

# Clearbrook CHANNEL

Summer 2019

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## Family Ties

Chicago natives Brian and Linda Rubin have three children—Nicole, Mitchell and Benji. They also run Brian’s law practice, which serves families of children and adults with special needs. Brian is well-equipped to assist these families because Mitchell has autism. He has counseled thousands of families about planning for their child’s future, including residential living options.

Sixteen years ago, however, when Clearbrook President Emeritus Carl La Mell recommended that 21-year-old Mitchell move into a CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) home at Clearbrook, Brian’s response was, “That’s for other people, not my kid.” On that day, Brian wasn’t answering as an attorney; he was simply a concerned father, not yet ready to let his son go.

But deep down Brian and Linda knew Carl was right. “Although moving him out of our house brought on a lot of tears for us, Clearbrook is Mitchell’s home now,” Brian said. “He loves his housemates and the Clearbrook staff. Mitchell is now 38, and we are blessed that he has been in the Clearbrook family all these years.”

While Mitchell spends most of his time in the Clearbrook day program and his CILA, he has a weekly sleepover at his parents’ home. He also works once a week at Brian’s law office, shredding documents, greeting clients and working alongside his family.

“Linda is a legal assistant, Nicole is the office manager and Benji is a partner in the firm,” Brian explained, “so our firm is truly a family affair. The special by-product of having Mitchell for a brother is that Nicole and Benji are very caring, sensitive, compassionate siblings who are always



*The Rubin Family enjoying time together (Mitchell is front right)*

going to be there for their brother.” Linda added, “I always say that whoever knows Mitchell is a better person for that. That’s especially true for Nicole and Benji, and our grandchildren, too. Nicole’s three boys are unbelievably close to Mitchell.”

Over the years, Brian has held leadership roles on countless boards and committees for organizations serving those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in addition to Clearbrook, such as The Arc of Illinois, the Special Needs Alliance, State of Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, and the State of Illinois Autism Task Force to name a few. Brian has dedicated himself to Clearbrook, having served on the Board of Trustees since 1989.

“There is no way we could ever repay Clearbrook for what Clearbrook has done for our family,” Brian said. “We know there are a lot of charities out there, but Clearbrook is our priority. When it comes to making contributions, whether it’s a

memorial gift or honorary gift, we have one place we give to—Clearbrook.”

Brian and Linda have also included Clearbrook in their estate plans. “As parents of a child with special needs we have an obligation to protect that child, and that includes making sure your child is in a safe, loving environment after you are gone,” Brian stated. Through their legacy gift to Clearbrook, Brian and Linda have peace of mind knowing that Mitchell’s future needs will be taken care of in the place he has called home for more than a decade.

In addition to a gift in their estate plans, Brian and Linda also made a special gift to honor their dear friend and Clearbrook President Emeritus, Carl La Mell. “Carl is such a special person, even though he’s a White Sox fan,” Brian joked. “We’ve been blessed to know him. Even though we could never adequately show our appreciation to him, when we heard about the Legacy Fund honoring Carl, we said ‘Sign us up!’”

“Unfortunately, we happen to be in a state where funding for special needs individuals is not a priority,” he continued. “The best organizations cannot do what they do without significant voluntary contributions from families. It’s just plain and simple. Clearbrook is in a class by itself. We feel it’s our duty to give back to Clearbrook so it will be here not just for Mitchell but for other families in the future.”

For more information about leaving an estate gift to Clearbrook, please contact Vice President of Development & Marketing, Annie Palubicki, at 847-385-5005 or [apalubicki@clearbrook.org](mailto:apalubicki@clearbrook.org)

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## Night To Shine



Alex gets a haircut at SportsClips



Teri and Terrance are ready to dance!



Tracy gets dolled up for the big night

In partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Clearbrook clients attended a special prom event on Friday, February 9. Each client was paired with a buddy for the night - a volunteer from Saint Viator High School or Northern Illinois University. They got

their hair/make-up done and shoes polished, thanks to Avalon Salon & Spa, Sports Clips Mt. Prospect, and Jude Rollins & Lisa Budmats from Beautycounter. Special thanks to Christina Marie Photography for the beautiful pictures of the evening.

## 100 Women Who Care



Representatives of 100WomenWhoCare present Clearbrook President Tony DiVittorio and clients Steve W. and Steve M. with their generous donation.

On April 16, 2019, Clearbrook was chosen to receive a \$6,600 donation from 100WomenWhoCare – Medinah Chapter. A generous donor has offered to match their gift, bringing the total contribution to \$13,200.

Their kind contribution will benefit Clearbrook's Respite and DT Senior Programs. The Respite Programs, also known as Take a Break Volunteer Programs, are an innovative service that provide families of children with developmental delays regularly scheduled time away from parental responsibilities. The DT Senior Program, or Activities and Creative Experience for Seniors (ACES), works to enhance the quality of life for its participants by providing activities designed to meet the unique needs of seniors impacted by intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Clearbrook would like to thank Linda Riley, Linda Colander, Peggi D'Angelo, and Peggy Horvath, as well as the whole 100WomenWho Care – Medinah Chapter for their generous gift and support.

## Naturally Gifted Open House



Hannah is ready to take your order!



Products are made with essential oils and make the perfect gift!

In an effort to acclimate our families, friends, and supporters with the new Naturally Gifted storefront, Clearbrook hosted an Open House on Thursday, April 11th.

Nearly 50 guest toured Naturally Gifted, located in the Crystal Lake Plaza in Crystal Lake. Clearbrook's Naturally Gifted is designed to offer vocational enrichment and hands-on vocational skills training in an actual retail setting. These activities include laundry, janitorial, stocking, bagging, clerical, and customer service practice. Participants will follow a 12-week curriculum, which will integrate classroom learning, hands-on skill development, and community job shadowing.

The Open House for Naturally Gifted, which opened its doors this past February, showcased the beautiful store as well as the vocational program, initiatives, and activities. Guest were able to purchase all Naturally Gifted products that are created in-house by Clearbrook Naturally Gifted participants.

Thank you to all who attended, and please don't hesitate to come back and visit! Naturally Gifted is open Monday through Friday, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. It is located at 2B Crystal Lake Plaza, Crystal Lake, IL, 60014.

For any information about the Naturally Gifted program or products, please contact Rebecca Klenske at [rklenske@clearbrook.org](mailto:rklenske@clearbrook.org).

## Clearbrook Crusaders



On Sunday, April 28th, the Clearbrook Crusaders braved the cold weather and gave it their all in this year's McHenry County Human Race! Clearbrook joined over 70 organizations that participated in this year's race. The snow, ice, and slush didn't deter any of the Crusaders and all participants finished the race with great success. The McHenry County Human Race is a community event where individuals can not only support the non-profit of their choice via their registration fees & fundraising, but also learn about various local nonprofit agencies and the work that they are doing in the McHenry County.

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in this year's Human Race! We are already looking forward to next year!

## It's Cool to Fly American Airlines!



*The Rybak family is all smiles aboard the American flight*

Twice a year, American Airlines hosts *It's Cool to Fly AA* at O'Hare International Airport. Clearbrook is honored to be the preferred partner of this special event.

The purpose of *It's Cool to Fly AA* is to provide a full airport travel experience to children on the autism spectrum. 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 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 runway.

American Airlines works to create an environment with all of the sounds and sensations that travelers might experience in flight, without ever leaving the ground. The goal is to provide clients, their families and caregivers, with the knowledge and confidence they need to consider air travel.

Sophal Rybak said, "We never imagined that we'd ever be able to get Lili through an airport or on an airplane at all. The last time we flew with her, she was a baby and not quite a year old. Even that flight experience was not a good one, and she cried a lot. As Lili grew older, we went through challenge after challenge to try and be a typical family, but it was always difficult. As a result, we strongly felt that flying would not happen for many more years to come. Yesterday was one of the happiest days of our sweet Lili's life, and the entire event couldn't have gone more perfect. Lili cannot stop talking about the whole experience. Last night before bed, Lili said, 'I really liked the airport today.'"

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. The next flight is in October 2019. To learn more, please contact Tracy Hellner, Autism Resource Specialist at [thellner@clearbrook.org](mailto:thellner@clearbrook.org).

## Volunteers Give the "Gift of Time" for Jelly Belly Days



*Jelly Belly Days 2019 was a great success, thanks to the support of Clearbrook clients, volunteers, families and friends!*

On Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th, 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 benefit the 8,000 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities that Clearbrook serves each year.

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 2019 or returning as a tradition with friends and family, every volunteer makes a positive impact on Clearbrook clients. The more people who participate, the more opportunities are generated to benefit our programs and services.

A special acknowledgment to the Jelly Belly Candy Company for donating 180,000 packages of their signature Jelly Belly candy. For more information about Jelly Belly Days and other Clearbrook events, please contact Hillary Mittelman at 847.385.5009 or [hmittelman@clearbrook.org](mailto:hmittelman@clearbrook.org).





STEP IT UP FOR  
CLEARBROOK

5K RUN/1 MILE WALK

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SAVE THE  
DATE

9.21.19

Register Today!  
<http://step.clearbrook.org>

**WHEN:**  
Saturday, September 21

**WHERE:**  
Cronin Park  
Arlington Heights, IL

**WHY:**  
To help create opportunities  
for individuals with  
disabilities

**CONTACT:**  
Hillary Mittelman at  
[step@clearbrook.org](mailto:step@clearbrook.org)  
or 847.385.5009.

## Renovations Underway!

Clearbrook will be making some changes at the Getz building in Palatine. Getz currently is home to the CAP Program (adult program specifically designed to support adults with autism), the PAL program (adult program designed to support individuals with high personal support needs and low cognitive needs), and the Workshop – which provides in house work opportunities for adults with I/DD, many of whom eventually transition to community employment.

We are now adding one of our Community Day Service programs which is designed to meet the needs of individuals with I/DD whose needs are greater than the typical workshop participant. The program will focus on all areas of development and activities in the community.

This additional program will increase the number of clients from 170 to 200 at Getz, which requires some renovations to the building. This includes renovating the existing large bathrooms and adding two accessible stalls in both the men's and women's bathroom. Additionally we are adding a "changing room" which will be a private space to accommodate those clients that are unable to use a bathroom. This room will be equipped with a mat table for changing, a lift for moving individuals from their wheelchair to the table and back, storage and a sink. All of this is designed to respect the dignity of the individuals we serve and the staff that support them.

The renovation also includes replacing old partition walls, removing old floor tile, installing epoxy flooring (no grout lines), installing new healthcare type ceiling tiles, upgraded lighting, installing new mirrors with integrated shelves and install tile on walls to eliminate wheel chair damage to drywall.

**The project will be completed in September, and will cost approximately \$60,000. The Clearbrook Guardians are offering to match dollars we raise for this project dollar-for-dollar. Our hope is to raise \$30,000 and, with the Guardians match, we will have the funds needed to complete the project.**

If you are interested in supporting this project, please send a check to Clearbrook in the enclosed envelope and write "Guardians match" on the memo line. You can also donate online at [clearbrook.org/donate](http://clearbrook.org/donate) and let us know you'd like it applied to the match in the "comments" section.

## All In For Clearbrook Guardians Spring Casino Night



*Guests gambling in support of Clearbrook at this year's Spring Casino Night.*

It was a full house at the 2019 Clearbrook Guardians Spring Casino Night on Saturday, March 2nd. Over 300 Clearbrook supporters filled the Getz Building in Palatine, as they tested their luck in support of Clearbrook.

During the night, guests had the opportunity to try their hand at blackjack, high & low stakes poker, 3 card poker, roulette, craps, and wheel games.

## Clearbrook Guardians



*Clients enjoy FunFest thanks to the support of the Guardians*

The late Nicholas M Schmitt Jr had an idea in 1986. Nick, a long-time resident of Rolling Meadows, and a former alderman who also served on the Clearbrook Board, decided to form the Clearbrook Guardians. He gathered several business associates and friends for what eventually became the first Guardian meeting in October 1986. Having grown up in Chicago and his family left homeless at one point in his life, he understood what it was like to just need the basic essentials of life. He felt that those basic needs were difficult if not impossible to achieve if a person were physically or mentally challenged.



*Special Olympics are extra special when wearing t-shirts, courtesy of the Guardians!*

Families of the developmentally disabled could only do so much and then had to seek outside help. State institutions provided some assistance. However, private care facilities such as Clearbrook have proven to provide the best possible training for persons with developmental disabilities.

Their first fundraising event was casino night which started in 1987. They are still hosting casino night at the Getz building each year, and also host a golf outing each summer. The next one is at Bartlett Hills on June 28.



*Clearbrook Guardians at one of their golf outings*

They have raised nearly \$500,000 over the years and have supported Clearbrook clients in many ways. If a client has dental needs that they cannot afford, the Guardians are there to help. They have also sponsored Special Olympics shirts for clients over the years, as well as the annual Clearbrook Fun Fest. They are always looking for ways to support the clients, and Clearbrook is so grateful for their partnership and support over the past 30 years!

## Shining Star Ball Continues To Shimmer



*Many thanks to our 2019 Shining Star Ball Committee*

On Friday, April 26, the 31st Annual Shining Star Ball sparkled at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago when Clearbrook hosted nearly 300 philanthropic business leaders and passionate Clearbrook supporters to an elegant evening of dinner and dancing with radio host, Roe Conn, as the evening's master of ceremonies.

"Clearbrook is exceptionally proud to recognize Dr. Alan J. Acierno, Chief Executive Officer, DecisionOne Dental, with this year's distinguished Shining Star Award," said Clearbrook President, Anthony Di Vittorio. "Since 2014, DecisionOne Dental has closed its office one Friday every other month and provided free dental services to our clients including diagnostic services, deep cleaning, extractions, and fillings. They have truly gone the extra mile to support our Clients."

**The evening began with cocktails and continued with an elegant Four Season dinner and dancing to the Dan Hayes Orchestra, interspersed with an impressive fund raising**

combination of live and silent auctions, a paddle raise and the drawing for a \$5,000 cash raffle prize.

The event raised \$1.2 million to support Clearbrook clients. Thank you to the many generous supporters of this event!

The Shining Star Ball Committee includes: Mrs. Sonja Baichwal, Mrs. Beverly Bystricky, Mrs. Mary Campobasso, Mrs. Mimi Fiorentino, Mrs. Karen Guenther, Ms. Kristina Hambel, Mrs. Adam Hoeflich, Mrs. Richard Kent, Ms. Jennifer Lundal, Mrs. Scott Lundal, Ms. Nancy McCaskey, Mrs. Andrew McKenna, Ms. Katie Pamenter, Mrs. Carla Van Hoven Riley, Mrs. David Riley, Ms. Linda Schneider-Jesser, Mrs. Michael Scholl, Mrs. Gordon Segal, and Mrs. Elena Ziehm.

Next year's Shining Star Ball will be held on Friday, April 24, 2020. For more information or to join the committee, please contact Annie Palubicki at 847-385-5005 or [apalubicki@clearbrook.org](mailto:apalubicki@clearbrook.org).



*Associate Board Members (left to right) Brooke Wils, Roberto & Caira Barbanente and their guests Jason & Marisa Biegelson enjoying the evening.*



*Dr. Acierno (center) receives congratulations from Clearbrook President, Tony Di Vittorio (left) and radio personality and emcee for the evening, Roe Conn.*

## Cheers to a Great Cause!

Each winter, the local community gathers to celebrate Clearbrook's work in providing training and meaningful employment to adults with disabilities. The 55th Annual A Grapevine of Friends Wine and Craft Beer Tasting was no exception, as more than 370 guests attended this truly special event at the Stonegate Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates.

This is an event where you can truly say there is something for everyone. It is a night to remember. Without a dull moment from start to finish, guests had a blast whether sipping wine, filling their plates with expertly prepared food, or simply conversing with friends.



*A special thank you our Friends Committee for their dedication and support to Clearbrook over the years!*

The evening began as guests swirled and twirled their glasses, sampling different wines and craft beers from d'Vine Wine and Gifts in Palatine. Between wine flights, guests enjoyed bidding on silent auction items and posing at the photo booth provided by MDM Entertainment.

Other highlights included decadent food stations, a reverse auction, and a cash

raffle. Finally, guests danced the night away with music provided by Toast & Jam, Inc.

The celebration continued as all guests were invited to attend an exclusive after-party in Stonegate's heated tent featuring desserts, champagne and martini tastings and music by Mark Domanico. For more information

or to volunteer, please contact Hillary Mittelman at 847-385-5009 or at [hmittelman@clearbrook.org](mailto:hmittelman@clearbrook.org).

Special thanks to our sponsors and host committee:

### Sponsors:

Amita, Allen and Janet Lattof, Apex Landscaping, BMO Harris, Baker Tilly, BlueFrost, Canon Solutions America, Cardinal Color Group, Ceres Food Group, Delta Dental, d'Vine and Gifts, Enterprise, Health Insurance Mart, JonDon, Korol Cleaning Service, Pace, Sysmex, Uline, Vitani Spirits and Woodman's .

### Friends of Clearbrook:

John Curry, Carleen Emde, Judy Friedman, Mandy Herp, Mary Ellen Masek, Coca Skok, Amanda Taylor, Sue Vecelli, Gloria Walters, Barb Weiss, and Beth Zajczenko

## Cheers to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mad Hatter Mayhem Pub Crawl

Raise your glass to the 2019 Mad Hatter Mayhem Pub Crawl, Clearbrook's booziest event. Over 200 Clearbrook supporters wore their craziest hats and joined us for a fun day of bar hopping in Wicker Park, Chicago on Saturday, April 6. The Associate Board's 11th annual Mad Hatter Mayhem Pub Crawl started at The Fifty/50 bar, with stops at Bangers & Lace, Standard and ended with a party at Emporium Arcade Bar.

Pub crawlers enjoyed drink specials at each bar, grilled cheese and other appetizers from Cheesie's. Pub crawlers also participated in the hat contests, raffles, and a silent auction. The lucky winners took home liquor towers, a New York City hotel stay, sports memorabilia and more!

### Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters:

DecisionOne Dental Partners, Garry & Janet Duber, Palumbo Family Foundation, Pella Windows, Precision Homes, Louis Glunz Beer Inc., Robert Hurst Foundation, and Trimarco Radencich, LLC, LakeShore Fitness.

Clearbrook's Associate Board of Directors is a group of young professionals dedicated to



raising awareness of and funds for Clearbrook through two annual events. For more information and/or to inquire about becoming a member, please contact Emily Leonard at 847.385.5008 or [eleonard@clearbrook.org](mailto:eleonard@clearbrook.org).

*Pub Crawlers enjoying a beautiful Chicago day bar hopping in support of Clearbrook!*

## PAL'S 22<sup>nd</sup> Fundraiser-is a Tremendous Success



*PAL parents and Clearbrook staff enjoy the event*

The 22nd annual fundraiser was another great success. More than 240 attended the PAL luncheon at Stonegate Banquet & Conference Center n Hoffman Estates in March. The PAL parents and families worked hard to make this a special event in our new location. Luncheon music was provided by Tom Ellis from Nashville. The event featured a robust silent and live auction with fantastic prizes for event guests.

“We are very grateful to have such a large group of dedicated supporters for 22 years,” said Paul Jochim, PAL parent and one of the organizers. “Through their kindness and generosity, we can continue creating opportunities and opening doors for many years to come.”

PAL is a partnership between Clearbrook, Northwest Special Recreational Association, Community Alternatives Unlimited and families of young adults over 18 years of age with developmental disabilities and physical challenges who have graduated out of the school system. PAL offers its participants year round, full-day programming aimed at providing experiences, services and support that promote lifelong learning and community membership. For more information about PAL visit [www.clearbrook.org/pal](http://www.clearbrook.org/pal) or contact Paul Jochim at [PJochim@aol.com](mailto:PJochim@aol.com).

**Clearbrook Challenge  
Golf Outing**

**Monday, August 5, 2019**

Exmoor Country Club  
700 Vine Avenue  
Highland Park, IL 60035

**\$450 per golfer**  
Includes 18 holes of golf, cart, practice range, clubhouse amenities, lunch, cocktails, appetizers and dinner.

**\$625 VIP Experience**  
Benefits listed above as well as choice of one of the three premier golf gifts from Exmoor Pro Shop. A chance to use two mulligans and shoot the golf ball launcher on Hole 4.

**\$1,800 Foursome / \$2,500 VIP Foursome**

**Register by July 26th to ensure your spot!**

Online registration available at  
[www.clearbrook.org/clearbrookchallenge](http://www.clearbrook.org/clearbrookchallenge)  
Questions? Contact Amie Palubicki at  
[apalubicki@clearbrook.org](mailto:apalubicki@clearbrook.org)

CLEARBROOK ASSOCIATE BOARD PRESENTS

THE GREAT GATSBY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019  
7:00-11:00 PM

THE LIBRARY  
AT 190 S 9TH ST.

OPEN BAR | HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES | SIGNATURE COCKTAIL  
DJ & DANCE FLOOR | SILENT AUCTION | RAFFLES

TICKETS: \$100/EACH THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2019/EACH AFTER

FOR MORE INFO, GO TO [WWW.CLEARBROOK.ORG/COMMITTEE](http://WWW.CLEARBROOK.ORG/COMMITTEE)

## Brews and Views



*Guests enjoyed beer tastings, tacos, and company of old and new friends.*



*The Chicago skyline views made for a memorable evening.*

There is no better way to enjoy a Chicago evening than with spectacular views, brews, and food! On Friday, June 10, guests came out to the Brews & Views Rooftop Beer Tasting at Lakeshore Fitness in Lincoln Park. Attendees enjoyed beer tastings from 13 different Midwest breweries and ate their way through the taco bar while enjoying the views of the Chicago skyline from the rooftop of Lakeshore Fitness.

The Clearbrook Associate Board partnered with Lakeshore Fitness to create a tasting event where the beers never stopped flowing and the lines were nonexistent. John Fitzgerald, a director at Lakeshore Fitness, coordinated with the catering staff to get an all-star line-up of breweries, including Maplewood, 2 Towns CiderHouse, Ravinia Brewing Co., Begyle Brewing Co., Rogue, Schlafly The Saint Louis Brewery, Saugatuck Brewing Co., Uncle John's Hard

Cider, Around The Bend Beer Co., Temperance Beer Co., Delirium, and Wild Tonic. Over 100 young professionals came out in support of Clearbrook. Not only did guests enjoy the beers and taco bar, but they also participated in the silent auction and raffles—all in support of Clearbrook.

Clearbrook would like to thank the staff at Lakeshore Fitness for their kind hospitality and devotion for creating such an incredible event and the Clearbrook Associate Board's Brews & Views Event Committee for all their hard work in making this event so successful. Finally, a special thank you goes out to the event chair, Kevin Riley, for connecting Clearbrook with Lakeshore Fitness.

For more information about this event, please contact Emily Leonard at 847.385.5008 or [eleonard@clearbrook.org](mailto:eleonard@clearbrook.org).

## FunFest



*Kenny shows off one of the reptiles during the reptile show.*



*Clearbrook President Tony Di Vittorio spent the day in the dunk tank, bringing clients joy!*

Clearbrook's annual "day of fun" for their clients—which include children and adults impacted by developmental/intellectual disabilities—affectionately known as FunFest, took place on Friday, June 14 at the Clearbrook Commons. Activities included a petting zoo, games, karaoke, a reptile show, and everyone's favorite, a chance to soak Clearbrook President, Anthony Di Vittorio, in the dunk tank.

Clearbrook would like to thank our volunteer groups and sponsors, including the Clearbrook Guardians, Crystal Geysers Natural Alpine Spring Water, Dohn & Associates, the Karen Projahn Memorial Trust, Kemps, Jewel Osco, The Mendez Family McDonald's, and Walgreens.

For more information about special events, or the clients served by Clearbrook, please contact Juliann Carlson at 847.385.5374 or [jcarlson@clearbrook.org](mailto:jcarlson@clearbrook.org).

## 2019 Women's Golf Classic: An Un-FOR-gettable Event



*Non-golfers relaxed with yoga and spa treatments.*



*Women enjoyed 18 holes on a beautiful day.*

On Monday, June 10, over 70 women came out to Ravinia Green Country Club in Riverwoods, Illinois, to support Clearbrook at the 18th annual Clearbrook's Women's Golf Classic. Before taking to the green to play 18 holes, golfers were treated to a mimosa and brunch at the club's restaurant, Cork & Five. The non-golfer guests spent the day enjoying spa treatments provided by Avalon Salon and Spa (Arlington Heights), relaxing by the pool, and a yoga class from Om the Range Yoga Studio (Chicago).

Similar to previous years, each hole featured a surprise provided by the event's generous sponsors, including sweet treats, photos, drink samples, and more. The evening concluded with cocktails, dinner, a Kendra Scott pop-up store, and both a live and silent auction. Experienced golfer or not, the Clearbrook Women's Golf Classic is the ultimate par-tee.

Proceeds will benefit Clearbrook, a recognized nonprofit organization that provides opportunities and enhances the lives of over 8,000 children and adults with autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other intellectual/developmental disabilities.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or to get involved with Clearbrook's Women's Classic Golf Outing in 2020, please contact Emily Leonard, Special Events Coordinator, at [eleonard@clearbrook.org](mailto:eleonard@clearbrook.org) or 847.385.5008.

## President's Message

Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give. You can see that clearly expressed in the pages of this newsletter.

Dr. Alan J. Acierno expressed this in his speech at the Shining Star Ball. He and his associates have provided free dental care to many individuals that Clearbrook serves. They have taken the skills they learned in their profession, and they offer it freely to those in need.

American Airlines has given generously over the years as well. In addition to their financial support, they host the mock flight for individuals impacted by autism twice a year. The American Airlines pilots, flight attendants, and crew volunteer their time to provide this experience for families. They freely offer this gift, and have changed many lives over the years.

Many people came together to support the Night to Shine prom event. Hair stylists, make-up artists, photographers...the list goes on! Generous people using their talent to benefit individuals Clearbrook serves.



I see this kindness every day at Clearbrook. Our staff, volunteers, and donors continually go above and beyond to provide the best for the individuals we serve. It challenges me to do more. To do better.

It is inspiring to see the generous support the community offers to Clearbrook. I ask you to consider what gifts and talents you have been given, and how you can use those to benefit others. Do you enjoy gardening? Come plant a garden at one of our homes. Are you a photographer? Come volunteer at one of our events and help us capture the magic that happens at Clearbrook. Are you a runner? Join us at our new 5k event, Step it Up for Clearbrook, in September.

Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.

Anthony Di Vittorio  
President

## Celebrating Staff Anniversaries with a Special Award

Clearbrook distributed the first bonuses from the Carl M. La Mell Legacy Fund in early May. This fund was created to express gratitude to frontline staff, the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). These individuals provide the bulk of care, essential services and so much more for the individuals Clearbrook serves. They regularly go beyond the call of job descriptions, and they continually look for creative ways to expand the horizons of Clearbrook clients.

Many DSPs make minimum wage. Clearbrook would like to pay them more, but state funding presents many challenges. This led Clearbrook to start The Carl M. La Mell Legacy Fund in honor of past Clearbrook President Carl La Mell. He consistently campaigned for better financial security for Clearbrook staff who make the day-to-day experience for clients rewarding and fulfilling. There was no better way to honor Carl's legacy and leadership at Clearbrook than by thanking DSPs in his name.

For the past two years, Clearbrook has been raising funds to retire mortgage debt on group



*Dorline, a DSP, was excited to receive her bonus check on her anniversary*

homes, and free up those funds to reward and retain our valuable employees. Thanks to the support of generous donors, Clearbrook issued the first batch of bonus checks to 21 employees on their employment anniversary earlier this month.

"We are thrilled to offer this reward to DSPs, like those who work with Kristin. 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," says Clearbrook President Tony Di Vittorio.

The bonuses will be issued to DSPs each year on their anniversary, a benefit that many others in their field do not receive.

To help advocate for better funding for these positions, please visit [www.TheyDeserveMore.com](http://www.TheyDeserveMore.com)

To be a part of the La Mell Legacy Fund, please contact Annie Palubicki at [apalubicki@clearbrook.org](mailto:apalubicki@clearbrook.org) or 847-385-5005

## Upcoming Events

### Clearbrook Challenge Golf

August 5, 2019

### Step It Up For Clearbrook 5k Walk/Run

September 21, 2019

### Around the World Food Tasting

October 15, 2019

### Associate Board Presents: Great Gatsby

November 15, 2019

Mark your calendars! Learn more by visiting [www.clearbrook.org/events](http://www.clearbrook.org/events)

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