

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



Great sportsmanship and fun at our annual Summer Olympics!



Balloon Art!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES WERE A BLAST!



Pie-Eating Contest



Cardboard Boat Races



WE LOVE OUR NEW PLAYGROUND!



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

Receive future newsletters
electronically, simply
email us at:
develop@allendale4kids.org



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**SIGN-UP FOR OUR
3RD ANNUAL
TRUNK OR TREAT**
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
5:30-7:00
ALLENDALE SCHOOL PARKING LOT
Call: 847-245-6204

ALLENDALE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

ACCREDITED BY:

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SUMMER/FALL 2019 NEWS BRIEF:

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Visit our website:
Allendale4kids.org



ALLENDALE OFFERS A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER is characterized by persistent deficits in communication and social interaction across multiple settings and engaging in restrictive and repetitive behaviors (cdc.gov). As a result, speech and language delays often affect socialization leading to maladaptive behaviors (e.g., physical aggression, self-injury, etc.), as well as delays in skill acquisition impacting their ability to live independently and be part of a community. Often families become increasingly overwhelmed by not only the behaviors but the difficulties in communicating and interacting with the child leaving them with a sense of isolation, guilt and despair.

In the fall of 2017, Allendale was approached by IL DCFS to provide emergency placement and therapeutic services to a family with two children who were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Although our experience with this specialized population was somewhat limited, our dedication to serving children and families in need and facing the potential for two little boys aged 5 and 6 years old to be placed away from their mother in another state, compelled us to partner with DCFS to create a program designed to meet their very specific needs.

INITIALLY...Bryan and James were in profound need of a structured, consistent and safe environment. When they first arrived, they required diapers and were in desperate need of medical and dental care. They were unable to use silverware or even eat at a table. The boys had virtually no capacity to verbally communicate and were behaviorally aggressive

(Continued on the next page)

Allendale's New Autism Program (continued)

seemingly relying on primitive instinct with an absence of fear or danger. Their connection to one another was strong—so in tune with each other that if one began to act out aggressively, so then would the other. They were extremely sensitive to change and craved consistency.

One year later and following successes achieved in treating this initial family, Allendale was again approached by DCFS with another very similar referral and it became clear that we needed to expand our capacity to serve young children with autism. Applying the lessons we have been learning along with our continuing partnership with the Early Autism Project, a Chancelight® Company, who provides additional consultation, training, and treatment services, Allendale developed a more comprehensive program plan designed to more fully incorporate evidenced-based treatment applications, enhance daily structure and supervision, and increase staff training leading to specialized certification (Registered Behavior Technician). Renovations were made to one of our cottages—responding to the unique needs of children with autism and their visiting family members. Additional staff was needed to help with special sensory integration activities, strength-based therapeutic interactions and skill development. In the fall of 2019, DCFS approved this expanded plan and contracted with Allendale to serve up to six children between the ages of 5 to 9 years old to better support families and this growing need for the care and treatment of children with autism in the State of Illinois.

TODAY...with the help of dedicated staff, Bryan and James can communicate using tools such as an iPad with specifically designed apps allowing them to express their needs and feelings; have been linked to uniquely qualified providers in the community to manage their extensive medical and dental care needs; and both boys attend a specialized school designed for autistic students in which the school and Allendale staff collaborate closely on developing goals and utilizing shared approaches to ensure treatment continuity across both our programs. The boys' frustration and aggressive behaviors have markedly decreased as their capacity to understand and interact with others within their environments continues to improve. On any given afternoon, sounds of laughter and play echo throughout the campus as Bryan and James run, jump and giggle at the Allendale playground. Every Sunday, staff facilitate family visits for Bryan and James with their mother and two brothers, who reside in Chicago and a neighboring county, to ensure and maintain their family connection.

Like all children in our therapeutic residential program, the Autism Program serves children who are unable to remain safe in a less restrictive environment such as foster care or the home of a relative. Our primary objective is to help teach the children and their families a practical mode of communication, increase their daily living skills and activities, improve social interaction and substitute behaviors with those that increase the overall quality of life—leading to the successful re-integration back to home and community living environments with family and natural supports. The overall goal of the Allendale Autism Program is to successfully discharge children to less restrictive environments, and, whenever possible, transition them back home.

"We are excited for this opportunity where we can, together with our partners, continue to find new and innovative ways to help care, treat, educate and support children and families with serious emotional, developmental, mental and behavioral health challenges and to help remind them they are not alone." -Jason Keeler, President & CEO



Corey admiring fellow student's painting on display at the CAAEL Art Show!

ALLENDALE REPRESENTS AT CAAEL ART SHOW!

At this past spring's CAAEL Art Show in Arlington Heights, Allendale students displayed over 30 pieces of art with one student taking 3rd place!

CAAEL is an independent organization, operated by Special Education Professionals to serve students in alternative school programs. Currently, 40+ programs in Northern Illinois are CAAEL members, participating in interscholastic athletics and academic competitions.

PRIVATE GARDEN SHOW!



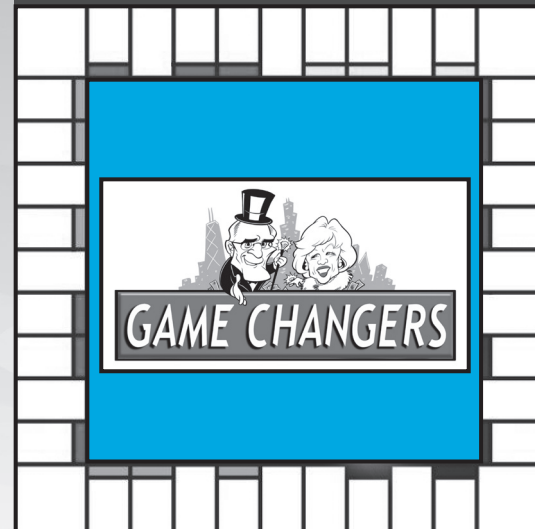
Thanks to our Greenhouse Volunteer, Liz Lavezzorio and her association with the Lake Forest Garden Club and fellowship with members of the Lake Geneva Garden Club our Allendale Horticulture program was invited to have a booth space at the Lake Geneva Garden Club "Garden Walk" private event this past June. We had the opportunity to sell plants and increase awareness about Allendale's youth and our mission to offer them the best in therapeutic and educational experiences.

We talked to very impressive horticulture professionals as well as a couple hundred club members. Allendale earned about \$2,800 over the 2 day event. We received a lot of encouragement and positive feedback.

Most interestingly, Carole Sandner the chair for this event knew Allendale! Over 20 years ago she taught a basic gardening program to our kids. How fun to connect with her again!



Do Not Pass Go... HELP US BE:



The Allendale Board of Trustee's recently held a "Dinner Launch Party" to announce the **"GAME CHANGER" Campaign** to raise funds to renovate Allendale's Games Room in celebration of Bernie & Gloria Rinella's 50+ years of service to Allendale!

Campaign Co-Chairs, Bob Lee & Mark Madigan announced that nearly half of the money for the project has been raised and the board was challenged to help raise the remaining funds!

GAME ON... more fun and details to follow!



Rinella's with long time friends and fellow Trustee's Jay & Kay Proops!



Board Celebration & Launch Dinner (above) & Game Changer's Co-Chair Bob Lee & Bernie Rinella (right)



inspireplay! ALLENDALE'S NEW PLAYGROUND IS OPEN!



Build Volunteers Rosa Morales (Kohl's) & Tina Maldonado, (Aon & Allendale Trustee) join student, Nathan & Allendale President, Jason Keeler in officially opening the new Playground!

-Joanne Levine, Lekas & Levine PR

After a year of planning, fundraising and volunteer labor, Allendale recently held the grand opening of its brand new playground, complete with a festive ribbon cutting ceremony.

The initiative started last summer, when Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP) and the national non-profit KaBOOM! awarded Allendale a playground grant, swayed in part by a video created by students. Allendale donors—corporations, foundations, and individuals—contributed the remaining funds.

The goal: replace old, weather-beaten play equipment that was 40-years old and rarely used.

Students collaborated with the playground designer, Play Illinois, to choose the most appealing equipment. Last spring, a small army of Allendale employees and volunteers—including teams from Allstate, Aon and Kohls—gathered to put the equipment together.

Some community partners, donors and volunteers attended the ribbon cutting, which featured balloon décor by balloon artist Holly Nagel and an ice cream truck sponsored by Fill-A-Heart 4 Kids, a children's charity in Lake Forest.

"It was such a great day for the kids! Simple, active play is so healing for children recovering from trauma—and the new playground is already a huge hit."

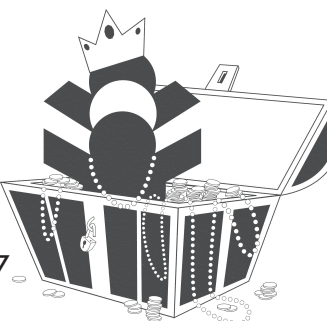
- Jason Keeler, Allendale President

DEAR HIDDEN TREASURES PATRONS,

We regret to inform you that our Hidden Treasures Thrift Store will be closing its doors in December.

Take advantage of our Going-Out-of-Business BOGO Sales! HURRY IN!

2114 E. Grand Ave. #24B, Lindenhurst, 224-372-7627
New Hours: M-F: 10-6 only; No Saturdays!



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