

# THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2025 | ISSUE 14



## 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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 @we.are.clearbrook

 @clearbrook

 @clearbrook1

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# 2024 IN REVIEW

We purchased and renovated additional CILA homes in Lake and McHenry Counties.



We served 138 individuals through clinical therapy services and 312 clients through behavioral services.



5,600 children were supported through CFC, CHILD, and Early Intervention.



1,720 individuals in 15 counties were served through Home-Based Services.



38 individuals started calling Clearbrook home after moving into a CILA or ICF.



We reinstated the Clearbrook client bowling league.



We launched the Community Day Program Reinvention, which will create more opportunities for those we serve.



The Ability Center was featured on CBS News.



Clearbrook employee milestones were celebrated.



Frontline staff wages increased due in part to our advocacy network.



# A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Clearbrook Community,

Spring signals growth - and at Clearbrook, we're embracing it wholeheartedly to meet the needs of our community. We've expanded our footprint into Lake County, where we've opened a new Community Mental Health Center and two new CILAs, bringing critical services to more individuals and families.

Earlier this year, I hosted a virtual town hall to introduce our strategic plan. The plan centers our vision and direction around three pillars: quality programs, responsible growth, and employee engagement. As we continue to expand our footprint geographically and enhance our program offerings, we will do so with these pillars in mind. I will host more town halls in the coming months to keep you updated on our progress. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive Clearbrook.

Sincerely,



**Jessica Smart**  
Clearbrook President/CEO



## CLIENT FOCUSED

We empower individuals with disabilities to live their fullest lives, making clients the heart of Clearbrook.



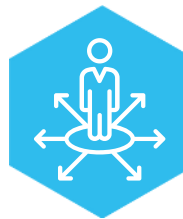
## BEST IN CLASS

With 70 years of experience, Clearbrook leads through innovation, expansion, and expertise.



## CULTURE OF JOY

Joy permeates Clearbrook, uplifting and valuing staff and clients, celebrating successes.



## EMPLOYEE CENTERED

We value each staff member's contributions, fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment.



## STRONG LEADERSHIP

Guided by ethics, trust, integrity, and accountability, Clearbrook sets the standard for excellence and inspires confidence.

Learn more at [clearbrook.org/values](https://clearbrook.org/values)



## THE COMMUNITY CORNER

We are excited to share the opening of our newest Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) in Libertyville. Clearbrook hosted an open house and it was a tremendous success. We were honored to have the mayor of Libertyville and multiple news outlets join us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. [Read more about it at www.clearbrook.org/news](https://www.clearbrook.org/news)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## Shining Star Ball

May 16, 2025  
The Four Seasons  
Chicago

## Family Night in the Park

June 5, 2025  
Kimball Hill Park  
Rolling Meadows

## Challenge Golf Outing

July 14, 2025  
Exmoor  
Highland Park

## Clearbrook on Cue

June 9, 2025  
Metropolis Theatre  
Arlington Heights

## Step It Up for Clearbrook

September 20, 2025  
Cronin Park  
Arlington Heights



## A NEW EVENT IS COMING THIS SUMMER!

## FAMILY NIGHT IN THE PARK

**Thursday June 5, 2025**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

Join us for an unforgettable evening at Kimball Hill Park...right in the backyard of the Clearbrook Commons in Rolling Meadows! Family Night in the Park is all about bringing families and friends together to enjoy delicious food, exciting activities, and live entertainment. Experience the **CULTURE OF JOY** that makes the Clearbrook community so vibrant. Connect with others and make new memories as we celebrate the summer.

Learn more at [www.clearbrook.org/familynight](http://www.clearbrook.org/familynight)



# 40 YEARS AT THE CLEARBROOK COMMONS

Forty years ago, Clearbrook opened its largest residential facility, the Clearbrook Commons, in Rolling Meadows with a capacity for 90 residents. Kristin Lundal was among the first to move in. She still lives with Clearbrook, but is now in a CILA home. Her mother Jan says, "We have never looked back other than to marvel at how she has progressed, matured and blossomed living with her Clearbrook family. What a blessing for us but especially Kristin. Thank you, Clearbrook for it all!"

A lot has changed in 40 years, and the Commons is finally catching up! It is undergoing some much-needed renovations. If you haven't visited for a while, please schedule a visit and stop by. It looks great!



Left: Kristin smiling at her day program.  
Right: Renderings of the Clearbrook Commons before it was built in 1985

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Our programs are focused on fostering relationships and creating memorable experiences through engaging outings. Recently, clients have enjoyed a variety of activities in their communities. Outings like these truly strengthen our community bonds and create lasting memories.



Fairfax residents went bowling! The day was perfect for bonding over strikes and spares.

1815 day program enjoyed a session at Peak Yoga. Participants shared moments of mindfulness and tranquility.



The Riley day program visited the Shedd Aquarium. They marveled at marine life and learned about ocean conservation.



Wilke residents enjoyed a sensory-friendly orchestra concert that was animal themed.

# MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

Over the past few months, there has been a flood of executive action taken by the new Presidential administration. The administration is working to pass a budget reconciliation package through Congress. Under this plan, \$880 billion would be cut from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over the Medicaid program. As the services we provide at Clearbrook are largely reliant on Medicaid funding, this is concerning.

In response to this potential cut to Medicaid, Clearbrook's CEO, Jessica Smart, and Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Joe O'Sullivan, traveled to Washington, D.C. with more than 20 other providers to meet with Illinois' Congressional delegation. In these meetings, they strongly urged Illinois' Congresspersons to reject any proposal that would cut funding or otherwise negatively impact home and community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It was clear that they have been hearing from Illinoisans who are concerned over the potential Medicaid cuts, which shows the power of our grassroots advocacy.



The budget reconciliation process remains fluid, and we will continue to monitor the negotiations and advocate for the protection of home and community-based services.

Your voices are our most powerful advocacy tool! Signing up for our Advocacy Network is simple and can be done in just a few minutes. [Scan the QR code to join the advocacy network today to stay informed and make your voice heard!](#)



## CREATE A LEGACY THAT LASTS

**MAKE A  
LASTING IMPACT**



Join a dedicated group of supporters who believe in building a more inclusive future—one rooted in generosity and compassion. When you include Clearbrook in your estate plans and become part of our Generations of Generosity, you're helping to ensure lifelong support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Every planned gift—big or small—helps shape a brighter tomorrow. Make your will a tool for enduring, positive impact.

Start your legacy today by scanning the QR code visiting [www.freewill.com/Clearbrook](http://www.freewill.com/Clearbrook)

# 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 ongoing support provides the consistency needed to empower our individuals at every stage of their lives, ensuring they have the resources to thrive and reach their full potential.

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



## COME VISIT US!

Experience our programs in action! Our programs are at the core of Clearbrook. 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.

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you or someone you know 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. We offer full-time and part-time positions, flexible or set schedules, and internships!

Learn more and apply at  
[www.clearbrook.org/jobs](http://www.clearbrook.org/jobs).



## 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, Charity Navigator, and Candid to evaluate the financial performance of a nonprofit.

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



Grant support is instrumental in our continued success.

### WE WANT TO THANK:

- Albertson Companies Foundation - 1815 Community Employment Day Program
- Bears Care - PAL Program
- IDOT - Wilke Intermediate Care Facility
- Nicor Gas - 1815 Community Employment Day Program
- Rotary Club of Palatine - ACES Day Program
- Turano Foundation - CHILD therapy



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*For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.*