

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

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www.ludemanpflc.org

Ludeman.PFLC@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

THE ELISABETH LUDEMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER IS LOCATED AT 114 ORCHARD DRIVE, PARK FOREST, IL. 60466 AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 708-283-3000.

PAMELA HILL, PFLC PRESIDENT

JOHN HALEY, PFLC VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL KEIPERT, PFLC TREASURER

ANGIE KASKEY, PFLC RECORDING SECRETARY

SARAH ROSS, PFLC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

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.

PFLC 2020 - 2021 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The PFLC Board continues to assess our plans for events and activities for the Ludeman Residents. At this time, the COVID-19 Pandemic has not subsided to a level that we feel safe to begin booking in-person events at the Ludeman Center. Planning for the DJ Dances, Spring Fling, Summer Gala, and Fall Fun Fest for 2021 is on hold until we have been given the clearance for on-ground events for the residents. Also, the PLFC Board typically hosts PFLC General Meetings in the Spring and Fall at the Ludeman Center. This planning is also on hold until it is safe to attend in-person. Keep checking our website, www.ludemanpflc.org for updates!

VOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2021

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference that traditionally is held in person in Washington DC is now a 'Virtual' Conference for 2021. Paul Keipert is our 'Go To Guy' when it comes to representing PFLC. We are awaiting the details to determine PFLC's presence for this year's Conference. Please visit the VOR website for valuable information on where to get help, how to become a member and support them in their efforts to raise awareness of the needs of our Developmentally Disabled loved ones. Their office is located in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

<https://www.vor.net/>

<https://www.vor.net/get-help>

VOR's Legislative Initiative Is Online This Year

Legislative Briefing - Sunday, May 16 - 4:00 pm, Eastern

Virtual Hill Visits - May 17 - 20

VOR's Virtual Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 6, 2021 on Zoom





March 19, 2021

I am pleased to announce new leadership at ELC:

- Assistant Unit Director, Kavlyn Clark as of 12/22/2020
- Director of Fiscal Services, Cathy Banks as of 2/16/2021
- Accounting Supervisor, Mika Hankton as of 3/16/2021

Actions taken to mitigate the COVID-19 impact

- We continue to focus priority attention on ensuring an abundance of PPE on campus, over-communicating to staff to keep them current and empowered, and implementation of best practices
- We continue to maintain a good supply of PPE and cleaning supplies on grounds
- We continue to monitor the homes daily to ensure an abundance of PPE
- The weekly newsletter keeps staff current on any new developments regarding COVID-19 and reminds staff of policies and best practices that will control the spread of the virus.
- We have vaccinated 93% of the residents at Ludeman
- We have vaccinated 28% of the employees that work at Ludeman

COVID Updates (As of Friday, 3/19/2021):

- Ludeman Center is in Phase 1 of Re-opening
- Currently there are 0 residents positive with COVID-19
- Currently there is 1 employee out positive with COVID-19

OIG and IDPH Updates:

- In December 2020, we had 1 IDPH complaint that was surveyed which resulted in no (0) tags
- In February 2021, we had 2 IDPH complaints that were surveyed which resulted in 2 standard tags (1 standard tag per complaint)
- Currently we have 10 staff out on Reassignment and 32 out on Admin Leave related to Pending OIG Cases
- We are currently participating in a Remote Annual Review with OIG (on-going)

Monthly Parents & Guardians Meeting Schedule:

- Every 2nd Monday of the month; 2:30 – 3:30pm (except for April and May 2021 when it will be on the 3rd Monday of the month)
- Please contact the Center Director's office in advance if you need the call-in number and access code for the Guardian Meetings
- Next Scheduled meeting is Monday, April 19th 2021 at 2:30pm

Upcoming Capitol Projects:

- **CDB project # 321-110-066**
 - Replace roofing, aluminum soffit, fascia, and gutters at buildings 1, 2, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65
 - Projected start date: April 2021
- **CDB project # 321-110-070**
 - Negative air isolation for Dental space in building 63

**What Have You Done for PFLC Lately??
LOTS, AND LOTS, AND LOTS.....**

GENEROUS DONORS

PFLC tries to be sensitive about requesting financial donations – there are many needs today in our own families, homes, communities, and the world. Each time we have asked for financial help, you have been ready, willing, and generous with your financial resources. For that, we are so humbly grateful for your outreach.

FAMILIES

Even though it has been a heartbreaking year for many of our PFLC and ELDC families, we have withstood the test of this difficult time. You have stood by and supported PFLC in many ways. You are PFLC family. We stand on each other's shoulders for support to carry us through this journey with our loved ones who live at Ludeman. PFLC couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

FRIENDS

Friends, you supply the oxygen to keep us breathing. Whether you know a family, friend, or co-worker who has a loved one living at Ludeman, you have 'stepped up to the plate' and gone to bat for our loved ones at ELDC. Your compassion, patience, and willingness to lend a listening ear to hear our worries or concerns have cushioned the impact this COVID-19 Pandemic has had on all of us. We are forever grateful that you have stood by us and supported us through this journey. Thank you.

AND NOW A DRUM ROLL PLEASE.....

Your Donations Have an Impact – Many of the ELDC Homes were in need of updated entertainment electronics and your generosity has allowed PFLC to purchase:

- * 50 Inch Televisions (16)
- * Blu-Ray DVD Players (33)
- * Multiple DVD Movies for the DVD Library
- * Bluetooth Speakers (34)
- * Home Cinema Projectors (2)
- * 20 Foot Inflatable Outdoor Movie Screen (1)

HOW CAN I DO MORE?

We are in this together. Any help is appreciated. Do you have any suggestions or ideas on what else we can do? Do you have a story to tell about your loved one who lives at Ludeman? Do you have a story to tell about an ELDC Staff Member that has gone above and beyond? Send us an email at LUDEMAN.PFLC@GMAIL.COM or send us your story via U.S. Mail at:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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.

Reflecting Back on a Deadly Pandemic

John Haley, PFLC Vice President

We all can remember the very dark days of one year ago. Covid-19 was gripping the country, the resulting lockdowns suddenly put in place, and the virus raging through the Ludeman Center. More was unknown about the virus than known, countrywide shortages of vital PPE left hospitals, nursing homes, and congregate living settings like Ludeman Center particularly vulnerable to the virus's rapid spread. With little to protect them, and residents completely reliant on 24-hour care, direct care staff bravely acted in the role of 1st responders for our loved ones, day in and day out. Before COVID-19 was brought under even a semblance of control, Ludeman Center had lost 12 lives – 4 brave staff members and 8 innocent residents gone. Their families and loved ones rocked by these devastating losses.

Now a year later, a more positive outlook lies before us. The miracle of science has delivered a highly effective vaccine that is a literal lifesaver. Already the vast majority of residents have been vaccinated. And the vaccine is available daily at the Center for all Ludeman staff members to get themselves protected. We look to a staff that has acted so heroically on the job through the very worst days of this pandemic to be heroes once again and to go get vaccinated. Herd immunity vaccination rates are the only way this deadly virus will ever truly be brought under control at the Ludeman Center.

PFLC Website News – www.ludemanpflc.org

Be sure to visit our website. ELDC and the Illinois Developmental Disabilities Department continually work to communicate to us updates regarding the status of COVID-19 and its impact on the 7 State Operated Developmental Centers (SODC) such as ELDC. Updates cover measures that must be implemented in order to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) regulations.

Included on our website are links to the regulations for visiting your loved one living at ELDC. We encourage you to go to our website and view the following documents that outline important information.

- State Operated Developmental Center Visitation Status**
- Policy and Procedure: Indoor Visitation Guidelines**
- Transition/Home Visit Guidelines COVID-19**
- IDPH Long Term Care Re-Opening Guidance**

Amazon Smile Update – To date, we have received \$1,175.08 from the Amazon Smile Program and we have 97 supporters! Let's get to 100 supporters – pass the word around to your friends and families to sign up for the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center charity. Go to our website, 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.

- **CDB project # 321-110-068 (Water main replacement) & # 321-110-069 (Road replacement)**
 - These are two separate projects that are being coordinated together for project efficiency purposes
 - All water mains will be replaced campus wide to each building. This project includes replacing all main water shut-off valves to each building as well as fire hydrants.
 - All roads, parking lots, wheelchair lanes, and concrete curbs will be completely dug up, new bases installed, and resurfaced. This will also include striping of parking spaces, pedestrian walkways, fire lanes, and new signage.
 - Projected start date June 2021.
- **CDB project # 321-110-069**
 - Remodel homes 16, 20, 35 & 42
 - Projected start date is September 2021.

Special Thanks to PFLC for the Continued Support:

The Ludeman Center wants to give a special thank you to PFLC for the on-going support and the gracious and recent donations that contribute to keeping smiles on the residents' faces and their spirits up during these unprecedented times. The following were made possible by PFLC:

- We celebrated Halloween with decorations, treats and pizza for the residents and homes.
- We celebrated Christmas with gifts for every resident on this campus and a pizza party for Christmas
- We rung in the New Year with sparkling grape juice, in flutes plus a pizza party for all
- We literally filled hearts for Valentine's Day by purchasing goodies and hosting a pizza party
- We have upgraded many of the electronic devices in homes that were in need with 5 Flat Screen TVs, Blu-Ray DVD Players, and Bluetooth Speakers
- We keep the residents engaged with a vast variety of games
- We will soon be providing dental services in new dental chairs and using new dental equipment

*****Thanks again PFLC; Ludeman cannot thank you enough!*****

Closing Remarks – Ludeman cannot function in the manner we do without the hardworking and dedicated staff that goes above and beyond to take care of our residents. It warms my heart to be the leader of such an amazing bunch of employees. What I have experienced at ELC has been very promising and extremely inspiring. As a system, we have gained tremendous insight from the COVID challenge and we continue to learn from this experience. As such, I look forward to next phases into our future as we work diligently to combat all entities that defy greatness. I've entered the ELC realm of space and have learned so much about resilience. We will continue to push for change and enforce accountability while working to enhance communication. The overall goal is to incorporate the input of those largely impacted by the work that we do at ELC, including but not limited to, the residents, guardians, employees, the Union, and the like. **ELC personally thanks PFLC so much for your continued support of our residents, our employees, and the center. You Guys Rock!**

How You Can Spend Stimulus \$\$\$

Unsure if your loved one received a stimulus check?

You can find out by contacting the Elisabeth Ludeman Developmental Center (ELDC) at 708-283-3000 and ask for the Trust Fund Administrator.

The Trust Fund Group can provide you guidance regarding allowable spending suggestions.

Unsure if ELDC has your correct address for important U.S. Mail from ELDC?

Contact ELDC at 708-283-3000 and ask for the Records Department Administrator.

Someone You Should Know!

Sandra Vanoskey is someone you need to know. She is the Ludeman Clinical Director who handles many duties. One of her many talents is to coordinate your video visits with your loved one. She also coordinates outdoor visits when Ludeman is at the perfect level to permit in-person visits. For those families and guardians who qualify for Compassionate Care visits, Sandra coordinates these visits too. She is a cheerful, pleasant person that is willing to help you with your loved one's visits. Three words I would use to describe her are: understanding, helpful, and caring.

Do YOU know any ELDC staff members that need to be recognized by PFLC? Please send a small write-up to our website at www.ludemanpflc.org or mail us your write-up to Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center, P.O. Box 754, Park Forest, IL 60466. *Thank you, Pamela Hill, PFLC President*

A Whole New Beautiful Look is Coming to the Ludeman Center

Ludeman Center has slowly and surely been transforming itself. We all remember a time not very long ago when the residential houses had drafty windows and leaky roofs. They are gone, replaced with double glass thermal windows with built-in blinds and all new roofs on all houses throughout the Center. Less visible, but equally important to our residents has been the issue of the deteriorating underground water mains. This spring all of these water lines will be replaced, assuring safe, reliable water service to all the houses.

Next on the list are the much complained about potholed lanes that wind their way throughout the facility. Every drive has become a frustration as one tries to navigate the lunar landscape that passes for roads here. Much like the roads, the walking and wheelchair paths are uneven and rutted when they are not completely impassable because of standing water. Well, everybody, all these are soon to be a thing of the past, too. Talking with chief engineer, Patrick Sullivan, we understand that right after the water main work is done, all new roads, curbs, parking lots, walking paths, and light fixtures are going to be a new and exciting reality.

Sweeping and significant tangible improvements like these to the Center send a message to anyone who steps foot into the Center that our loved ones are valued and that those who work at Ludeman are respected. As a state we invest in what we care about.

PFLC will augment these improvements with the purchase of new brightly colored steel picnic tables for each of the houses that are in need of one. Likewise, we are looking to purchase more outdoor equipment for the enjoyment of the new improved outdoor spaces at Ludeman.

Another improvement to the Center is the first significant upgrading to the Dental Offices since the Center opened back in 1972. Funding allowed for an overall refurbishing of the office including a new state of the art ventilation system. Where state funds fell short was in the replacement of the two almost 50-year-old dental chairs. Imagine visiting your dentist and during a procedure having your chair suddenly start moving on its own. Due to age these were the sort of unfixable problems that necessitated chair replacement. When state funding could only replace one of the two chairs, **PFLC** donated \$12,500 for the purchase and installation of the other.

We thank everyone of you for your generous donations that allow us to do what we can do to improve the quality of life for all our residents.

We Take Some Time Here to Let Our Guardians Reflect

"I remember how frightening it was when suddenly the whole world seemed to shut down. All of us isolated from one another. We knew early on that congregate settings like the residential homes at Ludeman were especially vulnerable. The helpless feeling that my sister, Jeanne, was there and there was nothing I could do to protect her. We are so grateful to the staff of House 39 for doing everything they could to keep the residents there safe." – *John Haley, brother, co-guardian, and PFLC Vice President*

When Sammy was about 5-6 years old, we were together on the front steps. All of the sudden he ran next door and banged on the gutter down spouts of three homes just South of my house. The neighbors came out, which made Sammy so happy. Everyone on the block knew Sam and were understanding. I have many more but I am trying to forget them ... *Ann – Parent/PFLC Board Member*

When my younger brother, John, came to live at Ludeman some thirty years ago from Glenkirk Residence in the northern suburbs, he was—unbeknownst to us—over-medicated and consequently sleepy during family visits. Ludeman staff immediately adjusted his medication so he could function as his normal self during the day. My parents and I are extremely thankful for the care John receives at Ludeman. Each time we visit he is neatly dressed and well-groomed. The staff at House 17 are reliably caring, helpful and friendly. The nurses keep us informed of medical issues in a timely manner and the staff input at his annual planning conferences is comprehensive. In addition, my experience with PFLC and the PFLC Board has been uniquely positive. It is wonderful to be with people you don't have to "explain" your sibling to. Thank you, PFLC, for that sense of belonging. And thank you to all of you who help John each day! *John Harriman and Ludeman by Ann Harriman, PFLC Board Member*



Certainly, with the coronavirus seizing our country, this year was full of challenges and sacrifices! For me I was particularly saddened not to be able to visit my brother at Christmas at Ludeman Center because of the virus. However, I was and continue to be grateful for the care my brother receives from the Ludeman staff. With the vaccinations coming, I am encouraged that someday, in the near future, Ludeman will be safe for families to reunite with their loved ones again. I look forward to when I will be able to visit my brother Alex and sing Christmas songs to him once again like our many visits before! *Sheila Threlkeld, sister, guardian, and PFLC Board Member*

Visiting With My Brother Alex

I visited with my brother on a Zoom meeting. During a cold year of social distancing and isolation, seeing Alex's excited image in a video frame was priceless. It was his birthday. However, we were the ones who were given a gift. There are moments like these that have made the drought of not having in-person visits bearable. This is something that the Ludeman staff understands, I believe. I could hear it in their voices as we planned for our virtual visit; I observed it on the technician's face as she coached Alex, "Look at your sisters!" These workers who care for our loved-ones in our absence give comfort to those of us who can't be there to touch, to laugh in-person, to sing and to hear the responses of our brother—of a sister, of a son or daughter. These workers who, perhaps, may not know their true value during this crucial time, but we do. We do. And for this gift, I—We, are grateful.

Alexis Pride, sister and PFLC Board Member