

# THE COMMUNITY

JULY 2024 | ISSUE 12



## WE ARE CLEARBROOK

Clearbrook is a community for over 8,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



# CLEARBROOK

Enrich Lives. Embrace Potential.

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@clearbrook



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# MAKE AN IMPACT

## BECOME A PARTNER IN POTENTIAL!

Support Clearbrook's lifelong commitment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by making a monthly gift.

Your contribution will help enrich lives and provide the highest quality of care through our diverse programs and services.

It's simple and secure to set up your monthly donation.

Go to [www.clearbrook.org/give-monthly](http://www.clearbrook.org/give-monthly) or scan the QR code to join us in making a lasting impact today!

BECOME A  
PARTNER IN POTENTIAL



[www.clearbrook.org/give-monthly](http://www.clearbrook.org/give-monthly)

# STEP IT UP FOR CLEARBROOK

SEPTEMBER 21 | CRONIN PARK

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS | [STEP.CLEARBROOK.ORG](http://STEP.CLEARBROOK.ORG)



# A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Clearbrook Community,

Summer has arrived, and everything is in bloom. It serves as a reminder of growth and new opportunities. We are embracing this theme at Clearbrook as we continue to expand our services to meet the needs of the intellectual and developmental disabilities community.

In April, the new Springwood CILA home opened in Grayslake, providing a nurturing environment for four male residents. At the end of June, we purchased two additional homes - another one in Grayslake and one in Woodstock. Illinois has a significant demand for residential services, and we are doing our best to fulfill that need.

In addition to the new CILA homes, our new Community Day Services (CDS) reinvention plan is in full swing. We're tailoring our programs to better serve our clients' unique needs. You can read more about the reinvention in the pages to follow.

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the three new members of our Board of Directors: Brenda Callaway, Eric Messerschmidt, and Kevin Riley. Their expertise, passion, and commitment will undoubtedly enrich our board and contribute to our organization's success. We are excited to have them on the team! We also have three members retiring from the board - Sharon Wein, Katie Levin, and Barry Masek. We thank you for your contributions over the years. Clearbrook is a better place because of you.

Sincerely,



**Jessica Smart**

Clearbrook President/CEO



## THE COMMUNITY CORNER



During Nurse Appreciation Week, Clearbrook nurses were pampered with heartfelt handmade gifts, goodies, and delicious treats to honor their exceptional care for Clearbrook individuals. Their dedication and compassion have a profound impact on those they care for. We cannot express enough how grateful we are for their hard-work and tireless care. Thank you nurses!

# SHINING STAR BALL RAISES OVER \$1.2 MILLION

On May 17, 2024, over 360 people came together at the Four Seasons Chicago to honor Clearbrook, raising over \$1.2 million!

"This year's event was nothing short of spectacular. The evening buzzed with energy, highlighted by a live auction featuring not one, but two autographed Taylor Swift guitars. Guests enjoyed a thrilling paddle raise, and dancing, filled with new and long-time supporters. The atmosphere was electric as attendees gathered to celebrate Clearbrook and contribute to its mission - it was truly an unforgettable event," said Jessica Smart, Clearbrook's President, and CEO.

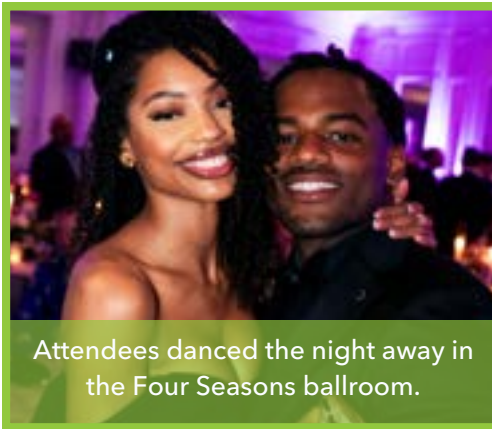
This year we honored Steve Heslop, TD SYNEX Corporation, Senior Vice President, PCW for his unwavering dedication to our mission. Over the past two years, the Share the Magic Foundation - founded and chaired by Mr. Heslop - has contributed nearly \$100,000 to Clearbrook.

Clearbrook would like to humbly thank all of the Shining Star Ball's sponsors, volunteers, donors, and attendees for their support. Special thanks to our Shining Star Ball committee who ensures the success of this event year after year!

We hope you will join us at the Four Seasons on Friday, May 16, 2025 for the next Shining Star Ball. Mark your calendar!



Steve Heslop (right) was honored at the event. He is pictured with Clearbrook day program participants.



Attendees danced the night away in the Four Seasons ballroom.



Kristen (left), an individual served by Clearbrook, spoke on how Clearbrook has changed her life.



## CLEARBROOK IN THE NEWS

The Shining Star Ball was highlighted in the news along with many more stories. Clearbrook was featured on ABC 7 new in April, featuring the gentlemen of the Springwood CILA.

You can read more news updates at [www.clearbrook.org/news](http://www.clearbrook.org/news)

# FUELING POTENTIAL WITH DAY PROGRAMS

Clearbrook individuals seek specialized engagement and the autonomy to pursue their unique interests. We are dedicated to providing them with first-rate facilities, diverse programming, and skilled personnel to enable them to achieve their full potential.



Our Community Day Services play a crucial role in delivering these offerings. Clearbrook has big plans for our Community Day Services programs! **In the near future we will begin to transition participants from Getz to new program locations which will be smaller in size.** These smaller settings will facilitate better staff-to-client ratios, increased community engagement, individualized programming, and more.



The current staff-to-client ratio at Getz is **1:15**.

In this new model, it will be cut in half to

**1 staff per 8 participants.**



Studies have shown that individuals with developmental disabilities do better in smaller settings, which allow for more individualized staff attention as well as less stimulation. Clearbrook will invest in three additional properties to accommodate three new day program spaces. Each location will host approximately **50 individuals daily instead of the 150 currently attending at Getz.**

You can learn more about this project at [www.clearbrook.org/news](http://www.clearbrook.org/news)



"I think of Getz as our old workshop. A new space will help all of us be excited about coming to day program and to learn new things."

*-Kenny, CDS Participant*

# CELEBRATING TRIUMPHS

The Spring Special Olympics go beyond medals. It celebrates determination, teamwork, and spirit. Athletes, families, and communities came together to create an unforgettable experience.

48 Clearbrook individuals competed in the Special Olympics Spring Games. Our athletes won medals in bocce, swimming, track and field, and more. Some athletes proceeded to go to the state-level competition in Bloomington.

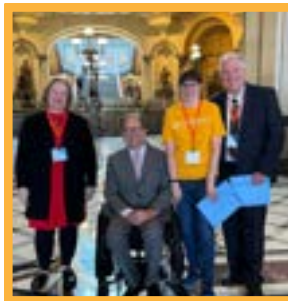
We are so proud of everyone who participated!



## ADVOCACY: DRIVING CHANGE



Dedicated Clearbrook advocates traveled to Springfield to push for improved I/DD services in Illinois, joined by self-advocates who amplified the impact. Thanks to our advocacy efforts, we were able to secure another increase to DSP wages in the FY25 budget. This budget had extremely limited funding available, but **you made your voices heard** and helped the I/DD system progress in a difficult budget year.



Let's keep the momentum going! Joining Clearbrook's network is easy and our optimized program allows you to make an impact with just a few clicks.

**Just scan the QR code or go to [www.clearbrook.org/advocacy](http://www.clearbrook.org/advocacy).**



To learn more about advocacy events, contact Joe O'Sullivan, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, at [josullivan@clearbrook.org](mailto:josullivan@clearbrook.org) or 847-385-5017.

## LEAVE YOUR MARK

You have the opportunity to create a lasting tribute at the Fogelson Family Garden located at the Lattof Commons by dedicating a brick, bench, or tree. This meaningful gesture allows you to honor a special person or occasion in your life. Each purchase of these exclusive items offers you the opportunity to show appreciation for a dedicated staff member, celebrate significant milestones such as birthdays or anniversaries, remember a loved one, or any other personal reason you choose.

Each personalized item tells a unique story, celebrating lives well-lived and leaving a lasting impact on those who visit.

To honor your loved one today, go to [www.clearbrook.org/brick](http://www.clearbrook.org/brick).

## CLEARBROOK ON CUE

This year's Clearbrook on Cue was a success! Clearbrook residents and day program participants performed "The Royal Talent Show" at Metropolis Theater Arlington Heights on Monday, June 10th. The actors showed off their talents by singing, dancing, and so much more. It truly was a performance to remember.



## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you looking for a career that will make a difference? Consider Clearbrook! The work is fulfilling, the pay is competitive, and the culture is second to none. Learn more and apply at [www.clearbrook.org/jobs](http://www.clearbrook.org/jobs).



## TOTALLY RAD 80'S PARTY

Clearbrook threw it back to the 80's and the first Totally Rad 80's Party was a hit! Attendees gathered at Ignite Gaming Lounge for drinks, dancing, and games. Thanks to the generosity of attendees and sponsors, we raised over \$36,000 to enrich the lives of over 8,000 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

A special thank you to our sponsors: The Lattof Family, the Hoeg Family, Barry and Ellen Masek, Rubin Law, RE/MAX at Home, and Canon.



## 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. **90% of every dollar goes right back to our programs and services.**



In recent years, Clearbrook has opened many new program locations. We would love to show you around!



Go to [www.clearbrook.org/tour](http://www.clearbrook.org/tour) OR Contact Andi at [awojcik@clearbrook.org](mailto:awojcik@clearbrook.org) to schedule a tour.

Grant support is instrumental in our continued success.

### WE WANT TO THANK:

- Bears Care - supporting the PAL Program
- BMO Harris N.A. - supporting the Ability Center
- DuPage Foundation - supporting the bathroom renovation at the Wilke home
- Rotary Club of Palatine - supporting the CHILD Program
- Seigle Foundation - supporting the Madera CILA



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*For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.*