

# THE COMMUNITY



## WE ARE CLEARBROOK

Clearbrook is home, a family, to over 8,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

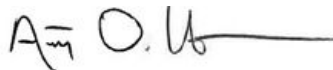
# A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

A new year is upon us, and Clearbrook is continuing to adapt to the hurdles presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The holiday season and January were especially challenging for us as staff tested positive, and we struggled to fill shifts. The current staffing crisis is not unique to Clearbrook, but I would argue it is more critical. The individuals we serve depend on our staff for their wellbeing—many of them needing 24-hour-care.

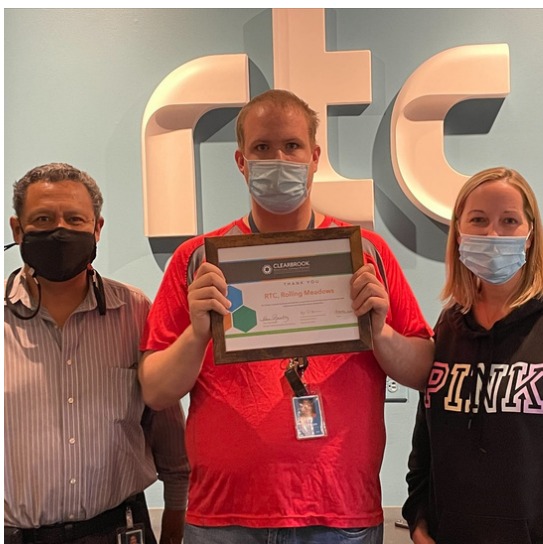
Even before the Omicron surge, we were facing a staffing shortage. Approximately 23% of our positions were unfilled in January. That didn't leave us much wiggle room when our staff began testing positive for COVID. Our direct care staff once again went above and beyond working multiple shifts to make sure our individuals were taken care of. Some of them worked multiple 12-hour shifts, taking rest at a hotel nearby. Our leadership staff also stepped in to cover shifts. It was truly all hands on deck. I'm grateful that during this latest surge, none of our staff or residents became seriously ill.

As we look to this uncertain future, one thing I know for sure is Clearbrook needs more support to be able to provide the best for those in our care. I invite you to read the advocacy section in this newsletter to see how you can get involved and help make our voices heard.

Together, we are Clearbrook.



**Anthony Di Vittorio**  
President/CEO



## THE COMMUNITY CORNER

October was National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month. We celebrated by presenting certificates to businesses in our community that employ individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Will, pictured here, recently celebrated his five-year anniversary at RTC. He loves his job!

We are so grateful for the businesses that employ our individuals, and we are so very PROUD of our individuals who are amazing employees!

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Despite the many challenges faced in 2021, Clearbrook had a remarkable year. Here are just a few of the highlights of our year.

- 19 individuals moved into a Clearbrook residence.
- Our employment program successfully placed 53 individuals in jobs within the community.
- Our CHILD Therapy Services program served 438 children.
- The Clearbrook Clinic provided 19,403 sessions to 322 individuals.

With the Clearbrook community behind us, we will continue to empower thousands with disabilities to live their fullest lives possible.

Learn more about our 2021 by viewing our annual report at [clearbrook.org](https://clearbrook.org).

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is always a special time at Clearbrook. While we modified our celebrations a bit during the Omicron surge, our individuals made the best of things and had a great time.



Friends at Kings Global Logistics, Workday, and many others, purchased gifts for the individuals we serve, making for a very happy holiday!



Creativity was on display at Getz as staff decorated for the holidays!



Santa and his elves made a visit to the Lattof Commons!



Brad enjoyed opening gifts!



Enrich lives of  
thousands by joining  
the Clearbrook team!

[clearbrook.org/jobs](https://clearbrook.org/jobs)



Naturally Gifted sells essential oil  
products made by the individuals  
Clearbrook serves. Shop and learn more  
at [clearbrook.org/natgift](https://clearbrook.org/natgift).



SAVE THE DATE

# The Shining Star Ball

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022

Four Seasons Hotel Chicago

120 E. Delaware Place

Chicago, IL 60611

[www.clearbrook.org/event/ssb](https://www.clearbrook.org/event/ssb)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.clearbrook.org/events](http://www.clearbrook.org/events)



**Clearbrook  
Candy Days**  
*May 6-7, 2022*  
Arlington Heights

**Challenge Golf  
Outing**  
*July 11, 2022*  
Highland Park

**Shining Star Ball**  
*April 29, 2022*  
Chicago



**Friends Wine &  
Craft Beer Tasting**  
*June 4, 2022*  
Lincolnshire

**Step It Up for  
Clearbrook**  
*September 17, 2022*  
Arlington Heights



## Join Us!

Most of Clearbrook's events are supported by volunteer committees. They choose themes for the events, secure raffle and auction items, sell tickets and more!

If you want to join the party, contact Director of Special Events, Hillary Mittelman, at [hmittelman@clearbrook.org](mailto:hmittelman@clearbrook.org).

## ASSOCIATE BOARD: A ROARING SUCCESS

The Clearbrook Associate Board hosted a roaring twenties event on Friday, November 12 at The Library in Chicago. The Associate Board is committed to increasing awareness for Clearbrook and raising funds to support our mission. A total of 135 participants attended the event and helped raise \$31,000 for Clearbrook. Throughout the night, guests enjoyed an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, raffle, DJ, and gambling at the blackjack tables. The lucky raffle winner took home a 50" flat screen TV. Many participants enjoyed dancing and browsing the unique auction items. A special thank you to the sponsors that helped made the night possible, including: Morgan Stanley, P4 Security Solutions, Kevin & Amy Riley, Chris & Carla Riley, John & Kathi Vosicky, Chris & Kim Fronk, Marino Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Precision Homes, and Revolution Brewing.



## ADVOCACY: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The state of Illinois has been failing to meet its legal requirement to provide adequate resources for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 2018, leaving more than **14,000 individuals waiting to receive crucial services. Illinois ranks 47th in the nation.** The Guidehouse study was conducted in order to evaluate how to improve disability services in Illinois, but the state has fallen behind in the implementation of the Guidehouse recommended investments.

Join Clearbrook's Advocacy Network to tell legislators that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve more.

Learn more at [advocacy.clearbrook.org](https://advocacy.clearbrook.org) or text Clearbrook to 313131.

## YOU SAVED FOR YOUR FUTURE. HELP PROVIDE FOR CLEARBROOK'S.

Consider utilizing your retirement plan to make these gifts to Clearbrook. If you are over the age of 59 ½, and can make withdrawals from your traditional IRA or other tax-favored retirement plan without triggering an early withdrawal penalty, you may wish to make withdrawals from retirement plans in amounts sufficient to fund all or a portion of your charitable gifts.



## JINGLE PAL'S CYBER SUNDAY HELD ONLINE

Learn more about PAL at [www.clearbrook.org/pal](https://www.clearbrook.org/pal).

The 24th annual PAL-Clearbrook fundraiser, Jingle PAL'S Cyber Sunday Holiday Shopping Spectacular, was held online Sunday, November 21. Bob and Marilyn Peterson, who are PAL parents, chaired the event. Marilyn Peterson said, "This annual fundraiser is the key to supporting the PAL program for adults 18 and older with significant disabilities and physical challenges." Kevin Corcoran, who owns Lorelle Communications in Arlington Heights offered his professional studio for PAL. With the help of a professional auctioneer, Greg Dillinger, it was a huge success.

PAL (Partners in Adult Learning) offers its participants year-round, full-day adult programming aimed at providing experiences, services, and supports that promote lifelong learning and community membership.

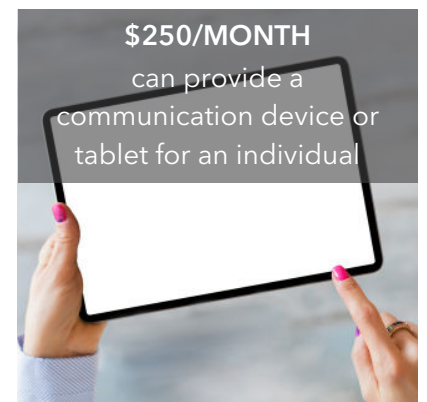
# PARTNERS IN POTENTIAL

At Clearbrook, our needs are ongoing along with the services and supports we provide. We invite you to become a Partner in Potential by making a monthly gift to Clearbrook.

Clearbrook recognizes and develops the potential of individuals, programs, the organization, and staff. Your monthly gift will enrich the individuals' lives we serve by helping them obtain the fullest quality of life.

Partners in Potential will receive exclusive newsletters and impact photos throughout the year. Please join us today and make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. Your monthly gift will have a large impact on our community.

Setting up a monthly contribution is safe and easy! You can sign up by calling Andi Wojcik, Director of Development, at 847-385-5014 or by visiting [www.clearbrook.org/donate/give-monthly](http://www.clearbrook.org/donate/give-monthly).



## 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 nonprofit. Clearbrook leads the pack with only 11% applied to administrative overhead.

89% of every dollar goes right back to our programs and services.



Check out our 2021 Annual Report  
[www.clearbrook.org](http://www.clearbrook.org)



Kenny had a great time picking apples this past fall.

Our residents go on outings in the community regularly.

This can include baseball games, the zoo, movies, and even vacations!