



CLEARBROOK

Enrich Lives. Embrace Potential.

For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

CEO UPDATE

May 2024

Dear Clearbrook Team,

As we continue together in pursuit of our mission, I am constantly reminded of the profound impact our community has on our success. At Clearbrook, our mission is not merely a statement—it's a call to action that requires the dedication and collaboration of each of us and those in our community.

I recently had the privilege of seeing the power of community at work. ABC 7 Chicago featured a story on the opening of our new CILA in Grayslake, offering me a platform to communicate our mission and advocate for the ongoing effort to raise DSP wages. Meeting Chris and Cody, along with their parents, at the Springwood CILA was truly inspiring. In just one morning, I engaged with clients, families, staff, and the media - all raising awareness of our mission and the critical work we do. This collective effort underscores the importance of community in the work we do.

You'll see a few more snapshots of these kinds of moments to the right. I am humbled by the outpouring of support I see every day.

Most of all, I am grateful for each of you and your unwavering commitment to Clearbrook and the individuals and families we serve. Together, we will continue to make a profound and lasting impact.

With gratitude,

Jessica Smart

Clearbrook President/CEO

PS - John Williams on WGN Radio did a special plug for our upcoming Shining Star Ball. [You can listen to it here!](#)

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



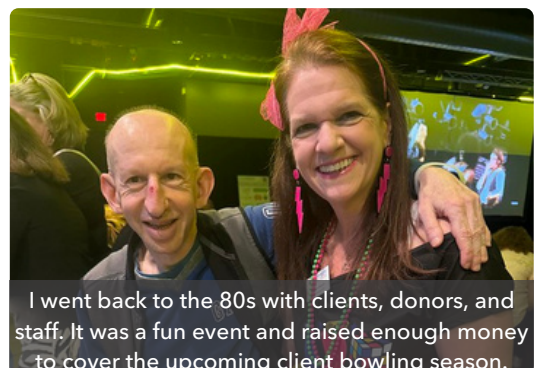
Cody with the ABC 7 Chicago Crew.



Terrence, a client, and I presented at the Plexus Groupe's annual team building. They hosted a raffle to support Clearbrook and raised \$22,500!



Illinois Representative Mark Walker stopped by for a visit. He is a strong advocate for Clearbrook in Springfield.



I went back to the 80s with clients, donors, and staff. It was a fun event and raised enough money to cover the upcoming client bowling season.

INVESTING IN STAFF

Did you know Clearbrook partners with Harper Community College for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program? It is a two-semester program - the first semester is classroom-based and the second semester is clinical. Clearbrook, along with Harper, pays for the cost of the classes and associated expenses. We are excited to have 6 staff currently in the program scheduled to graduate soon. Not only is this an investment in our staff, it is also an investment in our clients. CNAs play a crucial role in ensuring the delivery of our services. If you are interested in being part of the program, please contact Tejal Dizon at tdizon@clearbrook.org.

Staff Graduating this year - Congrats!

- Anitria - Bristol CILA
- Aderonke - Fairfax
- Claudia - Bosworth CILA
- Monica - Helena CILA
- Marsha - Miner CILA
- Joe - Commons



Staff recently visited Harper and saw their Center for Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation

CLIENT CORNER



It was a beautiful weekend for Special Olympics! Volunteers, families, and staff came out to cheer them on!



Clients at Getz are growing a hydroponic garden - and it is thriving! They enjoyed salads with the veggies they grew!



Clients at Getz had fun watching the solar eclipse

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK



MEET ANGIE ST. PAUL

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Volunteers are a key part of the Clearbrook family, and we celebrated them during Volunteer Appreciation Week at the end of April. Volunteers help in a variety of ways including landscaping projects, office/clerical work, program activities, event support, and much more! Last year, volunteers donated 4,200 hours of their time. In doing so, they saved Clearbrook \$125,000! We will be honoring volunteers at our annual recognition dinner on June 27.

If you would like volunteer support in your program or department, please contact Kathy Scheuing at kscheuing@clearbrook.org