

THE COMMUNITY

MARCH 2026 | ISSUE 17



WE ARE CLEARBROOK

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



CLEARBROOK

Enrich Lives. Embrace Potential.

clearbrook.org | info@clearbrook.org | (847) 870-7711 | 1835 W. Central Road | Arlington Heights, IL 60005



@we.are.clearbrook



@clearbrook



@clearbrook1



@clearbrook_il



@clearbrook

2025 IN REVIEW



A new Vocational Simulation Lab opened at the 1815 Employment Day Program.

Clearbrook Self-Advocates met with 15 legislative representatives at the annual legislative breakfast.



WGN9 visited CDS Rolling Meadows.



We purchased a new CILA home in Woodstock, built by high school students in the District 200 Building Trades Program.

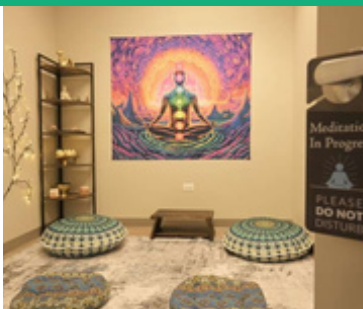


We welcomed over 250 people to our inaugural Family Night in the Park event.

Clearbrook's microbusiness, Naturally Gifted, was rebranded and relaunched with a whole new product line.



We opened our third Community Mental Health Center in Libertyville.



The Commons Intermediate Care Facility celebrated its 40th anniversary!



NBC5 visited the Kerry Way CILA.

CDS Rolling Meadows officially opened in May.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Clearbrook Community,

At Clearbrook, we are committed to growing responsibly to meet the needs of those we support. Every step forward is rooted in a shared commitment to expanding opportunities, strengthening services, and ensuring that each individual feels seen, valued, and empowered.

In October, we launched our Community Support Rolling Meadows day program through the Community Mental Health Center. This program fills a critical need for adults with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and I/DD, offering a space where participants can build independence, form meaningful connections, and engage more fully in the community.

Our expansion continued in November with the opening of CHOICE Libertyville, the first of two new Libertyville community day programs designed to serve more individuals throughout Lake County. The second location will open this summer, extending our reach even further.

Growth at Clearbrook isn't only reflected in new programs and physical spaces; it also shows up in the strength of our community. In December, more than 120 CILA residents participated in our Holiday Shoppe, selecting over 300 donated gifts for their loved ones. The generosity of our staff made this possible and demonstrated how our organization continues to grow not just in size, but in compassion, connection, and shared purpose.

In January, our Getz location officially closed after 20 years of serving as home to programs, workshops, offices, and more. Simultaneously, we celebrated the opening of CDS Hoffman Estates, a thoughtfully designed space now providing 45 individuals with the stability, belonging, and individualized care they deserve.

Thank you for being part of a community that continues to grow with purpose, compassion, and heart. All these accomplishments are fueled by your support.



Jessica Smart
Clearbrook President/CEO



CMHC Rolling Meadows



CHOICE Libertyville



The Holiday Shoppe



CDS Hoffman Estates

CLEARBROOK IN THE NEWS



FOX32 VISITS PAL

In January, FOX32's Brian Jackson visited our PAL program in Rolling Meadows to learn how personalized communication tools help empower the individuals we serve.

Through the PAL program, participants build independence, confidence, and meaningful connection.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CLEARBROOK

This past holiday season, local favorite restaurant Photos Hotdogs raised \$3k for Clearbrook through their holiday gift card campaign.

Photos owner Jim Photopoulos and Clearbrook's Noel Rosen joined CBS Chicago to share how the campaign allowed community members to support the local business while helping to further Clearbrook's mission.



Watch the segments at clearbrook.org/news

Moments That Matter



Community outings empower our program participants to build their independence and experience true inclusion.

Keep an eye out for our Spring Appeal and how you can support these moments that matter!

UPCOMING EVENTS

clearbrook.org/events

Shining Star Ball

April 10, 2026
The Ritz-Carlton
Chicago



Family Night in the Park

June 2, 2026
Kimball Hill Park
Rolling Meadows

Clearbrook on Cue

June 8, 2026
Metropolis
Performing Arts
Centre



Challenge Golf Outing

July 13, 2026
Exmoor
Highland Park

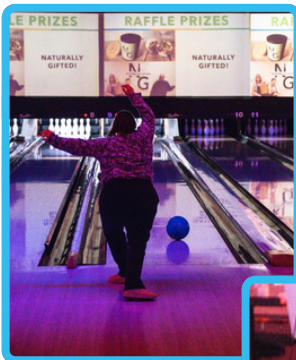


Step It Up Walk/Run

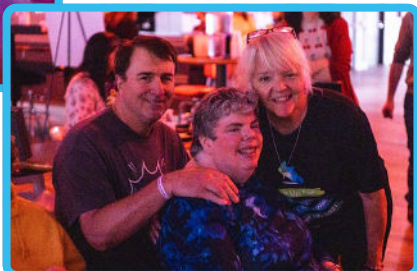
September 19, 2026
Cronin Park
Arlington Heights



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT LOVE-A-BOWL 2026!



Over 180 people attended Love-A-Bowl on March 7! Together, we raised nearly \$18k for Clearbrook's mission.



NEXT UP...

FAMILY NIGHT IN THE PARK!

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a festive summer evening of food, friends, activities, and entertainment on June 2 at Kimball Hill Park in Rolling Meadows.





BEST IN CLASS

Staff Spotlight



We are delighted to acknowledge **Samantha Kenzer**, Child & Family Connections (CFC) Service Coordinator, for her incredible work supporting Clayton, a young child receiving Early Intervention services, and his family.



Clayton’s parents shared that from their very first meeting, Samantha’s genuine care, patience, and deep understanding exceeded any expectations they had. She has celebrated every milestone with the family—from Clay’s transition from a feeding tube to bottles, to weaning off a ventilator, to proudly witnessing his first steps. Samantha brings creativity and a whole-child perspective to her work, prioritizing connecting with the entire family and every provider.

Clay’s family shares immense gratitude for Samantha, noting that he would not be where he is today without her. Thank you, Samantha. You are a shining example of our Strong Leadership and Client Focused core values.

CREATE A LEGACY THAT LASTS

Make a Profound Impact for Generations to Come

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 helps shape a brighter tomorrow. Make your will a tool for enduring, positive impact.

Learn more at clearbrook.org/planned-giving or scan the QR code to let us know you’ve included Clearbrook in your will or trust.

LET US KNOW ABOUT A GIFT IN YOUR WILL/TRUST



ADVOCACY

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. MAKE A CHANGE.

Clearbrook's network of over 1,200 advocates works to advance our mission. Twenty-seven of those advocates are self-advocates (individuals served by Clearbrook) who are speaking up for their right to live their fullest life possible.

Help us make a difference in the lives of thousands by signing up to be an advocate and making your voice heard. Go to clearbrook.org/advocacy to get started.



Clearbrook Self-Advocates

VISIT US

Our programs and services are the core of Clearbrook. Experience them in action! We would love to show you around.



Go to clearbrook.org/tour OR Contact Katie at kveatch@clearbrook.org to schedule a tour.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Looking for a career that will make a difference? Consider Clearbrook! We offer fulfilling work, competitive pay, and an outstanding culture. Full and part-time positions, flexible or set schedules, and internships are available now.

Learn more and apply at 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.



WE WANT TO THANK:

- A Better Hope Foundation, Addison Township, and Full Circle Foundation - supporting CILAs
- All Saints Lutheran Church Ministries, Bears Care, Dr. Scholl Foundation, Duly Health Foundation, Rotary Club of Arlington Heights, Grace Bersted Foundation, and Turano Foundation - supporting CDS
- Rotary Club of Palantine - supporting Naturally Gifted

Grant support is instrumental in our continued success.



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For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.