



CLEARBROOK

Enrich Lives. Embrace Potential.

For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

CEO UPDATE

March 2024

Dear Clearbrook Team,

The only thing that remains constant is change, a notion initially articulated by a Greek philosopher around 500 BC. After many centuries, this concept still holds true!

I stepped in the CEO role six months ago, and since then, I've been closely assessing our organizational structure and processes in collaboration with the senior leadership team. Our primary dedication always lies with our mission. There are many factors to take into account - from staff structures to budget considerations and beyond.

Upon examining our delivery of CILA and Community Day Services (CDS), it has become evident that the size and scope of the Central and East regions are considerable. Managing nearly 25 homes and a sizable CDS program presents a significant challenge. In fact, one region alone is larger than some other agencies! As a result, Hollis Gorrie (Chief Operating Officer) and I have decided to make the following changes, effective July 1:

- Lauren Mariucci will now oversee all the East and Central CDS programs (in conjunction with community employment) and will be the Vice President of CDS. Lauren will have 2 directors of CDS under her running these large CDS sites.
- Noel Rosen will now assume all the CILAs from the Central and East Region, he will be Vice Present of CILA. Noel will also have 2 directors of CILA under him running the 50 CILAs under his direction.
- Brad Bartels will now assume all of nursing both ICFS and CILA - Brad will have 2 directors of nursing under him running all of the nursing services provided to the individual we serve.
- Emily Fencil will continue to oversee Clearbrook West in addition to the PURSUIT and Home Based programs.

I believe this structure will benefit the clients and the staff working with them. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your commitment to Clearbrook and those we serve!

Jessica Smart

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Clearbrook President/CEO

PS - I had so much fun visiting Techny on Valentine's Day. Stuart and Larry looked so dapper in their suits!



TRANSITION SERVICES

The school system stops providing services for individuals with ID/DD the day they turn 22. Clearbrook is dedicated to making sure families are prepared for that day and informed of the options available.

Michelle Schwartz (Transition Outreach Specialist), Nicole Kerpan (Supported Housing Coordinator), and Noel Rosen (VP of Clearbrook East) recently attended a Q&A with families as part of an event put on by the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO). NSSEO is a collaboration between Special Education programs in various school districts throughout the area. This session focused on Housing Options for individuals who have transitioned out of school. There were discussions about Home Based Supports, ICF, and CILA. It was well attended - upwards of 30 people!



Heidi Raymond, Director of Admissions, hosted a group of students from District 214 for a tour of the Princeton CILA.

 [Learn more!](https://www.clearbrook.org/transition-services/)

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STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

In the first 2 months of 2024, Clearbrook has welcomed 65 new staff to the team! One of those new hires is Elisa Kerendian, a CILA Q in the East Region. She will oversee three CILAs in partnership with The Libenu Foundation. Clearbrook is proud to have a partnership with Libenu, a non-for-profit that works to integrate Jewish individuals (who need I/DD services) into community settings such as CILAs. Clearbrook has three Orthodox Jewish CILAs that are run in collaboration with Libenu to provide the residents with the independence and cultural values that maximize their quality of life.

The DEI Committee has been busy once again! 25 staff attended the book discussion on Black Cake in honor of Black History Month. The book club meets quarterly, and a different theme is chosen each quarter. The next book club will meet in May to discuss A Woman They Could Not Silence, a book chosen based on Women's History Month. Reach out to Jen Robinson, Director of Training, for more details.



The Development & Marketing Team went painting together as a team building activity.

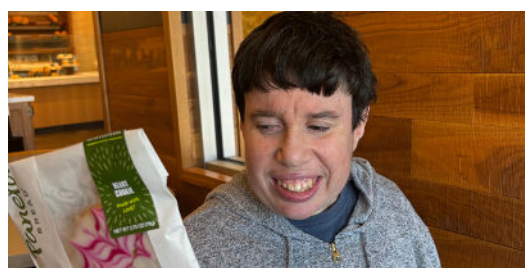


The DEI committee set up a display at the Plaza to celebrate the Chinese New Year!

CLIENTS IN THE COMMUNITY



Gloria and Kris, residents of the Becky CILA in Crystal Lake, participated Miss Amazing contest!



Molly from the Hoeg CILA bought Valentine's gifts for her friends at the Commons.



Gentleman from the Strathmore CILA had fun at the movies!