

LET KIDS BE KIDS *Recreational Therapy is Fun!*

-- Photos courtesy of the Therapeutic Recreation Team



June Pie-Eating Contest (with Blueberry Pies)!



Camping!

ANNUAL SUMMER OLYMPICS



Drone Photography!

Lots of Outdoor Fun!



Kayaking!

Fishing!

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

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A CONNECTION --
Volunteer with our Youth Today!
CALL: 847-245-6204

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FALL EVENTS AT ALLENDALE:

AUTUMN AT ALLENDALE - OCT. 12-13
ALLENDALE RED BARN & GREENHOUSE

TRUNK-OR-TREAT - OCT. 25TH
SCHOOL PARKING LOT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL: 847-245-6204

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

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SUMMER 2018 NEWS BRIEF:

is a publication of the Allendale Association.

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Visit our website:

Allendale4kids.org



BEAR'S CHAIRMAN, GEORGE H. MCCASKEY KICKS-OFF ALLENDALE ASSOCIATION'S 12TH ANNUAL SUMMER OLYMPICS!

--Written by Joanne Levine, Lekas & Levine

Following a popular 12-year tradition, Allendale Association recently held its campus-wide Summer Olympics for its young residents. Adding to the excitement, Chicago Bears' Chairman George H. McCaskey officiated at opening day festivities, another much-anticipated tradition.

McCaskey not only led the ceremonial parade—accompanied by a squadron of police cars, courtesy of Lake Villa PD—but stayed to chat with kids and staff at the 121-year old campus/residential facility, serving youth in crisis.

(continued on next page)

"IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE KIDS FULL OF TEAM SPIRIT AND CHEERING ON THEIR TEAMMATES"

George H. McCaskey, who also presided over the first event, Tug of War!

Allendale

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

Fostering Connections with the Community!
SUMMER 2018 NEWS BRIEF

Summer Olympics at Allendale (continued)

The event serves to underscore the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Residents from all nine cottages—as well as Allendale’s Benet Lake, Wisconsin facility—kicked off the competition by choosing a country to represent.

The kids researched their respective country’s culture, colors and lifestyles, decorating their cottages and even serving ethnic dishes. This year’s chosen countries included Italy, Honduras, Sierra Leone, Uruguay and Botswana, among others.

Every day brought a new wave of activities, including a triathlon, kayak relays and foot races. The activities were planned by Allendale’s Therapeutic Recreation team. Many were centered around Cedar Lake, which backs up to Allendale’s 120-acre property.

“The kids learned the value of sportsmanship,” observed Lauren Perry, Allendale’s Therapeutic Recreation Manager. **“No matter the abilities, everyone was appreciated by their peers and the whole campus came together to support the youth.”**

After each competition, the winners would take their place on a podium crafted by Allendale’s talented woodshop students.

“IT’S A TRUE PRIVILEGE HAVING MR. MCCASKEY COME TO OUR CAMPUS. TO HAVE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHICAGO BEARS TAKE TIME OUT OF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON WITH THE CHILDREN DEMONSTRATES NOT ONLY HIS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY BUT MADE ALL OF THE STAFF & YOUTH HERE AT ALLENDALE FEEL VALUED AND SPECIAL. I CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH WHAT HIS VISIT MEANT TO ALL OF US.”

--Jason Keeler, Allendale President

Allendale’s Project to inspire play Receives Grant!

Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP) and the national non-profit KaBOOM! awarded The Allendale Association a “Let’s Play Community Construction Grant” that will be used to create an inviting play space for the children and families of Allendale to inspire them to enjoy adventure and exploration through play.

The playground build is made possible by Let’s Play, an initiative by KDP to provide the funding, equipment and play spaces to help kids and families make active play a daily priority. Through Let’s Play, KDP and its partners are committed to helping create safe and inspiring PLAYces for children at Allendale’s Lake Villa campus to learn, explore, grow and just be kids.

“Replacing and upgrading the quality of the play area on campus for our younger youth is long overdue,” said Jason Keeler, President of Allendale. “Play time enables them to ultimately experience the simple joy of being a kid as they learn, grow, and heal from past traumas.”

The Lake Villa campus is in need of vibrant playground equipment that invites children to climb, run, jump and challenge themselves with various activity stations. The only useable play equipment on campus was built in the early 1980s out of wood and metal piping. Fundraising efforts continue for the project at Allendale! If you would like to contribute: Call 847-245-6204 or visit www.Allendale4kids.org!

RESEARCH INDICATES PLAY CONTRIBUTES HEAVILY TO A CHILD’S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



Help us add color to our playground!

Volunteer Spotlight!

Annie McAweeney Fill-A-Heart-4-Kids!



Annie (pictured center above with several of her volunteers at the North Chicago Residence) was the recipient of the 2018 Governor’s Volunteer Service Award for the Northwest Region.

WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS COME TOGETHER TO IMPROVE KIDS’ LIVES, AMAZING THINGS CAN HAPPEN!

Annie McAweeney is founder and president of Fill-A-Heart-4-Kids, which is perhaps best known for providing “We Care” packages and backpacks to children in need. Every package includes a hand-written note that reminds kids that they’re valuable and that people care about them.

Recently, McAweeney mobilized more than 30 volunteers from local not-for profits to paint the girls’ bedrooms, install new flooring, remodel the common areas and purchase new furniture.

Best of all, says McAweeney, “The residents were involved throughout the project. They helped pick out paint colors and fabrics and took pride in making choices.”

“The renovations had a big impact on them,” according to Lee Harms, Director of our Allendale North Chicago program for girls between the ages of 13-17. “They’re very appreciative to Annie and her volunteers for making their living space more beautiful and comfortable.”



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS!

In the spirit of paying forward generosity shown to them, the students, guided by the Therapeutic Recreation team, came up with fun and creative messages of “kindness” to be placed anonymously around the Lake Villa area community!

“It feels amazing to think that maybe we brightened someone’s day!” said Alexis, one of the students involved in the project.



“Enjoy with your Movie!” message on a bag of popcorn taped on an area Red Box machine... Coins taped to a washing machine at a local laundry mat, are just several of the ideas the kids came up with for their “Random Acts of Kindness” acts!



The kindness lesson continued once the kids came back to campus. They brought bottles of water and Gatorade to Aon Volunteers who were on campus for a corporate volunteer day of caring!



REStArTSM Institute Inaugural Conference

“We have implemented REStArTSM at a couple schools to help our staff have a different understanding of student behavior & adult responses. The model provides the team with a common language & it helps us focus our attention to the alliance among adults & our students.”

--Renee Cheung, Private/Alternative Placement Coordinator, Waukegan School District #60

The REStArTSM Institute was created to provide a central place for the dissemination and ongoing development of Allendale’s treatment model. Over the last year, Institute members had the opportunity to present the model in a number of interdisciplinary settings and feedback from participants suggests that the training they’ve received has made a powerful and positive impact on their work in clinical and educational settings.

The Institute was excited to present its inaugural conference in April of this year at Allendale. Presenters represented both Allendale’s clinical staff (Sandra Clavelli, Catherine McConnell, Alison Rogers and Pat Taglione) and educational staff (Pam Magna, Lorine Schaar, and Jennifer Stiemsma).

The training was presented to an audience including many Lake County public school teachers, administrators and counselors. The content of this conference grew out of requests from school professionals who learned of the REStArTSM model through Allendale’s School-Based Mental Health Project, which is funded by the McGraw Foundation.

The content of this conference focused on “conflict cycles” as well as the importance of engaging everyone working with the youth to develop a “shared understanding” of them. Along with the presentations and discussions of case examples, the conference included a panel of both current Allendale staff as well as staff from local schools who responded to audience questions about applying the model.

“This is my third year at Murphy & my third year of consulting with Allendale staff. Understanding this model of behavior management has helped me feel more prepared to work with teachers about student behavior. I have seen the benefits of creating an alliance with families and staff working together to help support the students’ needs.” --Jessica Berlinghof, School Psychologist, Murphy Elementary, Round Lake School District #116

This past March, the clinical and school staff presented at the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth (ICEARY) Conference in Bloomington. Participants included educators, counselors, and juvenile justice officers who were enthusiastic about applying the material to their work, stating they “now know exactly what we need to work on.”



THANKS TO A GRANT FROM THE MCGRAW FOUNDATION THIS YEAR, THE INSTITUTE WILL:

- Continue its consultation and training in area schools
- Further research what factors contribute to more successful interventions in school settings
- Continue to present to new audiences with peaked interest in the model
- Present at the Non-Public School Conference in Oak Lawn
- Host monthly meetings to review the continued implementation of the model in agencies across the country



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