

## LET KIDS BE KIDS *Recreational Therapy is Fun!*

-- Photos courtesy of the Therapeutic Recreation Team



**Kids shop at Meijer's with Bear's Patrick Scales & Pat O'Donnell!**



**Staff join the fun!**

**WINTER/HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WERE FUN!**



**Movie Night!**



**BUT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING!**



**Outdoor Fun!**



**ALLENDALE ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 1088  
Grand Avenue & Offield Drive  
Lake Villa, IL 60046

**YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE --  
VOLUNTEER TODAY!  
CALL: 847-245-6204**

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**THINK...SPRING!  
THINK...ALLENDALE  
PLANT SALE!  
MAY 10 & 11, 2019**

**SHOP OUR LARGE ASSORTMENT OF  
HANGING BASKETS; ANNUALS;  
VEGGIES/HERBS; SUCCULENTS;  
LARGE CACTUS; BROMELIADS & OTHER  
TROPICALS; & SOME AQUATIC PLANTS  
-- ALL AT REASONABLE PRICES**

### ALLENDALE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

#### ACCREDITED BY:

**The Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc.; The Joint Commission; The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement; and The American Psychological Association --Pre-Doctoral Internship Program**

#### LICENSED/APPROVED BY:

**Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Illinois Department of Human Services; Illinois State Board of Education; Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services**

#### APPROVED TRAINING SITE FOR:

**CE, CPDU and CEU Continuing Education Credits for Psychologists, Educators, Social Workers and Human Service Professionals**

#### WINTER/SPRING 2019 NEWS BRIEF:

**is a publication of the Allendale Association.**

**Allendale does not trade, rent or sell its mailing list to any organizations. All information provided is strictly confidential.**

Visit our website:

**Allendale4kids.org**



## FROM THE DESK OF JASON KEELER...*Allendale Update Moving into 2019*

### STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

It is hard to believe that soon it will be two years since I came to be a part of Allendale. My first priority was to learn as much as I could about our organization, the people, the youth and families we serve, what was working well and begin to understand what we could potentially do better. I thought it was equally important that staff and teams had the opportunity to get to know me as well. While we sought to limit making significant changes throughout this initial acclimation period, there were three high level initiatives in response to some emerging needs intended to demonstrate a positive impact:

**Financial Focus:** Current market analysis led to the development and implementation of salary enhancements to address workforce challenges; clarified operational leadership responsibilities lead to performance efficiency and expense management; soliciting, selecting and implementing an electronic health record system will lead to enhanced clinical documentation, service utilization and expedited billing and reimbursement.

**Developmental Focus:** Leadership cultivation and re-organization through a review and thoughtful strategic realignment of key director and supervisory positions placing operational leaders in areas that match their strengths; centralized and expanded our Continuous Quality Improvement department to oversee, coordinate, organize and synthesize agency-wide CQI functions; developed more internal and external communications around our mission of serving youth and families; strengthened community partnerships; and continued workforce cultivation.

**Clinical Focus:** Program development and growth of our array of community-based services which included expansion of our foster care program; creating a capacity to serve a young child on the autism spectrum; enhancing transitional programming through group home and vocational education initiatives; and promoting earlier engagement between primary treatment team and youth and their families.

Following these initial efforts, the time came to re-engage in a more comprehensive and contemplative strategic planning process that would propel Allendale forward for the next 1-2 years while remaining adaptable to a continually rapidly changing environment. This process was intended to:

- Allow Allendale to build upon our 120 year heritage of service and innovation
- Continue to grow from our experiences, both the successes and the challenges, which have helped to strengthen us as an organization
- Move us forward so that we are prepared to adapt to our evolving environment ensuring our capacity to continue to pursue excellence and innovation in child welfare, behavioral health and specialized education.

*(Continued on the next page)*

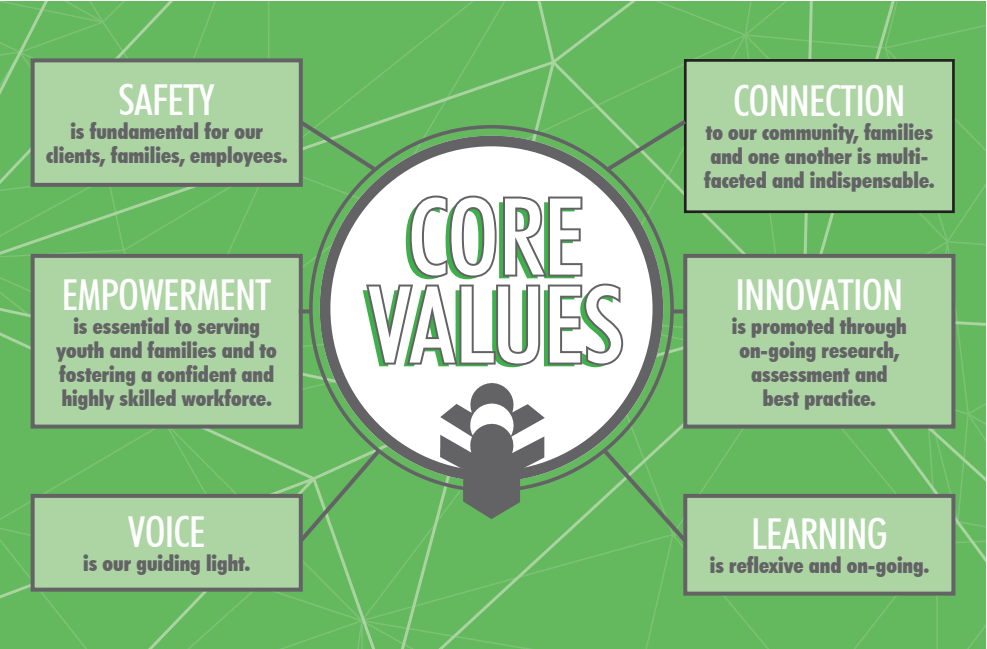
**Allendale**

P.O. Box 1088, Grand Ave. & Offield Dr., Lake Villa, IL 60046 847-356-2351

**WINTER/SPRING 2019 NEWS BRIEF**



## Allendale Update From Pres., Jason Keeler



### RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY CORE VALUES

Allendale Senior Leadership and I began meeting in the fall of 2018 to engage in a focused strategic planning process. The initial phase began with developing agency core values, or guiding principles, essential to Allendale that would not only help to formulate our short-term strategic planning efforts, but would reflect our mission, drive our decision-making with respect to program development, operational efficiency, resource utilization and help articulate both internally as well as externally the work we do (the WHAT) and the passion and purpose behind it (the WHY).

These basic **Fundamental Values** have helped define our Strategic Plan.

**"WE ARE CHALLENGED BY THE WHIRLWIND OF CHANGE THAT CONSTANTLY SURROUNDS US. THESE VALUES SHALL SERVE TO KEEP OUR COURSE STEADY, OUR FOCUS CLEAR AND GUIDE US AS WE JOURNEY FORWARD."**

*-Jason Keeler, Allendale President*

If you are interested in receiving future "Allendale Press" Newsletters electronically, please email us at [develop@allendale4kids.org](mailto:develop@allendale4kids.org)

**STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

facebook:  
**The Allendale Association**

twitter:  
**@Allendale1**

Thanks for sharing the love this Valentine's Day!

**Allendale Shelter Club  
Fill-A-Heart 4 Kids  
St. Gilbert's Catholic Church**

**JOIN IN ON THE FUN & GET INVOLVED at Allendale!**

Memorial Day Weekend:  
**GRILLING WARS**

Throughout the Summer:  
**CAMPING**

June:  
**NEW PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY BUILD  
PIE EATING CONTEST**

July:  
**SUMMER OLYMPICS**

August:  
**CARDBOARD BOAT RACES**

September:  
**AUTUMN AT ALLENDALE FEST**

October:  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Call Volunteer Services and ask Tamara how you or your group can participate with these events!  
847-245-6204**

**inspireplay! GET READY...GET SET...BUILD! June 18 & 19**

**Playground Challenge UPDATE:**

*The Grainger Foundation, a private and independent foundation, joins in on the fun with a gift of support towards our Fundraising efforts! Thanks for helping us meet our goal of a new playground at our Lake Villa Campus, and thanks to Chris Koska of Grainger for recommending us for this grant!*

**Chris Koska, Grainger, presenting check to Allendale**

## School Success WITH READING INTERVENTION TOOLS

### FOUNDATION/GRANT SUPPORT AT WORK WITH OUR STUDENTS

We appreciate the support that Allendale's school has received from the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** & the **Roger & Kate Graef Foundation** towards the purchase of Achieve3000, a supplemental online literacy program providing nonfiction reading content to students in grades K-12, that prepares them for success in college and career paths. It focuses on building phonics, phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and writing skills by providing differentiated instruction. Teachers are able to utilize the program for individual students or an entire class with tailored assignments at each student's reading ability level. When a student is ready for more challenging text, articles and related activities based on their responses and Lexile gains, Achieve3000 automatically increases the difficulty of the text.

**"Nothing is more damaging for an older student with a fragile self-esteem than to have to read material for "babies" (as they call it). Achieve3000 enables our teachers to customize age-appropriate reading material based on the student's lexile score. This targeted intervention offers students the opportunity to gain confidence as an emerging reader." – Tonya Henley, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Allendale School**

Since implementing the program in October, engagement is improving and all students have averaged a 9 point Lexile gain. There is an undeniable connection between strong writing and reading skills and future success. Whether our students are interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement, video game design, acting, or anything else they feel passionate about, our goal is to equip them with the skills necessary to achieve their aspirations. Achieve3000 helps us to continue working towards our literacy goals.

**MS. MAGGIE'S CLASS WINS 'Imagine Learning' CONTEST!**

**Imagine Learning offers personalized and proven digital education tools for students from Pre-K through Eighth grade. This bulletin board shows the classroom's contest entry!**

This past Valentine's Day **Imagine Language & Literacy** classrooms from across the country were challenged to write a love letter describing how their class LOVES 'Imagine Learning' reading intervention. Each winning classroom received a \$50 pizza party e-gift card award to celebrate their awesomeness! **Congratulations & way to represent!**

# ALLENDALE...HELPING KIDS & THEIR FAMILIES... learn. grow. heal.