am – Noon** at the Geneva campus. She plans to send out invitation around the end of October to see who can make it. Thanks, Carie!
- The demo has been done on the **Miracle League Baseball field** at our Geneva campus. We are now waiting on the resurfacing which will happen...soon.
- Thanks to each of our Board members who attended the **13th Annual Leadership Giving Circle reception** on Sept. 19 at the Foglia Education Center: **Jim Armbruster, Carie Carney, Carol Donahue, Mike Herlihy, Laura Karlins, Frank Murnane, Jr. and Ari Smith**. We had over 50 donors in attendance and it was an amazing celebration of support and generosity.
- The Top Hat Ball committee kick off was held last week – led by event chairs Mike and Sandy Herlihy. Registration for sponsorships, tables and tickets is now OPEN! Please see the attached digital brochure or visit <https://www.marklund.org/top-hat-ball/> for more information. **Marklund's 29th Annual event theme will be: Wonka – A Night of Pure Imagination** and will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025.
- With 500+ participants registered to date...there is still time to register to run or walk in person – or virtually for the **Run, Walk & Roll 5k/1M** in Geneva at <https://p2p.onecause.com/rwrg12>. The event will take place on Sunday, October 20.
- Development will be hosting our annual **Thank-a-thon** (...and Dessert Contest!) on Tuesday, November 26 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the FEC; a light dinner will be served. Please email Heather at hgraves@marklund.org if you can help out.

The remaining board date for **2024**: Wednesday, October 30. The board dates for **2025**: **January 23, April 3, May 22** (Finance only), **June 19, August 7** (Board Retreat – FEC), and **October 30**. All of these dates should be in your Outlook.

Thank you for your support and for all that you do to make our mission and vision a reality. I look forward to seeing you the Wednesday BEFORE Halloween.

God bless you!

Gil