



# THE COMMUNITY

## WE ARE CLEARBROOK

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



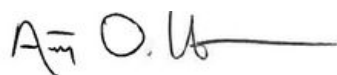
## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

As the sun begins to shine later and the weather becomes warmer, it is hard not to feel a sense of relief and joy. No more leaving work when it's dark or being stuck inside due to frigid temperatures or snow. The days become longer and the world brighter.

I can't help but feel the same about Clearbrook and our fight against COVID-19. While the battle still rages on, 2021 brought us a light at the end of the tunnel: vaccines. Thanks to the tenacity of our staff, we have been able to vaccinate more than 2,500 individuals, their caregivers, and staff against the deadly disease that declared war on the world a year ago.

Thanks to this bit of "sunshine," I feel the same sense of relief and happiness as I do when the seasons change. My staff and the individuals entrusted to us are protected. Over the past year, the Clearbrook community has shown itself to be strong, generous, and compassionate.

We have had to be flexible in almost every aspect, from programming to events, and still have a ways to go before things can go back to what they once were. For now, I am content to sit here and reflect in my little bit of sunshine. My wish for you is that you are able to find your own bit of warmth as we welcome spring.



**Anthony Di Vittorio**  
President/CEO



## THE COMMUNITY CORNER

Clearbrook recently opened up our intermediate care facilities to visitors. Scott was able to share his first hug in over a year with his mom. The icing on the cake? It also happened to be his 50th birthday.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Individuals at CHOICE McHenry are happy to be back together with the staff!

To celebrate, the staff brought an electric griddle so some of the individuals could bake chocolate pancakes for lunch!

CHOICE McHenry is based in Crystal Lake, Illinois. It is one of Clearbrook West's wide array of programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Learn more at [www.clearbrook.org/west](http://www.clearbrook.org/west).



Tiffany (left) poses with Laurie Aponte, Director of Nursing at the Commons, in PPE.

## FRONTLINE STAFF WINS AWARD

Tiffany Carey, a nurse at the Lattof Commons, was named the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) 2020 Community Care Professional of the Year.

She was selected among 19 total nominees from 13 intellectual/developmental disability or behavioral health services providers. The award is given to a frontline staff member working in an IARF member agency.

This award recognizes the high level of care, compassion, person-centered focus, and commitment Tiffany provides to those in her care.

Reflecting on the past year, Tiffany says, "you knew you could count on anyone for anything. For those that were extremely sick, we sat with them. We held their hands. We made sure they were never alone. That's what we do here. We love them and they love us."

# COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

The Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) serves adult residents of McHenry County who are diagnosed with an intellectual/developmental disability and/or have a mental illness. It is designed to support the community while providing additional assistance to the current individuals Clearbrook West serves.

## HOW DO YOU MAKE THE FIRST APPOINTMENT?

The first appointment is usually scheduled by contacting Clearbrook's Licensed Clinical Professional Counsel (LCPC). The priority of the first appointment is to assess the risk and therapeutic needs of the client and develop a personalized treatment plan with the individual.

## WHAT TYPES OF THERAPY METHODS ARE USED?

The CMHC is person-centered and utilizes solution-focused, cognitive-behavioral, and dialectical-behavioral therapies. Sessions are scheduled based upon the individual's needs. There are three ways in which sessions can be set up, including individual-based, group-based, or family-based. Let us be your guide towards a strong mental health system. Learn more at [www.clearbrook.org/west](http://www.clearbrook.org/west).

Naturally Gifted, located in Crystal Lake, is designed to offer vocational enrichment and hands-on skills training for our individuals. All products are made with therapeutic-grade essential oils by our individuals.

SHOP: [www.clearbrook.org/natgift](http://www.clearbrook.org/natgift)



## CLEARBROOK VACCINATES 2,500+

Despite the challenges COVID-19 presented, our mission has always remained the same: to enrich the lives of thousands with intellectual and developmental disabilities and empower them to embrace their potential. Our staff have truly gone above and beyond to keep those entrusted to us safe, happy, and engaged.

This is especially true when it comes to the COVID-19 vaccine. Clearbrook President and CEO, Anthony Di Vittorio, says "Clearbrook staff were tenacious when they heard vaccines were available and that our people were eligible. They called pharmacies, set up clinics at our facilities, and organized everything."

Since January, Clearbrook has vaccinated more than 2,500 individuals, their caregivers, and staff. All individuals and staff in our residential programs have been offered the vaccine. We hope to keep hosting clinics when the vaccine becomes available to everyone. So far, the focus has been on getting those in the Clearbrook community their shot. We hope to expand our clinics to people who have a connection to the ID/DD world in April. For example, special education departments at schools or families with a loved one with a disability that do not receive our services.

Clearbrook's vaccine clinics have given so many people hope. Here's what one family has to say:

*"Please express our thanks and gratitude to the Clearbrook team for the vaccination clinic today. Both Ryan & Christopher were able to get vaccine doses. Our experience with the process was great. The Clearbrook team should be proud of how well and efficiently run the program was today. We are grateful for Clearbrook and what it does for us and others."*



# BE A PARTNER 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 online at [www.clearbrook.org/donate/give-monthly/](http://www.clearbrook.org/donate/give-monthly/) or by calling Andi Wojcik, Director of Development, at [847-385-5014](tel:847-385-5014).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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



## GET CLEARBROOK GEAR

Shop the official Clearbrook store and get branded shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and more! Men, women, and children's sizes are available.

[www.bonfire.com/store/clearbrook](http://www.bonfire.com/store/clearbrook)



## VIRTUAL FRIENDS EVENT RAISES \$60,000

Clearbrook hosted their annual Friends Wine & Craft Beer Tasting on February 27. Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually. Martin Ray Winery and Church Street Brewery offered wine and beer packages to participants. Both companies shared a little about their products as event guests enjoyed the tastings in the comfort of their homes.

The evening's fun included the chance to win a Peloton Bike and other exciting items during the silent auction. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the event raised \$60,000.

Clearbrook would like to thank the event's sponsors: Workday, BorgWarner, Assurance, Cardinal Color Group, Bakertilly, Allen & Janet Lattof, BMO Harris Bank, Canon, and D'Vine Wine & Gifts.

## 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 8% applied to administrative overhead. **92% of every dollar goes right back to our programs and services.**



Support Clearbrook by shopping on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Make us your selected charity and Clearbrook will receive 0.05% of your total.



"Thank you, Clearbrook, for this gift for Jack and the opportunity to get back into the community. You have helped reopen so many social doors closed by COVID-19 a year ago. This is HUGE and our family is so very grateful."

**-Holly, parent of Jack, after he received his second vaccine**



"Clearbrook is a very client centric organization. They make decisions based on what's best for the people they serve. The direct staff that work with my son are caring, compassionate, and committed."

**-Ed Fiorentino, Clearbrook Board Member and parent of Tommy**