

Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center

A not-for-profit organization to promote the welfare of the mentally challenged

P.O. Box 754
Park Forest, IL 60466

NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2014

PFLC Launches Its Own Website

We are very happy to make an exciting announcement. Parents and Friends is launching its very own website. Recognizing a clear need for more immediate communication options in the digital age, we have created ludemanpflc.org.

Logging onto our website will allow you to access an array of information about PFLC, its upcoming events, digital access to our newsletters, ways you can help the organization, current updates on the Federal lawsuit, and links to varied and valuable resources regarding Ludeman, guardian rights, and current issues related to the intellectually and developmentally disabled.

You can logon right now at ludemanpflc.org. Check it out and send us feedback as to what you like and what more you would like to see on our new website. It is a work in progress.

PFLC General Meeting

Gym Building 64

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Refreshments 1:30 pm

Meeting: 2:00 pm

Agenda:

- **Guest Speaker – VOR's Jill Barker** - See page 2 for more about Jill Barker
- **Update on the Federal Lawsuit**
- **Center Update: Glenda Corbett, Ludeman Director**

Please make plans to attend this meeting.

ABOUT JILL BARKER – OUR SPEAKER AT THE APRIL 27TH GENERAL MEETING

Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center is pleased to announce that Jill Barker, a VOR Board of Directors Member, is our speaker for the April General Meeting.

Jill Barker is the mother of two adult sons with profound intellectual and developmental disabilities. She serves on the VOR Board of Directors, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and the Friends of the Developmentally Disabled Organization. Jill lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan with her husband and daughter.

Jill will provide us with an update on:

1. The status of State Operated Developmental Centers at the national level.
2. Guardianship Rights as seen from the federal level.
3. The Annual VOR Washington DC Initiative in June, 2014

OUR SINCERE THANKS...

2013 Protect Our Residents Donors

Because of the generous donations from so many of you to the Protect Our Residents Campaign, we can continue our critical fight to keep Ludeman and the other State Operated Development Centers (SODC) open. *There are more names than we have room to thank here, but know your generosity is so appreciated always!*

2013 Donor – Special Recognition

Suburban Service League continues to give a generous annual donation for the events we provide for Ludeman Residents' enjoyment.

Fall FunFest 2013 Donors

Mrs. Lois S. Angstadt
Mrs. Louise Behlke
Ms. Bernice Cannon
Mr. John Dillard
Mr. & Mrs. David Gaichas
Erlean Gilbert
Mrs. Doris E. Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Heinze, Sr
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Kennealy
Mrs. Mary C. Kozy
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Kyser
Mr. Robert D. Littlefield
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Lovering
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Mays
James H. McCarthy
Dee McClaran
Janice Moskowitz
Mrs. Mary E. Myers
Mr. Michael D. Porche

Representative Al Riley
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Rozensky
Ms. Barbara M. Schau
Ms. Martha Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Steiner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stoneroad
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Sullivan

Donors

J. Spellman Hope
Donald Johnson
R. Machuga
Ulyes Myles
Anne Patellaro
G. Shekleton
Phyllis Starke
Shirley Walters Toliver

Summer Gala 2013 Donors

Mr. & Mrs. J. Bailey
Walter Cosby, Jr.
Erlean Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. M. Hrebenak
Mr. & Mrs. G. Jones
Ivory Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. P. Keipert
Mr. & Mrs. J. Kennealy
Mr. & Mrs. J. Kowal
K. Kozy
Carolyn Meno
Mary Meyers
Mr. & Mrs. J. Steiner
Mr. & Mrs. A. Swock

LATEST UPDATE ON FEDERAL LAWSUIT

After numerous delays, our Federal Lawsuit finally moved forward. The Preliminary Injunction Hearing took place on January 7th through 9th 2014 before Federal Judge Marvin Aspen in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Along with PFLC, this Federal Lawsuit is being spearheaded by IL-ADD (Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled), the Murray Parents Association, & parents groups from the other five remaining State Operated Developmental Centers (SODCs).

In the suit, we argue that the current process being used by the Illinois Department of Human Services to close Murray Developmental Center and other SODCs is in clear violation of guardian rights and of residents' rights to appropriate levels of service. Our attorneys cite, in part, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Medicaid Act, as the basis of the state's violation of federal law.

Our lead attorney, Judith Sherwin, said in her opening statement that this lawsuit isn't solely about the potential closing of the Murray Developmental Center, but will instead "determine for many years to come how Illinois cares for people with developmental disabilities."

Over three days of testimony, the court heard from Kevin Casey, the Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services; Mark Doyle, who was appointed by Governor Quinn to oversee the closing of the SODCs; and Rick Starr, current Center Director at Murray; among others.

Arguing as expert witnesses for our side were Rita Winkeler, President of the Murray Developmental Center Parents Group; Tracy Howell, a nurse from Murray Center; and Greg Shaver, a psychologist and director of the Kaskaskia Workshop in Centralia; among others.

As is the case in trials of this magnitude, the wait for a verdict can be a long one. We do not anticipate a decision from Judge Aspen until April or May. Regardless of the verdict though an appeal by one side or the other is still likely.

You can find more information and current updates regarding this all important case, on our new website: ludemanpflc.org. As soon as a verdict is in or more is known, you will find it there.

And as you already know, the cost of a lawsuit of this nature is staggering. We appreciate and thank you for your past support and ask that you continue to be as generous as you possibly can be in support of our Protect our Residents Fund.

Checks can be written to: Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center

Mail yours to:

PFLC
P.O. Box 754
Park Forest, IL 60466

NEWS FROM GLENDA M. CORBETT, CENTER DIRECTOR

March 2014

STATUS OF SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS

At the present time, the Ludeman Center has 3 outstanding standard level tags **W227**, **W249**, and **W460**. All other tags were cleared from our 2013 Annual Survey. The Center is currently in substantial compliance with ICF/DD Regulations. ICF/DD Regulations are the standards that the Ludeman Center must comply with as evaluated during surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and/of Federal Surveyors from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Ludeman Center last underwent an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Annual Certification Survey with Federal Partnership on September 20, 2013.

As an outcome of the follow-up survey, the Ludeman Center received only 3 repeat Standard Level tags. No Immediate Jeopardy Citations or Conditions of Participation which are considered serious issues were issued. The success of Public Health Surveys ensures that the Ludeman Center remains certified as an Intermediate Care Facility/Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) residential provider in the Federal Medicaid program. Doing so means that Ludeman Center will continue to bring back to the State of Illinois approximately one-half of Ludeman's operating budget. Maintaining certification is an extremely important measurement of the level of quality care and services we currently provide to the 418 people with developmental disabilities residing at the Ludeman Center.

Our Life Safety Survey was conducted on September 22 thru September 28, 2013. We were cited with 15 standard level Life Safety tags which have been corrected.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET

Old Business - Ludeman's budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (07/01/13 through 06/30/14) is once again scarce but there are no major program cuts for human services in the Governor's budget. A new AFSCME contract that includes \$61.5 million in raises for AFSCME workers was passed. I will give an update on the new budget within the next few months.

New Business-We have been blessed. We are scheduled to receive 41 new full-time technicians. Every effort continues to be made to fill critical staff vacancies as they occur. However, the process of filling staff vacancies remains very time consuming and is often filled with delays as we have to wait on signatures from several different levels. Even with a plethora of obstacles we remain optimistic. We received the final approval from the Governor's Office to appoint Regina Y. Jackson into the Assistant Center Director position. She was officially appointed on September 16, 2013. Unfortunately, Ms. Jackson has made the decision to retire effective April 30 of this year. Thank you all for your efforts in ensuring that Ludeman received permanent leadership. We will definitely keep you all in the loop while we search for a replacement for Ms. Jackson. We will have a retirement party for her so please come out and wish her well.

Ludeman's overtime is currently at 17.38%. We are working hard to reach our goal of 8%. We saw a 4.3% drop in overtime in the last 2 weeks of February. The 41 new technicians are schedule to start April 16, 2014. Ludeman Center staff continues to do their best to provide the high quality care and services you expect from us. Resources are stretched more than ever and many staff continue to perform additional/extra duties and functions. As staff and other resources change, everyone at Ludeman remains well aware of the very important responsibility we all have to meet the needs of everyone who lives at the Center. Our focus will never divert from our obligation to provide high quality care and services within a safe and secure environment. Client protection is our most important responsibility. We intend to continue to meet these obligations.

MURRY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CENTER CLOSURE

As you all are aware, litigation is on-going. In the interim, The Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Human Services remains confident that at some time they will be able to continue to work with the

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individuals, family members, guardians and their individual support teams to implement the closure while assisting in the relocation and transition for each resident.

Everyone knows this has been a challenging time and it is important for all of us to understand the importance of supporting the people currently being served at SODC's and their families with dignity and respect throughout the continued closure and transition activities statewide.

OTHER INFORMATION

Ludeman's Dietary Services remains temporarily located at the Oak Forest Hospital. The construction process has begun and we are schedule for a May opening of our new dietary kitchen.

Parking / Road Issues: Nursing staff will no longer be able to use flashing lights in the fire lane. According to Director of Operations, Sam Osun, he has spoken with the Chief of Police and parents picking up their loved ones should use their hazard lights when picking up and dropping off. Any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Osun at 708-283-3009. We continue to wait patiently on final approval for the 2 million in funds to repair roads and parking lots.

The Short Term Admit program is progressing very well. 15 individuals have been successfully transitioned back into the community.

The "Ludeman Community Medical Training Rotation Program" is also going very well. As you all are aware, we had our first student begin residency in November of 2012. We have partnered with Medical Schools to allow their resident physicians, medical students, nurse practitioner students and physician assistant students to complete part of their residency at the Center by shadowing our physicians, etc. The goals of the program are to educate medical students on the rehabilitation needs of individuals in Developmental Centers, Integrated Primary Medical Care, Preventive Medicine/Geriatric Medicine, legal issues involving medical care of those determined to be legally incompetent of making their own medical decisions and assessment of intelligence quotient and its implications in medical care.

We reestablished a partnership with Governors State University and had our first student begin interning back in September 2012. Since then we have had 5 new interns. Governors State University's College of Health and Human Services and the Department of Psychology and Counseling will continue to bring new innovative ideas to the Center.

"Café 64" has 2 new "graduates"!!! They started employment with Daddy Donuts in Park Forest, IL on Friday 3/14/14!!! Please support Daddy Donuts located at 3724 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL. The owner is Feda Ibrahim. Stop in and say hello to the first Café 64 graduates!

We are currently collaborating with Southwest Community Services on another outstanding program. We are establishing the "Ludeman Community Clinic" which will offer specialty clinics to individuals being served in the community. We are looking at a Grand Opening sometime in May.

The garden staff has begun greenhouse seed planting for the "Ludeman Garden". We are looking forward to the fresh produce, which will be used in the Snackery and sold to local restaurants. We plan to open a "market" which will be open to the community. We plan to sell fresh flowers, houseplants, and produce.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to communicate with my office.

Glenda M. Corbett, Center Director, (708) 283-3001.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOUR MONTHS OF FUN ACTIVITIES FOR LUDEMAN RESIDENTS

SEPTEMBER

In September, four individuals participated in the Special Olympics Bowling Practice at The Tinley Park Bowling Lanes. On September 7th, 40 individuals from Unit II attended a Northwestern University Football game where they had a great time cheering for the teams and snacking on food items purchased from the concession stand. On September 21st, 40 individuals from Unit I attended a football game at Northwestern. They also had fun cheering and enjoyed the food they purchased. On Sept. 10th, 40 individuals from Unit II had a great time attending a volleyball game at the University of St. Francis. On Sept. 12th, 40 individuals from Unit III also went to a volleyball game at St. Francis and had a great time. On September 17th, Unit II went to a volley ballgame at St. Xavier where they had an exciting time enjoying the game in the beautiful Fall weather. Last, but not least, on Sept. 28th, Unit III had 40 people go to a football game at St. Francis where they cheered the teams on and enjoyed a variety of delicious snacks.

OCTOBER

There were three separate trips to Bengston Pumpkin Farm in Homer Glen. A total of 75 individuals Center-wide were in attendance. Everyone enjoyed getting out in the fresh air, being around the animals and seeing all the pumpkins. They ate taffy apples and really enjoyed watching the pig race. There was also a trip to Brookfield Zoo (on free admission day) that was attended by 25 individuals from Unit II. A great time was had by all, watching all the different animals and walking through the exhibits.

NOVEMBER

On Nov. 22nd, 18 individuals from Unit II had a wonderful time at Medieval Times in Schaumburg. They were all so excited to wave their flags and cheer for the Red Knight. They loved the dinner of chicken and ribs with baked potatoes and vegetables and caught on quickly that it was "ok" for them to eat with their hands. To top off the night, the Red Knight won the competition which was very exciting for the entire group. On Nov. 23rd, 13 individuals from Unit I went on a trip to Navy Pier. They all enjoyed walking around the Pier while doing a little shopping. Afterwards a stop at Portillos Hot Dogs was a hit! Everyone really enjoyed their delicious meals. The final November trip was to a Wolves Hockey game on Nov. 16th. Ten individuals attended and enjoyed watching the game and having snacks.

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DECEMBER

December included a lot of planning for the long awaited Silver Lake Country Club Christmas Party in Orland Park. There was a fantastic turn out of over 270 individuals. Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious dinner of chicken, pot-roast, mashed potatoes and vegetables. The entertainment included a DJ and a singer. Both were enjoyed by everyone. There was also a great photographer who was sure to capture photos of everyone. Soon after dinner, the dance floor was full and everyone danced the night away. A wonderful time was had by all!!! Stay tuned for next year.....

This list & these activities made possible through the cooperation of Glenda Corbett, ELDC Director; Curt Hastings, Fiscal Services Director; Mike Spicker, Assistant Chief Engineer; Keith Taylor, LEVRAS Director; and Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center organization. Activity Therapy Dept. Ken Taylor, Norris Jackson, Steven Drotts, and Steve Burnett.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY NUT SALE WRAP-UP

The Annual Holiday Nut Sale is once again Parents and Friends biggest fundraising effort of the year. When final dollars are in and tallied, we should clear almost \$5,000. You can be assured that all money raised will be used to enhance the quality of life for all the Ludeman residents and to advocate on their behalf.

Our Top Sellers:

- Haley Family – 44 cases
- Ed Theriault – 26 cases
- Paul Keipert – 26 cases
- Neil Sullivan – 16 cases
- Shirley Walters Tolliver – 12 cases

Our Volunteers Who Sold Five or More Cases:

- Mary Beth Olsen – 8 cases
- Cheryl Weisbrodt – 8 cases
- SPRED Group – 7 cases
- Bob & Gayle Cooley – 5 cases
- Uyles Myles – 5 cases

Thanks so much to everyone for your hard work and dedication.

Fred Flynn & John Haley
Nut Sale Drive Chairs

Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center

P.O. Box 754

Park Forest, Illinois 60466

Upcoming Events:

April 13th Spring Disk Jockey Dance, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

April 20th Easter Sunday

April 27th PFLC General Meeting, 2:00 pm

May 11th Mother's Day

May 26th Memorial Day

June 7th PFLC's SUMMER GALA, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

June 15th Father's Day

June 21st Summer Begins