

Hi Everyone,

To continue with my theme of last weeks' message of taking time to focus on meeting our mission and following our values, I offer more agency stories and information today. My goal is to highlight each and every department at the Agency! I encourage you to call or write me with stories of clients' and/or employees' accomplishments or progress!

Last week we focused on LeafBridge Therapy, OakLeaf Career Planning and OakLeaf Day Services. Today let's look at Leaf Bridge School Therapy and LeafBridge Alternative Education. In the meantime, I invite those of you in our Group Homes, Project SEARCH and Community Employment to send me some ideas for next week! (You and clients can remain nameless in my message!)

### **LeafBridge School Therapy**

*Two of our wonderful physical therapists, one assigned to the Richmond Hts. school district and the other to Maple Hts., were happy to share some things with me that include:*

- *Each has a caseload of 32 children from pre-school age up to 22 years old, and they typically each treat 6-7 children each day.*
- *Our physical therapists' goal is to make sure the children can operate safely in their school environment; walking up and down steps, standing in the cafeteria line, playing on the playground, etc.*
- *Our therapists must build rapport with all of the members of the team who support the children such as teachers, teachers' aides, and playground monitors to bring about the best services for each child.*
- *During the early months of the pandemic, all therapies went virtual which allowed for our therapists to get to know the families and the children's settings at home. It also allowed for the parents to get to know the therapists and better understand the value of the work the therapists do with each of their children while at school.*
- *One little boy's goal was to walk 100 feet down the hallway. When the children were sent home, our therapist parked near his house and cheered him as he walked down the sidewalk with his mom!*

### **LeafBridge Alternative Education**

*This growing program that was started in 2013 and now serves 16 students moved out of the Wolstein Center this past summer into a school building located just three blocks north of us. It offers a very unique education to students of all ages who need intense, tailored combinations of therapies and educational curricula. As school districts begin to learn about our program, more and more are referring students who are not thriving in their public school district due to lack of expertise/resources for children with significant physical and/or intellectual disabilities.*

*Their new space offers much more room and accessibility which allows the students more independence. Our teachers, therapists, and therapy aides can see that students are communicating more and enjoying some new assistive technology for cooking and many other activities.*

*One of our special education teachers spoke of an exciting project she is working on with Case Western Reserve University students to develop robotic arms. This type of technology could offer children so much opportunity!*

I'm guessing some of you had no idea that our services are so varied! We meet the unique needs of children and adults with different abilities every day. Thank you for making a difference in someone's life today.

Have a good weekend!

Trish & the Leadership Team