Good dental hygiene is a critical component of a healthy lifestyle. For many, going to the dentist is a necessary but not always pleasant experience. If you are fortunate, you have dental insurance to cover the basics and additional services you may need.

Most Clearbrook clients rely on Medicare and Medicaid for their health needs. However, Medicare will not cover most dental care. Medicaid comes with limited dental services, but very few providers will accept it. As a result, many clients have not been able to get the treatment they need.

Clearbrook supporters David & Linda Riley recognized the need for quality care for clients. As a patient of DecisionOne Dental, they shared the need with Dr. AJ Acierno and asked him if he would consider donating his services. The rest is history.

DecisionOne was founded by brothers AJ and Mike Acierno who strongly believe in being advocates for both patients and team members. Dr. AJ believes that dental care is not a luxury but a necessity. This belief has resulted in adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities receiving top-notch dental care.

“Dr. AJ is really nice. I love my dentist,” says Clearbrook client Sally Klippstein. DecisionOne staff volunteer their time for the Clearbrook clinic. They know the clients by name, and they go the extra mile to ensure their comfort and good health. The team truly appreciates the opportunity to make a difference in such a meaningful way.

To date, DecisionOne dental has seen over 140 Clearbrook clients with an estimated savings of approximately $500,000.

The generosity of the DecisionOne dental team has inspired many. This special relationship was recently featured on NBC news. Dr. AJ Acierno will be honored at Clearbrook’s upcoming Shining Star Ball as a small token of appreciation for all he has done to support Clearbrook clients. For more information about DecisionOne Dental or to find a dentist, please visit decisiononedental.com

There are many ways for businesses to support Clearbrook. Be it providing services for our clients, financial donations, volunteering at events, helping maintain our properties, the possibilities are endless! For more information on how you can support Clearbrook, please contact Annie Palubicki at 847.385.5005 or apalubicki@clearbrook.org
It’s Cool to Fly American Airlines

Twice a year, American Airlines hosts It’s Cool to Fly American at O’Hare International Airport. The most recent mock flight took place on October 13th. In addition to 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 purpose of It’s Cool to Fly American is to provide a full airport travel experience to children and families impacted by a diagnosis of autism.

And it’s no ordinary event — it’s a full mock airport experience, where participants check in and receive boarding passes, go through security, board the plane, listen to a safety briefing and taxi around the airport. American Airlines works to create an environment with all of the sounds and sensations that travelers might experience during an actual flight without ever leaving the ground.

Samantha Rodriguez attended with her husband their two sons. “Thanks to this experience, we have the courage to fly with our two boys,” Rodriguez said. They were one of 40 families in attendance. It was a confidence building, life-changing day for many families for whom air travel had previously seemed overwhelming.

For more information about the Spring 2019 flight, please contact Autism Resource Specialist Tracy Hellner at 847-385-2622 or thellner@clearbrook.org for more information.

Do You Know about the Autism Resource Room?

Navigating the maze of autism-related information and resources can be overwhelming. Clearbrook’s Family and Community Autism Resource Room helps families find resources and information on autism and disability related topics including: a Lending Library, a resource wall stocked with information on the most commonly requested topics, a visual wall with pre-made templates and a make and take center for creating customized visuals. They also provide information about programs, service and supports available in the community as well as state and national resources.

The resource center is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment. Please contact Autism Resource Specialist Tracy Hellner at 847-385-2622 or thellner@clearbrook.org for more information.

Holiday Cheer!

Clearbrook hosted its annual Client Holiday Party at the Getz building on December 8. About 400 clients enjoyed treats, crafts, and a visit from Santa himself! The Elmhurst College Jazz Band kept everyone dancing with their jazzy holiday tunes.

Special thanks to those who donated to make this event possible including the Gagliardi family, the McGuinn family, the Frick family, Walgreens, Linda’s Lollies, Colgate, and the Clearbrook Guardians.

We couldn’t have done it without the volunteers and Clearbrook staff who made the day really special for all of our clients! If you weren’t in the Christmas spirit before you came to the party, you were by the time you left.

FunFest

Clearbrook hosted its annual FunFest event on September 21. The day is dedicated to fun for Clearbrook clients. Clearbrook President Anthony Di Vittorio spent the day in the dunk tank, submerged each time a client hit the bullseye. “This is one of my favorite days of the year,” Di Vittorio stated. “The clients’ joy is contagious.”

Activities included a petting zoo, games, karaoke, photo booth and much more. Everyone had a great time!

A special thank you to our volunteer groups and sponsors:

The Clearbrook Guardians, Jewel Osco, Walgreens, McDonald’s, Paylocity, Astellas, Blue Frost Heating and Cooling, Camelot Illinois, Omron, Queen of Saints, RYCO Landscaping, UPS, and WOW.

Clearbrook clients Laurie Wilkinson and David Cicarelli enjoy the day alongside Astellas volunteer Natalie Torres.
COMMUNITY INTEGRATED LIVING
ARRANGEMENT (CILA)
Clearbrook opened its first CILA in McHenry County in Spring 2018. The house, located in Crystal Lake, is home to 5 men – each with his own room. They love their new home and neighborhood! A second CILA home will open in the same subdivision in early 2019. It will house five women.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT
Clearbrook is excited to launch a new a vocational training site just down the street from the CHOICE program in Crystal Lake. The storefront is called Naturally Gifted, and it features essential beauty products produced by Clearbrook clients. The program provides opportunities for clients to learn valuable skills and the professionalism that translates into real world behaviors and work ethics. Naturally Gifted products include hand soap, lotion, candles and more. They are a fantastic gift for yourself or someone special! Keep an eye out for the grand opening party sometime in February.

HOME-BASED SERVICES
Clearbrook offers home-based services in McHenry County, currently serving about 50 families. The program is tailored to provide eligible individuals and families with services and supports in the comfort and familiarity of their home and community.

TAKE A BREAK RESPITE PROGRAM
Clearbrook and Options & Advocacy for McHenry County are very proud to offer an opportunity for caregivers to enjoy a regularly scheduled break. Once a month for three hours, their child (birth to age 5 with developmental delays) will have the opportunity to play, socialize, and create crafts all in a supervised setting. Siblings are also invited to stay and play.

If you are interested in learning more about the program for your child, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Tina Yurik at tyurik@clearbrook.org

Clearbrook CHOICE McHenry clients performed How the Grinch Stole Christmas on December 14. Holiday spirit filled the air as the performance captured the hearts of the 75 audience members.

Naturally Gifted sugar scrub would be a great gift for you or a friend!

Clearbrook CHOICE clients having fun on a Saturday at the Take a Break program.

Clearbrook clients showing off their beautiful home in Crystal Lake

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Cheers to Years of Service!

Clearbrook celebrated staff anniversaries this fall. At one lunch, there were 43 employees who had worked for Clearbrook for 15+ years. That group alone worked a combined total of 835 years at Clearbrook - wow! Thank you to our wonderful staff for their dedication to our clients and for making Clearbrook what it is today.

Clearbrook celebrated Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week in September. At Clearbrook, the DSPs are the key to all we do. They deliver “hands on” services and support to our clients 24/7. Clearbrook’s reputation for quality services and leadership in our field is a direct result of the excellent level of work and commitment of our DSPs.

Clearbrook celebrated the holidays with a staff party on December 6.

Clearbrook staff enjoy the holiday celebrations.

Clearbrook is grateful to have such amazing staff!

Staff celebrating milestone anniversaries were celebrated this fall.

Gear Up for the 2019 First Look for Charity at the Chicago Auto Show

Don’t miss the hottest date in February benefitting Clearbrook and 17 other local charities. Plan on joining us for the 2019 First Look for Charity at the Chicago Auto Show held at McCormick Place on Friday, February 8. This special black-tie preview night offers guests an exclusive VIP experience which includes over 40 delectable gourmet food and beverage stations, live entertainment, new car raffle and of course getting up close and personal to more than 1,000 new vehicles. Be a part of the largest one day fundraising event in the City of Chicago while enjoying a tax deductible evening of food, philanthropy and fun for all. Make it a memorable weekend with a special discounted rate at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place.

Special thanks to previous Clearbrook sponsors which included American Airlines, Assurance, ATF, BorgWarner Transmission Systems, Rivers Casino and our CATA Board Sponsor, Tony Guido at Arlington Heights Ford. Corporate sponsors utilize Clearbrook’s private hospitality suite to prospect, entertain clients, and recognize employees as well as a fun evening with family and friends. CORPORATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

Contact Laura Warren at 847-385-5374 or lwarren@clearbrook.org for details.

Individual Tickets and Corporate Packages NOW ON SALE! www.clearbrook.org/firstlookforcharity
Clearbrook’s annual Challenge Golf Outing welcomed more than 110 golfers on Monday, August 6th, to benefit children and adults impacted by developmental/intellectual disabilities. A day of golf in good company, the 2018 Clearbrook Challenge was hosted at the prestigious Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park. The day was filled with a round of golf, skill contest, live auction and a paddle raise all to support a great cause. Save the date and join us on August 5, 2019!

Special thanks to our host committee for all they did to make this event such a success:
Peter Billmeyer, David Feder, Doug Hugdahl, Carl La Mell, Victor Sammiguel and Jim Woldenberg.

Thank you to our sponsors:

For more information about this event, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Annie Palubicki at 847-385-5005 or apalubicki@clearbrook.org.

The Clearbrook Guardians held another successful Fall Casino Night on Saturday, October 6, drawing crowds of supporters excited for a night of fun. The event featured blackjack, high and low stakes poker, three-card poker, roulette, craps, and wheel game. With special guest dealers from the NFL and MLB-Mike Hoban, Les Shy, John Janta,JR Niklos, Angel Lopez, Tim Tyrell, and Randy Hundley dealt full tables all night. Other event staples included split-the-pot, choice raffles, a Pandora jewelry set raffle, and Bears tickets raffle, giving the attendees the chance to win cash and other great prizes.

Clearbrook would like to extend their appreciation to the Clearbrook Guardians for all of their hard work and dedication in putting together another great event. We would also like to thank our event sponsors, volunteers, special guest dealers, and attendees for their ongoing support and devotion.

Mark your calendars for the Guardians Spring Casino Night it will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019. For more information, please call (847) 385-5008 or visit www.clearbrook.org/CasinoNight.

It was a magical night at the Associate Board’s annual cocktail event, held at the lavish University Club of Chicago on Friday, November 16th. At this year’s masquerade-themed event, all our guests were masked in mystery courtesy of our Clearbrook clients.

Throughout the night guests gambled, enjoyed drinks, appetizers, and, courtesy of Tito’s Handmade Vodka, guests participated in a vodka tasting. New this year, pianist, Kent Wehman, played adding a great ambiance to the event. The lucky raffle winners got to take home a liquor tower, craft beer tower, and a wine tower. Silent auction winners won Cubs memorabilia, hotel stay, Blackhawk tickets, wine tastings, and much more.


Clearbrook’s Associate Board is a group of Chicagoland area professionals committed to creating awareness for Clearbrook in the city of Chicago and raising funds for our cause through two annual events. If you would like to learn more about getting involved with the Associate Board, please contact Emily Leonard at eleonard@clearbrook.org or 847-385-5008.
See, swirl, smell and sip all evening at the 55th Annual “A Grapevine of Friends” Wine & Craft Beer tasting event held on Saturday, February 23rd. This year, the event will be held in a new location – The Stonegate Conference & Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates. Wine connoisseurs and all those who want to enjoy a glass for a good cause are welcome. All guests will be treated to their choice of a variety of wine tastings and be able to sample many craft beers courtesy of d’Vine Wine and Gifts in Palatine. This great event also features gourmet foods, a silent auction and music from Toast and Jam DJ. Other event highlights include a cash raffle for a chance to win a grand prize of $1,000 and a second place prize is $500. All attendees are invited to attend an exclusive after-party in Stonegate’s heated tent from 10:30pm-Midnight. The after party will feature a dessert bar, coffee bar, champagne tastings and musical entertainment by Mark Domanico.

All proceeds help benefit Clearbrook’s Employment Services Program which provides meaningful employment to adults with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual/developmental disabilities. Our programs and services open a world of opportunities to over 8,000 individuals with disabilities each year. Tickets are available at $120 per person (early bird special). All tickets purchased after January 31st are $130 per person. Tables of ten are available for only $1,000. Tickets may be purchased online at clearbrook.org/friendswinetasting or by contacting Hillary Mittelman at 847.385.5009 or hmittelman@clearbrook.org.

Wine and Dine in New Location

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A very special thank you to a few of our amazing and talented committee members.

Members of the Friends Wine Tasting Committee:
Picture from left to right Mary Ellen Masek, Carleen Emde, DeAnn Baumeister, Beth Zajczenko, Barb Weiss, Amanda Taylor and Sue Vaccelli
Your Gift of Time Makes a Real Difference

Mark your calendars on Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th for Clearbrook’s Annual Jelly Belly Days event. Over 700 volunteers will come together to collect donations at intersections and storefronts all across the Chicagoland area. Jelly Belly Days is one of Clearbrook’s largest fundraisers every year. This great event benefits the 8,000 children and adults with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other intellectual/developmental disabilities served by Clearbrook.

Clearbrook is fortunate to have many loyal supporters who continue to volunteer for Jelly Belly Days year after year. Whether this is an annual tradition or your first time volunteering, know that the gift of your time makes an immediate positive impact in the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

Thank you to Bob, Meg, Sue, and Beth for supporting Clearbrook’s Jelly Belly Days at the intersection of Rand/Route 83 in Mount Prospect.

Shining Star Ball Raffle Features $5,000 Cash Prize

Members of the Shining Star Ball committee work tirelessly each year to make the Ball a spectacular event.

Clearbrook’s 31st Annual Shining Star Ball will dazzle the night away on Friday, April 26 when it delights guests to dinner and dancing at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. Dr. Alan J. Acierno of Decision One Dental will be the recipient of the 2019 Shining Star Ball award.

This $500 per person black-tie gala begins with cocktails and a silent auction at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a live auction at 8:00 p.m. Music will be provided by The Dan Hayes Orchestra and will continue until 11:30 p.m. Proceeds will underwrite residential and day programs as well as the Clearbrook Clinic. Last year, the Clinic provided more than 20,000 hours of services in the areas of occupational, physical, speech and language therapies, along with counseling, behavioral supports and psychological consultations.

“Our Shining Star Ball Committee has created an event so spectacular that it has become our largest grossing fundraiser,” said Clearbrook President Anthony DiVittorio.

Among the remarkable live auction items are a four-night stay at the Athina Luxury Suites in Greece and a three-night stay in an ocean view room at the Ritz Carlton Aruba. Both include air miles courtesy of American Airlines.

The 2019 raffle features a choice of two fabulous prizes: $5,000 cash, courtesy of a friend of Clearbrook as well as a $1,000 shopping spree at Crate and Barrel, courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Segal. On the enclosed insert, you may purchase raffle tickets for $50 each or six for $250 and select your desired raffle prize(s). A receipt will then be mailed to you, along with your tickets. Winner need not be present.

If you prefer, raffle tickets may be purchased online at www.clearbrook.org/ssb.

For more information about the Ball, please contact Gloria Drake at 847-385-5012 or gdrake@clearbrook.org.

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 Mad Hatter Mayhem Pub Crawl

Don’t miss this year’s mayhem! The Clearbrook Associate Board Mad Hatter Mayhem Pub Crawl is on Saturday, April 6th, 2019 in Wicker Park. Get your craziest hat ready and come join us as we stop at four amazing local bars. Guaranteed to be a fun day, enjoy drink specials, raffles, silent auction, hat contest, snacks, giveaways, games and more.

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

Visit www.clearbrook.org/madhatter for more information.
President’s Message

Every January as a new year begins, there is a natural tendency to look back and measure the success and failure of the past year. We evaluate what went well, and what could have gone better. Perhaps you made resolutions in 2018 to eat healthier, exercise more, stick to a budget, or finally clean out the garage. Once we are done looking back, we turn the page and look forward with new resolutions for the New Year. The hope is to achieve the goals we set for ourselves, but we often fear that many of the resolutions will go unrealized once again.

At Clearbrook, the Individuals and families we serve hold us to a higher standard. Reviewing past efforts and planning for a better future is not a “once a year” process, but rather an ongoing way of being. We are always striving to do our very best. It is woven into the fabric of the Clearbrook culture. We are constantly measuring our success and adjusting so as to grow even more successful in what we do…

Helping someone move into a new home or start a new job.
Helping someone learn to better help themselves or others.

Helping someone become a valued member in the community.
These are some of the challenges we embrace and strive to do better, not just once a year but every day. Alone, Clearbrook would struggle to move forward but, with your support, every day holds the promise of a New Year!

Anthony Di Vittorio
President

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.

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!

THE CLEARBROOK CHANNEL

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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 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 Annie Palubicki, VP of Communications & Event Planning at 847.385.5005 to learn more.