

Clearbrook CHANNEL

Summer 2017

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Thirty and Thriving

When Sue and David Entwistle saw a request 20 years ago in their church bulletin for volunteers for Clearbrook’s Take A Break respite program, Sue did not hesitate to sign up. “I was in the first training class for the program, which provides families with some much-needed respite each week,” Sue said. “Now, I’m glad to be assisting my ninth Clearbrook family.”

Sue is not only a devoted volunteer, she is a uniquely qualified one. “I knew what these families were going through firsthand because our oldest child, Michelle, has developmental delays,” Sue said. “When Michelle was born, she was not gaining weight and the doctors did not really know why. When she was 9 months old, we took her to a gastroenterologist who performed surgery to alleviate her extreme acid reflux, which helped. Our son Tim was born 16 months after Michelle. So, the early years were a very emotional, stressful time. That’s why I really understand what my respite families are dealing with.”

Sue and David, who moved to the U.S. from England in 1982 for Dave’s new position in medical software, turned to early intervention services for Michelle during her school years. When Michelle was 10, doctors finally diagnosed her with Costello syndrome, an

extremely rare disease affecting approximately 350 people worldwide. When Michelle turned 21 and graduated from her school’s transition program, Sue and Dave knew they needed to find an appropriate day program for her. That’s when the Entwistles became more than Clearbrook volunteers—they became a



Pictured: David and Sue Entwistle, alongside son Tim, daughter-in-law Julie, and daughter Michelle.

Clearbrook client family.

“Michelle has attended the Clearbrook Employment Services Workshop Program for about 10 years,” David said. “She goes five days a week, and she thrives there.” Sue added, “Outside of the Workshop, Michelle also has two part-time jobs, one at a restaurant and one with the local minor league baseball team. She is very social and enjoys being with people.”

Perhaps Michelle’s friendly nature is what made her move to a Clearbrook Community Intergrated Living Arrangement (CILA) home last year so smooth and easy. “After some family medical scares and personal setbacks, we were aware that we won’t always be around. We needed to make sure Michelle was settled in a place of her own,” David explained. Sue continued, “It wasn’t an easy decision to make, but it was the right time for Michelle to move and the best choice for her in the long-term. She was surprisingly receptive to the move from the beginning. Now Michelle visits with us on weekends, and loves going back to ‘her house’ at Clearbrook. It’s been absolutely wonderful for her.”

Having experienced the compassionate care and excellent programs Clearbrook offers, Sue and Dave decided to make regular contributions to Clearbrook. “We make a gift on Michelle’s birthday every year as a way to give something back to Clearbrook for all they have done for our family,” David said. “My employer, GE, matches our gifts to Clearbrook, which effectively doubles them.”

“Giving to Clearbrook is our way to thank the staff for what they do every day for Michelle and all the clients they serve,” Sue noted. “The portion of your gift that goes directly to client care is amazing. David and I can’t thank Clearbrook enough—they have given Michelle independence, a community of friends and a forever home.”

For more information about how to make a gift to Clearbrook, please contact Kelly McGraw at 847.385.5014 or kmcgraw@clearbrook.org.

Clearbrook CHANNEL

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CHOICE Program in McHenry Celebrates One - Year Anniversary



Connie Hohol, CHOICE program nurse (center), and Julia Castillo, her daughter (right) visit with Clearbrook President, Tony Di Vittorio at the CHOICE McHenry Open House celebration in June.

The CHOICE McHenry day program located in Crystal Lake marked its one year anniversary with a reception on June 8. Attendees included participants and their families, Clearbrook

staff, area businesses, and members from the McHenry County Mental Health Board and the McHenry County Community Foundation.

Embraced by the community since it opened in April 2016, the CHOICE program has grown into a very popular option for the area's adult residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It serves a total of 40 full and part time participants with an average of 21 participants attending per day.

This unique facility allows each participant to choose the activities they prefer and enjoy such as swimming, bowling, farmers markets, tours of museums and volunteering at Feed My Starving Children. Participants can also partake in various club activities that include art, books, cooking and science. A newly donated tower garden provides participants an opportunity to grow, nurture and harvest their own herbs and vegetables.

The Foglia Family Foundation generously donated Cubs Skybox tickets for an auction which generated \$5,000 for CHOICE McHenry.

Proceeds will be used to fund participants' wish list items which include: fitness equipment, beach passes and gym memberships.

McHenry County has been instrumental in supporting the CHOICE program and continues to be a valuable partner to the participants and community-at-large. Additionally, the McHenry County Mental Health Board provided a grant in the amount of \$322,000 for the purchase and rehabilitation of a new CILA (community integrated living arrangement) home in Crystal Lake. Slated to open fall 2017, it will be a home to four-six men. Clearbrook also hopes to purchase an additional CILA in the area as a home for women in 2018.

McHenry County Community Foundation provided a grant of \$4,500 for a vehicle lease that enables Clearbrook job developers to drive participants to job interviews and transport them to and from their job sites.

Additional CHOICE programs are also located in Park Ridge and Evanston. They continue to serve as innovative models for agencies nationwide.

For more information contact Laura Warren at lwarren@clearbrook.org or 847/385-5374.

It's Cool to Fly American



Captain Jeff Paschen and First Officer Roger Mayer, alongside Clearbrook client, Zachary on April 22 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Mayer, who's a veteran volunteer for It's Cool to Fly AA was sent this photo soon after the event. "I got a little choked up — not in a sad way, but in a happy, fulfilled, mission-accomplished kind of way. I hope to see Zachary on board one of our flights someday soon."

Twice a year, American Airlines hosts It's Cool to Fly AA at O'Hare International Airport. In the spring of 2017, and again this coming October, Clearbrook will be the preferred partner of this truly special event.

The purpose of It's Cool to Fly AA is to provide a full airport travel experience to children and adults with disabilities. Aside from Chicago, 28 similar events have been held in Dallas/Ft Worth, Phoenix, New York and other major markets across the country with great success.

The event aims to brighten the smiles and educate the families of people impacted by autism and other disabilities. And it's no ordinary

event — it's a full mock airport experience, where participants check in, maneuver through security, board the plane and taxi around the airport.

The Clearbrook and American Airlines teams work together to create an environment with all of the sounds and sensations that travelers might experience in flight, without ever leaving the ground. The goal being, to provide our clients, their families and caregivers, with the knowledge and confidence to consider air travel.

"Events like this truly make a difference in the lives of individuals like my son and make both the parents and child feel hope and happiness," said Tracy Hellner, Clearbrook employee and the mother of a child with autism.

American Airlines' active support of the Clearbrook mission does not stop with It's Cool to Fly AA. Since 2001, the partnership has steadily grown as the airline provides volunteers, corporate sponsorship and in-kind contributions to Clearbrook's Shining Star Ball, First Look for Charity at the Chicago Auto Show, and client-based programming.

It's Cool to Fly AA is an invitation-only event. To learn more or inquire about future guest lists, please contact Kristen Daniels, Vice President of Communications and Event Planning at kdaniels@clearbrook.org.

Signs of Appreciation



Longtime Clearbrook client, David Flanagan, is celebrated and thanked by Westgate Elementary School in Arlington Heights.

Each spring, students of all ages help to celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week. This year, at Westgate Elementary School in Arlington Heights, that appreciation was extended to include longtime volunteer and Clearbrook client, David Flanagan.

David is a local Arlington Heights resident and has been volunteering at Westgate for nearly ten years. A favorite

of both students and staff alike, David takes his weekly responsibility to the school seriously and in return, they showered him with thanks.

In addition to his role at Westgate, David is a valued employee at both Mariano's in Arlington Heights and at Clearbrook. As if working two jobs and volunteering weren't enough, David is a fixture in the local community — attending festivals, street fairs, and being an all-around great neighbor.

Congratulations David! Keep up the great work!

SAVE—THE—DATE
Charity Preview Night of the
2018 Chicago Auto Show



Friday February 9, 2018
 McCormick Place

BENEFITING CLEARBROOK
 and 17 other local charities

This black tie event promises to be even more spectacular than ever!

- Preview more than 1,000 brand new vehicles
- Sample abundant food and cocktails
- Enjoy live entertainment
- Attendees may win a brand new car
- Meet & greet at the Clearbrook hospitality suite providing open bar, appetizers, live entertainment, photo booth and more!

Discounted Hyatt hotel rooms available for First Look guests.

Entertain clients, host a staff party, recognize employees or enjoy family and friends at First Look, while receiving a tax deduction and giving back to charity.

Proceeds benefit more than 8,000 children and adults living with developmental/intellectual disabilities.



CLEARBROOK
 Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Corporate packages or individual tickets available. Please contact
 Laura Warren at 847/385-5374 or lwarren@clearbrook.org
 register online at clearbrook.org/Firstlookforcharity

No Rain on this Parade



Clearbrook volunteers John Di Vittorio, Brooke Wils (Associate Board Member) and Debbie Wils get in on the action at the 2017 Frontier Days Parade in Arlington Heights.

The sun was shining for Clearbrook and the local Arlington Heights community when the annual Frontier Days parade stepped off on Tuesday, July 4th.

In support of our Early Intervention and CHILD Programs, Clearbrook welcomed volunteers, clients and staff to march in one of the summer's most anticipated special events. One of more than 120 community organizations to participate, Clearbrook shared resource materials and everyone's favorite Jelly Belly candies with neighbors along the 2+ mile parade route.

In addition to building awareness of our programs, the parade served as a great way for Clearbrook to have a presence in a community that has supported our clients, programs, group homes and administrative offices for decades. Arlington Heights has embraced our work and opened many doors of opportunities for our clients in the area.

Navy Pier Awards Free Rides on Centennial Wheel for Clients



The Centennial Wheel at Chicago's Navy Pier serves as a summer fun destination for Clearbrook clients.

One hundred thrill-seeking clients will have the opportunity to ride the new Centennial Wheel through May 2018, for free, as part of Navy Pier's initiative to reach out and partner with the community and local nonprofits. The partnership between Clearbrook and Navy Pier began in July of 2016 and due to its success Navy Pier decided to offer it again as part of their 101st

Anniversary Celebration in 2017.

"We are proud to celebrate Navy Pier's 101st anniversary with a program that affirms our identity as the People's Pier and grants deserving organizations the opportunity to extend free experiences to the communities they serve and support," said Navy Pier President and CEO Marilyn Kelly Gardner.

The new attraction, dubbed the Centennial Wheel in honor of the Lake Michigan landmark's 100th anniversary, offers a higher (nearly 200 feet), longer and faster ride than the one provided by its 148 foot predecessor.

For more information, please contact Laura Warren at 847-385-5374 or lwarren@clearbrook.org.

A Big Red Nose Goes a Long Way

Clearbrook clients teamed up with Walgreens to give back to our community and the world during the Red Nose Day campaign to help raise funds and awareness to end child poverty.

Clearbrook clients can be seen throughout the area volunteering their time for Meals on Wheels, Feed My Starving Children, local food pantries and other charitable causes on a weekly basis. Working with Walgreens simply added a big, fun red nose to their giving.

Walgreens has been instrumental in providing fun during the Clearbrook annual client FunFest by donating their time, treasures and talents to create an atmosphere our clients and



Clearbrook clients teamed up with Walgreens for their annual Red Nose Day campaign to help raise funds and awareness to end child poverty.

their families immensely enjoy. Each year, local stores provide an army of volunteers to be with our clients during the day, bringing games, laughter, prizes, sunscreen, smiles, water, hugs and pure joy.

Beneficiaries of the Red Nose Day Fund include the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which provides safe places for children to learn and play after school; Children's Health Fund, which brings essential medical services to underserved children; hunger relief organization Feeding America as well as many other charities.

Instant Classic: The 30th Annual Guardians Golf Outing



The Helicopter Ball Drop was back by popular demand at the 2017 Clearbrook Guardians Golf Outing.

Golfers and Guardians took to the links on Friday, July 14 at the beautiful Bartlett Hills Golf Club. More than just a day on the course, this year's outing celebrated the Clearbrook Guardians' 30th anniversary event and decades of fun in support of Clearbrook clients.

After a buffet lunch, the shotgun scramble began at 1:00PM when golfers were treated to contests, prizes and treats before concluding with dinner, program and raffle back at the clubhouse. In addition to raising funds for children and adults with disabilities, the highlight of this year's event was a helicopter ball drop that awarded a \$1,000 cash prize!

The Clearbrook Guardians are a volunteer leadership committee with a storied history of active support for the mission of Clearbrook and our deserving clients. In addition to their annual golf outing, the Guardians host two Casino Night events each year, and donate to support Clearbrook client group homes, programs, Special Olympics participation and are also the presenting sponsor of Clearbrook's Client FunFest. Consider becoming a Guardian! Learn more by visiting www.clearbrookguardians.org.

Golfers Tee Up in Support of Clearbrook at the 16th Annual Women's Golf Classic

The Clearbrook Women's Golf Classic returned for another great day on Monday, June 5th at an exceptional new location, The Grove Country Club in Long Grove.

The unique event offered fun for female golfers on and off the course. The outing kicked off with a delicious breakfast provided by Saranello's Ristorante Italiano, before players took to the green for an 18-hole scramble.

"This event is different and so much fun every year, and it's perfect for both experienced golfers and beginners who are just looking to have a good time," said Betsy Voyles, Chair of the Women's Golf Classic Committee.

Each hole on the course contained a surprise, from food tastings and drink



(From left to right) Betsy Voyles, Janine Adams, Valerie Domas and Deborah Shefrin toast to a day of golf supporting Clearbrook at the 2017 Women's Golf Classic.

samples to hole contests and games. The evening concluded with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a Kendra Scott jewelry pull, massages from Massage Clinic Co., a gourmet candy buffet featuring Nothing Bundt Cakes, cash raffle and a live and silent auction.

Proceeds from the event will benefit over 8,000 children and adults with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual/developmental disabilities, as well as their families, supported by Clearbrook.

If you want to be added to our mailing list or to get involved with Clearbrook's Women's Classic Golf Outing in 2018, contact Cathi Davis at cdavis@clearbrook.org or 847.385.5008.

Clearbrook Volunteers Lend a Helping Hand for Jelly Belly® Days 2017!



A special thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who came out to support Clearbrook Jelly Belly Days 2017!

On Friday, May 12th and Saturday, May 13th, over 700 volunteers came together to collect donations at storefronts and intersections throughout the Chicagoland area. All donors received a packet of jelly belly beans and all donations benefitted the clients of Clearbrook.

As one of the agency's largest annual fundraising events, Jelly Belly Days is only possible thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers and welcoming communities. Whether "tagging" for the first time in 2017 or returning as a tradition with friends and family, together we raised more than \$70,000 for our Clearbrook clients and their families.

Again this year, Clearbrook was blessed with a generous donation from the Jelly Belly Candy Company, allowing us to share 160,000 packages of their signature jelly beans with those who made contributions. A good time and a great cause were celebrated by all.

For more information about Jelly Belly Days, please contact Hillary Mittelman at 847.385.5009 or hmittelman@clearbrook.org.



Clearbrook client, Donna, volunteers for Jelly Belly Days at Jewel in Arlington Heights.

Clearbrook Associate Board Presents

The Rat Pack: Live at the Sands

Friday, November 17, 2017
7:00–11:00 PM

University Club of Chicago
76 E Monroe St, Chicago, IL

open bar | heavy hors d'oeuvres | casino games | silent auction

Early Bird Tickets: \$100/each

Tickets Purchased after October 1st: \$125/each

For more info and to RSVP: clearbrook.org/TheRatPack



CLEARBROOK
Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Proceeds benefit Clearbrook, a nonprofit organization creating innovative opportunities for over 8,000 children and adults with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Taste the Flavors: Around the World 2017



If you are a foodie, want a fun event to mingle with friends, or just like a night out of the kitchen - Clearbrook's Around the World Food Tasting is the place to be!

Clear your calendar for a food festival like no other - come and enjoy Clearbrook's 9th Annual Around the World Food Tasting on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at Arlington Toyota-Scion in Palatine. Treat yourself and your friends to cuisine from twenty different local restaurants. All proceeds benefit the 8,000 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities that Clearbrook serves each year.

In addition to neighborhood culinary treasures, this event features games, raffle prizes and cooking demonstrations. Register by Monday, October 16th to receive the Early Bird Rate of \$30 per ticket for groups of four or more, or \$35 each for individual tickets. Tickets will be available at the door for \$40 each.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.clearbrook.org/AroundTheWorld or by contacting Hillary Mittelman at 847.385.5009 or hmittelman@clearbrook.org.

The Clearbrook Guardians Fall Casino Night is a Winning Bet



(From left to right) Wally Kiefer, Tim Mellon, Corinna Adamson and Nick Orlando are all smiles at the 2017 Clearbrook Guardians Spring Casino Night.

Come wager your luck on a night of Vegas-themed fun at the Clearbrook Guardians Fall Casino Night on Saturday, October 7th! Held at the Clearbrook Getz Building in Palatine, guests will get the chance to test their luck at high and low stakes poker, blackjack, roulette, craps and wheel games. \$1 tickets for various raffle prizes and tickets for larger cash prizes will be offered throughout the evening. Hot food and drinks will be available for purchase. Admission is FREE. Doors open at 5pm and close at midnight.

Must be 18 years or older to gamble, and 21 years or older to purchase alcoholic drinks.

Visit www.clearbrook.org/CasinoNight for more information, including sponsor and volunteer opportunities.

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Annual Dinner Inspired by Volunteers

Numbers tell the story when we talk about giving the gift of time. In the last year alone, over 3,500 volunteers contributed more than 14,000 hours of service to Clearbrook.

Whether in respite care, special events, client activities, programs or everyone's favorite – Jelly Belly Days – Clearbrook is only as strong as our volunteer base! Volunteers give out of the goodness of their hearts but it is important to us as an agency to recognize that goodness and express our appreciation for the selfless work of so many. On Tuesday, June 27th, it was our pleasure to celebrate all Clearbrook volunteers and our 2017 Volunteer award winners. The 2017 recipients are as follows:



2017 Volunteer Award winners gather with friends and loved ones to celebrate the power of giving time, talent and resources.

Alan J. Acierno, DDS was presented with the “Leap of Faith Award” for providing essential dental care to our Clearbrook clients. “Dr. AJ” as he is affectionately known by our clients, and his practice, DecisionOne Dental host an annual “A Reason To Smile” program based out of their Schaumburg location to provide screenings and cleanings for more than 20 Clearbrook residents in an on-going effort to support their commitment to people with disabilities.

Sandy Mueller was the recipient of the “Krause Founder’s Award” for coordinating the Annual Christus Victor Lutheran Church Community Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner. Since 2003, this Thanksgiving dinner has been hosted to provide a holiday meal for our Clearbrook clients who don’t have an opportunity to go home for Thanksgiving. Regardless of diets or restrictions, our Clearbrook clients are always welcomed with open arms and smiles by Sandy, and the rest of the team at the church.

Mariano’s was acknowledged with the “Exceptional Merit Award”. Mariano’s opened their first store in Arlington Heights in 2010 and immediately hired five Clearbrook clients. Through the years, the grocery chain has hired not only more Clearbrook clients, but several others with disabilities in the surrounding area as their business grew. Additionally, and as a sign of their

commitment to the local community, Mariano’s parent company, Roundy’s Supermarkets, has been a sponsor of the Friends of Clearbrook wine tasting for many years.

Kevin Riley was presented with the “Special Recognition Award” for going above and beyond a traditional volunteer role. Kevin was one of the founding members of Clearbrook’s Associate Board 15 years ago and remains active today. In addition to recruiting, helping to retain and lending his leadership skills to the Associate Board, Kevin is also extremely active in their fundraising efforts. Each year he secures 25 or more guests for each of the two special events, raffle prizes for the auction, and sponsorships at varying levels. Kevin hosts meetings at his home, opens many doors to sponsorship leads in the business community and is always willing to brainstorm with staff.

Cyndy Kay was presented the “Special Friend of Clearbrook Award”. For Cyndy, volunteerism is in her blood. Following in the close footsteps of her parents, Gary and Arlene Mellon, Cyndy continues the family legacy of supporting Clearbrook out of the goodness of their heart. Like many of the Clearbrook Guardians Volunteer Committee, she has no personal connection to Clearbrook and our cause...just a gigantic heart. Cyndy first began volunteering back in 1990 and

then officially joined the Clearbrook Guardians in 1993, where she served as a key member of The Guardians including serving as president for many years. It is her attention to detail that makes Clearbrook Guardians’ Casino Nights, golf outing and annual garage sale a huge success. She is dedicated to Clearbrook, our mission and most importantly-our clients.

Elle Jespersen received the “Rising Star Award,” which recognizes the inspirational and powerful role that the younger generation plays in Clearbrook’s future. Elle has been a dedicated volunteer at the Saturday Waukegan Take A Break Program. She started volunteering five years ago with her mother and younger sister Liv. In the last couple of years, Elle has grown into a confident, caring, consistent “hands on” team member. Elle is a natural leader and at such a young age can already reach out to others and take steps toward cultivating a safe learning or play environment. The way she communicates is indicative of her “gentle soul”, and the children sense this, and want to be with her. Elle will soon be going into her Senior year of high school. She is looking into a nursing career where she will certainly continue to go beyond expectations and create a safe, nurturing and caring environment for those in her care.

It is Clearbrook’s pleasure to share our successes with the volunteers who have helped our organization and our clients achieve so much. Please contact the Volunteer Hotline at 847-870-7748 to learn more about joining the ranks of Clearbrook’s award winning volunteers.

Shining Star Ball Continues to Dazzle

On Friday, April 28, the 29th Annual Shining Star Ball sparkled at the elegant Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago where over 300 guests were welcomed by emcee and radio personality Roe Conn, at the annual black-tie gala, which benefitted over 8,000 children and adults with disabilities served by Clearbrook.

This year's Ball honored former Clearbrook President and CEO, Carl M. La Mell for his 21 years of exemplary work in helping children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. "The Shining Star Ball has been Clearbrook's premier fundraising event since its inception," said Clearbrook President Anthony Di Vittorio. "This year was very special as we honored Carl. Through Carl's innovative ideas and actions, Clearbrook has become an organization that is recognized and looked to as a leader in the field of serving people with disabilities."



From right to left radio personality Roe Conn, Clearbrook Chairman of the Board, Frank ten Brink and Clearbrook President, Anthony Di Vittorio congratulate Carl M. La Mell for his many years of service and as the 2017 honoree at the Shining Star Ball.

The Ball raised over \$1.1 million which will help underwrite Clearbrook's residential and day programs as well as the Clearbrook Clinic. Last year, the Clinic provided more than

20,000 hours of services to individuals with developmental challenges in the areas of occupational, physical, speech and language therapies, along with counseling, behavioral supports and psychological consultations.

We are grateful to our Shining Star Ball Committee who graciously and selflessly volunteer their time year after year to make the Ball a spectacular event. The 2017 Shining Star Ball Committee includes: Sonja Baichwal, Mary Campobasso, Karen Guenther, Kristina Hambel, Denise Hoefflich, Patty Kent, Jennifer Lundal, Jan Lundal, Nancy McCaskey, Joan McKenna, Dee Dee Miller, Susan Organ, Cindy Pirron, Carla Riley, Linda Riley, Carole Segal, and Elena Ziehm.

To join the Shining Star Ball Committee or to learn more about being a sponsor, please contact Gloria Drake at gdrake@clearbrook.org.

Clearbrook Partners with the Metropolis School of Performing Arts



King Arthur was one of many skits performed by Clearbrook on Cue actors and actresses on June 28 at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre.

For the past several years, Clearbrook clients have had an opportunity to highlight their acting skills on the big stage, courtesy of an expanding partnership with the Metropolis School of Performing Arts.

Wednesday, June 28th was no exception as client actors performed "Whose Play Is It Anyway?" to a packed audience at the Metropolis Performing Arts Center in Arlington Heights. This year provided something for everyone to enjoy - from a singing Elvis performance to Cinderella and King Arthur skits - the clients brought the

audience to their feet. Following this smash hit was an autograph session with the stars.

While the clients earned a standing ovation that night, special credit is also deserved by the program volunteers and staff of the Metropolis. Part of Metropolis' Outreach programs, Clearbrook on Cue fosters the creativity of emerging artists with special needs. For more information on this and other Clearbrook partnership opportunities, please contact Kristen Daniels at kdaniels@clearbrook.org or 847.385.5005.

It's All Fun and Games at Client FunFest



There was something for everyone - music, field games, art activities, a talent show and more at Clearbrook's 2017 FunFest.

Fun was the name of the game at this year's FunFest presented by The Clearbrook Guardians, held on Friday, June 16th on the grounds of the Lattof Commons Building in Rolling Meadows. A little morning drizzle quickly turned into sunshine as hundreds of adult clients arrived eager to experience everything the day had to offer, including face painting, carnival games, a photo booth, a petting zoo and a dunk tank featuring Clearbrook President Tony Di Vittorio.

A quick break at lunch for McDonald's hamburgers, fruit and ice cream refreshed the clients for the final event: the talent show. Elvis impersonators, singers and musical talents delighted and wowed the crowd, making for a wonderful final memory of a terrific day.

FunFest would not be the success it was if not for the help of the hundreds of caring and dedicated volunteers, going out of their way in all aspects to make the clients happy.

Clearbrook is especially appreciative of the many sponsors for this year's FunFest including: Alley of Clowns, Crystal Geysler, The Clearbrook Guardians, Dohn & Associates, Gordon Food Service, Hinckley Springs, Jewel-Osco, the Karen Projahn Memorial Trust, Kemps, McDonald's, Rett Syndrome Association of Illinois, Walgreens and Zurich.

President's Message

It's summer time and the living is easy...

Well not entirely!

Back in the day, summer was a time for people to take a step back from their busy routines, enjoy a vacation, or just slow down the pace of everyday life. If only that were true today.

At Clearbrook the challenges of life, staff shortages and insufficient state support will not be taking the summer off. Even with a new Illinois state budget that allows Clearbrook to add \$.75 to many of our staff's hourly wages - the first state supported increase in ten years - we are still competing with companies that can pay more, as well as with a continuously rising minimum wage that will easily swallow the modest \$.75 raise.

That being shared, summer also provides us an opportunity to continue to go the extra mile for the people who rely on Clearbrook.

For the donors, volunteers and staff who work tirelessly raising funds in support of Clearbrook's clients - the sunny days of summer mean successful golf outings and gatherings.



For the families who trust and depend on Clearbrook - perhaps a lazy Sunday barbeque at their son or daughter's group home.

For the individuals at Clearbrook - long summer days provide the opportunity, with a little assistance, to soak in the sun's warmth and a cool evening breeze, to let loose at FunFest, or to take part in one of many local community events.

Seasons change, challenges evolve and time goes on. Regardless, Clearbrook remains steadfast in our commitment to provide exceptional care to the children, adults and families we serve. Together with your generous support, Clearbrook will always respond to life's seasons.

Anthony Di Vittorio
President

Join the Party!

Have you had a ball at one of Clearbrook's special events? Do you like what you read on the pages of the Channel? Join us! We're recruiting volunteer leaders to be part of our Clearbrook Guardians, Women's Golf Classic, Associate Board (city and suburban) and Friends of Clearbrook committees. The commitment to participate comes in the form of supporting special fundraising events, participating in occasional service projects and dedicating time via monthly meetings or conference calls. The fulfillment is priceless! Call Kristen Daniels, VP of Communications & Event Planning at 847.385.5005 to learn more.



We're Hiring!

With a workforce of 900+ and more than 50 locations in 15 counties across the Chicagoland area - job opportunities with Clearbrook are always available. Whether you are looking for part time or full time employment, direct care, office based or other fields, consider Clearbrook.

The work is fulfilling, the pay is competitive and the culture is second-to-none. Clearbrook recognizes talent, rewards initiative and offers great benefits, too!

It's more than a job - join us in sharing innovation, opportunity and care with a population that is often times overlooked. Learn more by visiting www.clearbrook.org/jobs

Donate Now & Donate Often

In each edition of the Channel, we enclose a remittance envelope for contributions. If you have it in your heart (and wallet) to financially support Clearbrook, please take the time to fill out this envelope and send it to us now. Whatever you can afford at this time would be much appreciated. Thank you in advance!

FEEL GOOD ABOUT DONATING TO CLEARBROOK

Say YES to ratios that consistently beat the recommended standards used by watchdog agencies, such as Better Business Bureau, CharityWatch and GuideStar, to evaluate the financial performance of a non-profit organization. Clearbrook leads the pack **with only 8%** applied to administrative overhead.

Upcoming Events

Guardians Fall Casino Night
October 7, 2017

Around the World Food Tasting
October 17, 2017

Associate Board Fall Fundraiser
November 17, 2017

Giving Tuesday
November 28, 2017

Mark your calendars!
Learn more by visiting
www.clearbrook.org/events

THE CLEARBROOK CHANNEL

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