

# Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center

P.O. Box 754, Park Forest, Illinois 60466

[www.ludemanpflc.org](http://www.ludemanpflc.org)

[Ludeman.PFLC@gmail.com](mailto:Ludeman.PFLC@gmail.com)



**NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2019**

***PFLC SPRING GENERAL MEETING***

***\*\* SUNDAY \*\* APRIL 28, 2019***

***ELISABETH LUDEMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER***

***114 ORCHARD DRIVE, BUILDING 64***

***PARK FOREST, IL 60466***

***REFRESHMENTS: 1:30 P.M.***

***MEETING: 2:00 P.M.***

## **AGENDA**

**JOHN HALEY, PFLC PRESIDENT**

**LISA ROBINSON, Ludeman Center Director**

**BRETT BANKS, HPC and Case Worker**

**LUDEMAN CENTER STINGERS BASKETBALL TEAM**

**SHOW**

**WELCOME**

**LUDEMAN UPDATE**

**BASKETBALL COACH**

**BASKETBALL SHOOT AROUND**

The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center mission is to advocate for the rights of all the residents of Elisabeth Ludeman Center. We will work with the center to provide quality of life enhancement for individuals with disabilities, and to act as a support organization for the family members and friends of the residents. We are an all-volunteer organization.

# **Don't Miss It! - Our Next PFLC General Membership Meeting**

**Sunday, April 28, 2019**

**Refreshments at 1:30 pm**

**Meeting at 2:00 pm**

Be among the first 45 guests through the door and receive a free box of Georgia Deluxe Mixed Nuts.

Get updates on all that's happening at the Ludeman Center – including the 1<sup>st</sup> major new roads, parking lots & walking paths project since the Ludeman Center's creation.

Featured Speakers at the meeting include:

- Lisa Robinson – Ludeman's new Center Director
- Basketball Coach Brett Banks (HPC & Case Worker) and the Ludeman Stingers Basketball Team - Come see their shoot around!

## **2019 VOR Washington, D.C. Conference**

Paul Keipert, our PFLC Treasurer and Board Member, has volunteered to attend the VOR Conference to represent the PFLC Developmentally Disabled in Washington, D.C. from June 8 – 12th. Paul will be walking the halls of Congress to visit each office of our Illinois Legislators. Thank you, Paul, for devoting your time and talents to this important conference. VOR is an important advocate for the Developmentally Disabled community. Please support this organization by visiting their web page and become a member. The annual membership fee is \$40.00.

**VOR Link:** <http://www.vor.net/>

## **IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF & INVOLVED IN...**

In the Illinois General Assembly, there are two bills that reference sex education for developmentally disabled individuals that should be a 'watch point' for family and friends.

HB3299 sponsored by Representative William Davis allows for an individual's decision to participate in sex education and activities. It does not explicitly state that the guardian has the final determination if the individual they represent can or cannot participate in sex education and activities.

HB3071 sponsored by Representative Charles Meier has specific language that supports guardian rights to determine and decide if sex education and activities are appropriate for the individual and provides consent.

As many of you are aware, there are several Ludeman Residents that participate in the Illinois Special Olympics. As this newsletter was being prepared to 'go to print', several news sources stated that the current federal administration ordered that an 18-million-dollar Special Olympics fund would be eliminated. Because advocates for Special Olympics raised their voices, loud and clear, the order was reversed, and the funds will be provided for Special Olympics.

Please continue to be an advocate for your loved one, and all people that are Developmentally Disabled. Your voice matters only when it is heard by the decision makers that impact our communities.

# Elisabeth Ludeman Center Updates

Lisa Robinson - Ludeman Center Director

## Greetings from the Center Director

Spring has sprung at the Ludeman Center. We look forward to the warm breezes and sunshine, so we can get outside and enjoy mother nature. Toward that end we are thrilled to announce that the Ludeman Center has received appropriation from the state for rebuilding the roads, parking lots, and walking paths. We have been informed that this project has been fast tracked and will hopefully begin this summer. In addition, the Center is being scheduled for an additional capital project which will replace all of the Center's aging water lines.

## Other Ludeman Center News

**Activities:** The swimming pool is operational on scheduled days/times. Please see the Activity Therapy Department Calendar for more detailed information. The Spring Fling is right around the corner. It will be held on April 3, 2019 at Silver Lake Country Club. Everyone is very excited to attend this formal event.

**Personnel Actions:** Ludeman welcomed the following staff in the Month of March: (1) Educator; (1) Administrative Assistant II, promoted; and (23) Mental Health Technician Trainees. In other personnel news on April 1, 2019 we welcome Timothy Montgomery as our Assistant Center Director. Mr. Montgomery has 15 years' experience working in different positions within the State of Illinois. During his State employment, Mr. Montgomery has held the positions of Public Service Administrator for SODC Operations, Mental Health Administrator I, Mental Health Administrator II, and Acting Unit Director at Shapiro Developmental Center. Mr. Montgomery possesses a Bachelor's degree in Network Administration and a Master's degree in Health Administration. Tim's experience and education make him ideally suited for the Assistant Center Director Role for Ludeman Center. We are fortunate to have him as part of our team.

**Employee Wellness Recognition Committee:** On March 15, 2019 Ludeman celebrated St. Patrick's Day with punch and green sugar cookies. On March 22, 2019 we celebrated Women's History Month with three inspirational speeches from Lisa Robinson, Center Director; Rosemary Hoch, Acting Assistant Center Director; and Makeba Billingsley, Director of Nursing. The Employee Wellness Recognition Committee has been working diligently as they are hosting Bring your Son/Daughter to Work Day in April.

I look forward to speaking at your PFLC General Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Once again, it is a genuine pleasure to serve the people of Elisabeth Ludeman Center and I thank you for your support.

Lisa Robinson, LCSW  
Center Director

# **Our 2018 Holiday Nut Sale Wrap-Up**

***For everything there is a season...***

***the Annual PFLC Holiday Nut Drive comes to a final end***

Alas, the 2018 Annual PFLC Holiday Nut Drive will be our last. For 40+ years, this has been not only our most successful yearly fundraiser but also a kind of annual holiday tradition. Many of us have been selling PFLC nuts for all those many years. My sister and I fondly remember helping our father with the PFLC drive, selling Georgia nuts at the Ascension School Christmas Bazaar. So, it was bittersweet for so many of us when we, the PFLC board, voted last month to bring this tradition to its rightful and necessary close.

Times change - nut allergies and nut prices are on the rise, our top sellers grow fewer, those remaining are no younger (did those 12-pound boxes really get heavier?). Most of all though the overarching reality is that the profits made through the Annual Nut fundraiser were diminishing each year and the trend line was only pointing down. Years ago, we regularly made well over \$10,000 a year on the nut sale; 4 years ago, it was \$5,600; this year just \$2,380. As one of our board members said, "We had a good run, but it's run its course".

The happy news is that while our nut fundraiser has been faltering, so many generous PFLC members have stepped up and filled the fundraising gap. We have reached out to you, informing you when lawsuits were pending, what projects and special events were planned and you have come through in a way that has allowed Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center to continue its mission of advocating for all our loved ones and bringing enhancements to their lives. We thank you for that. In the future, we will continue to need to lean on you and ask for help in supporting PFLC so together we can continue on with our vital shared mission.

**So now a final thanks goes out to...**

- \* The Georgia Nut Company for partnering with us for so many years
- \* Fred Flynn & his wife, Claudie, for so generously parking their car outside in wintery weather - November through January - so we could "warehouse" our product in their garage... year after year!
- \* Our many dedicated sellers who not only raised money for PFLC but in the process raised awareness of Parents & Friends, the Ludeman Center, and the special individuals it serves.
- \* And all of you for supporting the fundraiser these many, many years!

**And for one last time our top sellers this year were:**

- \* Haley Family - 27 cases
- \* Paul Keipert - 25 cases
- \* Shirley Walters Toliver – 18 cases
- \* Mark Svenningsen/SPRED Group – 7 cases
- \* Denise Hutton – 7 cases

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

**Fred Flynn & John Haley, Nut Sale Drive Co-Chairs**

## DONATIONS

Donations are still needed to fund the various activities PFLC sponsors for the enjoyment of the residents. We also continue to need your financial help for the Protect Our Residents legal fees. Your donations are put to good use. We are here for our residents. We are their voices. A little help from many goes a long way!

We have been extremely fortunate that a resident's family belongs to a very special organization. The organization is the **"100+ Women Who Care in Chicago Southland"**. Patti Byrnes nominated the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center organization as a candidate for a donation to use for the 'Benefit of Ludeman Residents'. The Byrnes family has a family member that lives at Ludeman and in their parent's honor they wanted to recognize our organization for all the work we do that benefits the residents.

The **"100+ Women Who Care in Chicago Southland"** organization approved a donation to us. Patti and James Byrnes presented twenty-one \$100.00 checks (\$2,100.00) to the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center!!! The funds will be put to good use for the benefit of the residents. Thank you, Patti and James Byrnes for such a generous, kind, and thoughtful gesture!

### Website News – [www.ludemanpflc.org](http://www.ludemanpflc.org)

**Amazon Smile Update** – Our Amazon Smile program that was started mid-year 2014 continues to be a success. As of March, 2019, the Amazon Smile Foundation has contributed \$520.55 to Parents and Friends. We just received our most recent donation of \$63.38, which is the largest single donation to date. We have 63 supporters on the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center Amazon Smile account. Congratulations, and we **THANK YOU** for your continued support.

If you are not a PFLC Amazon Smile supporter, go to our website [www.ludemanpflc.org](http://www.ludemanpflc.org) and click on the Amazon Smile "Get Started" button to have a portion of your purchase donated to PFLC! It's easy, and does not add additional charges to your order total.

**Visitors from Near and Far** – Since the [www.ludemanpflc.org](http://www.ludemanpflc.org) website was launched in 2014, we currently have 54 Followers, 7,153 Visitors, and 20,028 website views.

**Followers** – Want to be "In the Know"? Sign up to receive PFLC Updates! It's easy – go to the website, and in the lower right corner click on "Follow" and enter your e-mail address. You'll get updates on new postings to the website as well as photos, events, and resources.

### YOUR MONEY AT WORK – PFLC EXPENDITURES – 2018/2019

The following events for the benefit of the residents are scheduled for 2019:

2019 Summer Gala	\$2,000.00
2019 Fall Fun Fest	\$2,000.00
2019 Christmas Treats	\$ 800.00
2019 Winter DJ Dance	\$ 750.00
2019 Spring Fling Banquet	\$2,500.00
2019 Spring Fling Dance & Treats (on grounds)	\$ 725.00
2019 Spring DJ Dance	\$ 750.00
1 Speaker System and Bluetooth Microphone	\$ 236.65
Basketball Team Shoes	\$ 728.90
Inclement Weather Activities for 40 Homes	\$2,000.00

### The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center is a 501c (3) Non-Profit Organization

All donations are tax deductible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. We accept money, time and talent.

## **DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?**

Share your story with us about your loved one and what the Ludeman Center Means to them and to you and your family. Submit your entry for a future newsletter to our e-mail address, [Ludeman.pflc@gmail.com](mailto:Ludeman.pflc@gmail.com) or send it postal mail to:

Parents & Friend of Ludeman Center  
P.O. Box 754  
Park Forest, IL 60466

### **Kathy's Story**

I'd like to introduce you to our sister, Kathy, who is Developmentally Disabled and suffers from epileptic seizures. Kathy lived at home with her family until she was 15 years old. During her younger years, she would get frustrated with her limitations and at times take that frustration out on other family members. My parents needed to find a residential setting that could help Kathy deal with her abilities and limitations.

In the 1960s, residential services in Illinois were limited and did not encourage the individual to develop to their potential. Kathy moved to Missouri and lived in two different private residential facilities.

In 1983, the second private residential facility closed and Kathy was moved back home. Her maladaptive behaviors had increased to the point that my parents could no longer manage her needs at home.

In 1983, Kathy became a resident of the Elisabeth Ludeman Center in Park Forest. The Ludeman Center staff had the training and was able to redirect Kathy's maladaptive behaviors. It took patience, understanding and years for Kathy to overcome these challenges.

In 2005, Kathy's evaluation indicated she was ready to move into a community setting. Kathy moved into a brand-new home in the community. Kathy's maladaptive behavior was active again and she also required extensive surgery, which was successful. She was admitted to 10 hospitals in 12 months for her behavior. The community setting could no longer meet her needs and the Elisabeth Ludeman Center did not have any openings.

With no place to go, Kathy was admitted to two different sub-standard nursing homes that were unable to meet Kathy's needs. Her physical health decline was so severe while in the nursing home, she was rushed to the hospital; an Emergency Room physician asked if a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) was in place.

Finally, in 2008, Kathy was re-admitted to Ludeman. They have re-directed her behaviors again, did physical therapy to undo the lack of care at the nursing homes and she is back to being my sister again.

The Elisabeth Ludeman Center has, and continues to meet Kathy's needs as well as re-direct her maladaptive behaviors in a safe environment that is supported by the Ludeman Administration's highly trained support specialists, and the house staff that truly understands and provides extensive support to meet Kathy's needs so she can enjoy life despite the daily challenges of being Developmentally Disabled.

I know there are organizations that are working very hard to close the state community campuses that provide extensive services based on the individual's needs. I want people to know that just like you and I, our need for treatment and care changes as we experience the progression of life. The Developmentally Disabled have those needs too. The Developmentally Disabled community has a right to housing and appropriate services based on their needs and choice, not on budget reductions and lobbyist agendas.

Thank you, Ludeman Center, for protecting and saving our sister from an unknown outcome for her quality of life.

Kathy's Grateful Sisters,  
Sarah Ross and Pamela Hill  
PFLC Board Members since 2000

## ***“We all have a story to tell – Our Own.”***

– Partner’s Journal Background,  
Illinois Partners in Policymaking  
(1991-92)

I am a devoted mother of a loving son, Roosevelt. He has an intellectual disability with autistic tendencies and requires 24-hour care. Although his speech is very limited, he hears very well. I love him dearly. I am his voice and passionate advocate.

After Howe Center closed in 2010, Ludeman Developmental Center became the only Center located in the southland area. I therefore chose to transfer Roosevelt’s residency to Ludeman.

After living at Howe Center for almost three decades, it was a traumatic experience for Roosevelt to be suddenly uprooted. Actually, it was quite an ordeal for both of us. However, the consistency of his attendance at the same off-site workshop and a few familiar Howe staff faces at Ludeman helped to ease the transition. I do not ever want to experience that type of agony again. That is why I continually work towards keeping Ludeman Center open.

I served as an active Board Member at Howe Center and was also invited to become a Board Member at Ludeman Center. As sales is one of my strengths, I participated in nut sale fundraisers at both Howe and Ludeman Centers. Although PFLC is discontinuing the Annual Nut Drive as a fundraiser, it’s “been a good ride” for me and an enjoyable experience.

Ever since the beginning of the Special Olympics Program, Roosevelt has been a participant. At Howe Center, he became a cross-country champion skier, winning many trophies and medals. By him being essentially non-verbal, the Head Coach appointed me to be a coach for my son. Another Howe Board Member was the mother of a daughter with a hearing impairment. She was also appointed to be a coach for her daughter and would use sign language. We both enjoyed chaperoning and traveling with the Olympians, nurse and staff, helping out wherever and whenever needed – while of course coaching our loved ones at their meets, for both Summer and Winter games. Total parental support and togetherness are very important to me. I am relentless in my efforts to achieve those goals.

I strive to promote freedom of choice; parental, friends and family involvement; as well as inclusion of social activities. While at Howe Center, through the South Suburban Special Recreation Association, my son Roosevelt participated in numerous activities like horseback riding, recreational swimming, gymnastics, aerobics, bowling, golf and creative arts. At Ludeman Center, he has participated in fashion shows, community outings, open gym activities and leisure walks. And of course, he participates in various activities during his regularly scheduled home visits. I’m glad that Roosevelt can experience the “best of both worlds” by participating in home *and* on-site activities.

I was encouraged with our new Director Lisa Robinson’s statement at our January Board Meeting that she sought to provide a “quick fix” for the repair of the roads until the actual repairs take place in mid-2019. With the recent improvements of the roof and windows, and the upcoming improvements of the roads and wheelchair lanes, I am looking forward to Ludeman becoming an even greater Center that will be shown through the pride and high morale exhibited among its residents and staff.

My top priorities at Ludeman Center have always been health, safety and good nutrition. I can only rest well when I know that my son is part of a quality organization with a nurturing, considerate and caring staff. Above all, I want my son to be safe, protected, healthy and happy. Being involved with a well-run, state-operated Center that strives to avoid regulatory “tags” and to meet all qualification standards, truly promotes that goal. It’s important for all of us to keep Ludeman on the path to becoming a state-of-the-art Center – filled with endless hope and optimism for the future.

This is **MY** story.

**Shirley Walters Toliver**

Parent/ Legal Guardian/ PFLC Board Member

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## Spring Has Sprung – Come Out and Have Some Fun!



### Come Out and Support PLFC Sponsored Events

Spring DJ Dance – Ludeman Gym, Bldg. 64	April 7	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Spring General Meeting Ludeman Gym, Bldg. 64	April 28	1:30 p.m. Refreshments 2:00 p.m. Meeting
Summer Gala – Ludeman Center Grounds	June 8	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Fall Fun Fest – Ludeman Center Grounds	Sept. 21	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Fall General Meeting Ludeman Gym, Bldg. 64	Oct. 27	1:30 p.m. Refreshments 2:00 p.m. Meeting
Ludeman Trick or Treat – On Grounds	Oct. 31	4:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Ludeman Trick or Treat – Party! Bldg. 64	Oct. 31	6:00 p.m.
Fall DJ Dance – Ludeman Gym, Bldg. 64	Nov. 10	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Holiday Treats - Cupcakes & Ice Cream	Dec. 31	2:30 p.m.