

Greetings Friends!

*a Message
From the
Executive
Director*



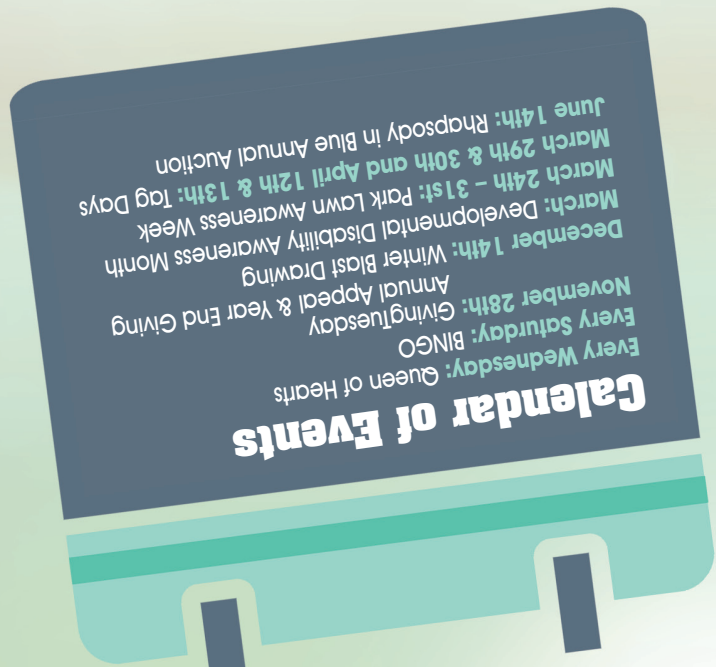
“What you focus on, grows” could not be a more apt quote for the activities that Park Lawn has concentrated on this past year. In addition to selling our large Vocational building in Oak Lawn, we purchased three new Community Day Service locations and commenced the process of reimagining what those spaces could look like and how they could better serve our participants while encouraging new families to become a part of our Park Lawn family. We are thrilled to be able to offer these services to new participants! While it has taken most of this year to make this a reality, our participants are thriving at their new program spaces in Tinley Park, Chicago Ridge and Palos Heights. The warm welcomes we have received from these communities has confirmed that we have chosen well. The change in our participants has amazed all of us. In the large setting, our quieter participants didn’t feel comfortable sharing their preferences and often did not feel heard. With a smaller footprint and program size, these individuals feel free to speak up and let our staff know what they would like to explore, volunteer, try for the first time and some now want to pursue community employment. Limitless possibilities, indeed.

We encourage you to stop by and take a tour at all of new day locations to meet our participants and dedicated staff. Each one has a unique feel but ultimately embraces our deep commitment to our participants, their comfort, their goals and their enjoyment.

We also encourage you to renew your own dedication to our mission, as we cannot accomplish this work without your support. You mean everything to us and we are immensely grateful for your interest in our success!



Where Possibilities are Limitless



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Park Lawn
Helping people with disabilities thrive

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Park Lawn's Winter Blast Drawing

Helping people with
disabilities thrive!



#WeAreParkLawn

Only 600 Bundles Sold

Drawing: Thursday, December 14, 2023 @ 12:00pm

(join us as we draw LIVE on Facebook @parklawncharity)

Purchase a bundle of chances and increase your opportunity to win!!

Bundles:

\$100.00 (bundle) = 25 chances

\$150.00 (bundle) = 50 chances

\$200.00 (bundle) = 75 chances



\$250.00 (bundle) = 150 chances

Prizes:

1st: \$10,000.00 2nd: \$5,000.00 3rd: \$2,500.00

4th: \$1,000.00 5th: \$500.00

In the event all tickets aren't sold, prizes will be based on a percentage of ticket sales

Order tickets online at www.parklawn.com



Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send me # _____ bundle(s) at \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail payment to: Park Lawn, 10833 S LaPorte, Oak Lawn IL 60453 OR

Charge my credit card _____

Exp Date _____ Security Code _____



contributions are voluntary and not a requirement to win

Chuck Dinolfo

A Legacy of Dedication: Honoring 23 Years of Service from Our Board Member

Retirement is a significant milestone in anyone's life, marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. In the world of nonprofit organizations, it's an occasion to reflect on the invaluable contributions of those who have dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to furthering a noble cause. Today, we celebrate the remarkable journey of Chuck Dinolfo, who has spent an incredible 23 years serving on Park Lawn's board of directors.

Chuck joined Park Lawn in 1996 and immediately became an integral part of our mission and vision. Over the years, his commitment, passion, and tireless dedication have left an indelible mark on our organization, helping us achieve new heights in our pursuit of making a positive impact on our community.



A Legacy of Impact:

During his tenure as a board member, Chuck has played a pivotal role in shaping our organization's growth and success. His contributions span a wide range of areas, including:

Strategic Vision: Chuck brought a visionary perspective to our board, helping us set strategic goals, navigate challenges, and adapt to changing times. His ability to see the big picture and plan for the future has been instrumental in our long-term sustainability.

Fundraising: As an advocate for our cause, Chuck tirelessly engaged with donors, supporters, and partners to secure the necessary resources to fund our programs and initiatives. His fundraising efforts have significantly enhanced our ability to serve our community.

Board: Serving on various committees and task forces, Chuck provided invaluable insights into governance best practices. His commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership has been a guiding force for our organization.

Community Outreach: Chuck's dedication extended beyond the boardroom. He actively participated in community outreach events, spreading awareness about our mission and engaging with the people we serve. His personal touch has fostered a sense of trust and goodwill in our community.

Mentorship: Throughout his tenure, Chuck mentored and inspired our staff and fellow board members. His guidance and wisdom have nurtured the next generation of leaders within our organization.

A Heartfelt Farewell:

As we bid farewell to Chuck we recognize that his legacy will endure. His selfless service and unwavering commitment to our cause have left an indomitable mark on our organization's history. We are immensely grateful for the dedication and passion Chuck brought to our mission.

Chuck's retirement from our board marks the end of an era, but it also opens up new opportunities for fresh perspectives and growth. We look forward to continuing our mission with the same determination and commitment that Chuck has exemplified over the years.

We wish Chuck all the happiness and fulfillment in his well-deserved retirement and hope he takes pride in his enduring legacy at Park Lawn.

Meet Our 2023/2024 Board of Directors

Maureen Reilly – *President*
Cheri Boublis – *Vice-President*
Robert Schwartzers – *Treasurer*
Vicki Scanlon – *Secretary*

Directors

Robert Barnes
James Himmel
Courtney Joyce
Phil Kujawa
Dianna Parkman
Patricia Singler

Rosemary Gordon



In a world often consumed by self-interest and individualism, there are shining beacons of hope that remind us of the innate goodness of humanity. Meet Rosemary Gordon, a super volunteer and generous donor whose journey exemplifies the power of compassion, dedication, and the positive impact one person can make on the lives of many. Since 1995, Rosemary volunteered at bingo and in the Development Office for phone-a-thon and tag days. Rosemary's belief in our mission led her to remember us with a substantial gift after her passing in 2022. Rosemary's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come, reminding us that the true essence of humanity lies in our ability to care for and uplift one another.

You can choose to allocate all or just a portion of your assets to the charity or organization of your choice. As part of your estate planning, it's worth leaving specific instructions for the executor of your estate to notify the charity of your death in a timely manner. Include details about how and when they can access your donation.

- Financial assets such as stocks, bonds or cash
- Life insurance benefits such as death benefits from a whole life insurance policy
- Real estate such as your primary home or investment properties
- Personal property such as jewelry, a car, collectibles or artwork
- Retirement assets such as proceeds from an annuity, your IRA, 401(k) or other qualified retirement accounts

Please note that given the legal nature of estate planning, it is always beneficial to review estate planning with a legal professional.



Park Lawn was proud to partner with Pete's Fresh Market (Bridgeview & Evergreen Park), September 20th through September 26th, 2023, in our annual Pete's Fresh Market Pinup Program supporting Park Lawn.

Customers were able to purchase a pinup in \$1 & \$5 increments in support of people with disabilities.

We presented Pete's Fresh Market - Evergreen Park with the 2023 Top Store Pinup Award! This was their 3rd year in a row! Congratulations to EP on their outstanding win and many thanks to the Bridgeview store for turning in their best results yet!

Our amazing friends from Boba Heaven came to the Pete's Fresh Market in Evergreen Park, as a gesture of appreciation for raising the most money.

Everyone raved about how great the Boba Heaven teas were and can't wait to try more flavors at their locations in Oak Lawn (10810 S Cicero Ave) and their newest location in Mokena (19844 South LaGrange Road).

HUGE THANK YOU to Abe for the OUTSTANDING service and drinks!



Breaking Barriers:

A Person with Developmental Disabilities Thrives at White Castle

In a world where diversity and inclusion are increasingly valued, the story of individuals with developmental disabilities making meaningful contributions in the workplace is both inspiring and enlightening. Today, we celebrate the journey of Michael J. a remarkable individual with developmental disabilities who has not only found employment but has thrived in a welcoming and inclusive environment at White Castle.

Michael was diagnosed with developmental disabilities at a young age, and his journey has been marked by numerous challenges. However, these challenges did not deter his determination to lead a fulfilling life and contribute to his community. Through hard work and perseverance, Michael embarked on a path toward independence and self-sufficiency.



Michael's journey took a significant turn when he joined the team at White Castle in 2022. This iconic fast-food chain has a longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion and actively seeks opportunities to provide meaningful employment to individuals from all backgrounds and abilities.

From day one, Michael was welcomed into the White Castle family with open arms. The company's commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive work environment made it possible for Michael to thrive. He received specialized training and ongoing support to ensure he could perform his duties effectively and comfortably.

Michael is not merely a passive participant in the workplace; he is a valued contributor to White Castle's success. His responsibilities range from front-of-house customer service to back-of-house food preparation. He has shown dedication, reliability, and a strong work ethic that have impressed both colleagues and customers alike.

Beyond his daily tasks, Michael has had a profound impact on the workplace culture at White Castle. His presence has fostered a more inclusive and compassionate atmosphere, encouraging other employees to learn and grow from the experience of working alongside someone with developmental disabilities.



Michael J. - White Castle

Michael's story serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. It showcases that with the right support, understanding, and opportunities, people with disabilities can achieve their goals, contribute to society, and lead fulfilling lives. Michael's journey at White Castle is a testament to the power of inclusion, acceptance, and determination. His story reminds us that every individual, regardless of their abilities or challenges, has the potential to make a meaningful impact in the workplace and beyond. We applaud White Castle for their commitment to creating an inclusive environment, and we celebrate Michael's achievements and the brighter future they continue to create for themselves and others.



Helping people with disabilities thrive

Revitalizing Our Mission: The Refresh of Park Lawn

Change is an essential aspect of growth, and for us, it can signify a renewed commitment to our mission and the communities we serve. We are excited to introduce you to the transformative journey of Park Lawn as it undergoes a remarkable rebranding effort and refresh. This rebrand aims not only to refresh our image but also to reaffirm our dedication to making a positive impact in the world and the participants we serve.

Park Lawn has a rich history of serving our community, but we recognized that in order to continue evolving and addressing the ever-changing needs of our beneficiaries, we needed a fresh perspective. Our decision to embark on a refresh was driven by a desire to better align with our mission, communicate our values more effectively, and engage a broader audience.

Our rebranding process started with a comprehensive examination of our organization’s core values, vision, and the unique qualities that set us apart. We engaged stakeholders, including board members, volunteers, staff, and the communities we serve, in this introspective journey.

Through a collaborative effort, we arrived at a new logo and brand identity that encapsulated our essence and purpose. While our logo may have changed, our commitment to our mission and the people we serve remains stronger than ever.

Our new logo is a symbol of unity, diversity, and progress. It incorporates elements that represent our commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and forward-thinking solutions. The colors and design elements were carefully chosen to resonate with our stakeholders and communicate our message effectively.

The refresh marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our organization’s journey. We are energized and inspired by this transformation, and we invite you to join us on this path toward continued growth and impact. As we move forward with our refreshed identity, our mission remains steadfast—we believe every individual’s life has meaning, value and purpose. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to making a meaningful difference together.



Expanding Horizons: Exciting New Locations

Change is the lifeblood of progress, and in the world of disabilities, expansion often represents a crucial step toward growth and innovation. In this article, we’re thrilled to announce the exciting news of new locations for Park Lawn. These new destinations not only mark a significant milestone in our journey but also promise exciting opportunities for our participants and staff.

Chicago Ridge – CHOICE Program

This expansion represents a significant milestone in our growth strategy, and we couldn’t be more thrilled to share our participants and services with the vibrant and diverse community of Chicago Ridge. This new location will bring the same exceptional CHOICE experience that our families have come to love, with a touch of innovation to cater to the unique preferences and needs of Chicago Ridge.

The CHOICE program promotes responsibility, independence and self-advocacy by empowering participants to explore and discover new interests. At the heart of it all is our forward-thinking curriculum that provides the training and skills needed to pursue social, employment and volunteering opportunities within the community. Participants pick activities that match their interests including fly fishing, creative writing, bocce ball and an entire list of ever-changing options.

Tinley Park – Discover Program

Our expansion into Tinley Park represents not just a new location but a strategic move to tap into a thriving market. The dynamic environment of Tinley Park offers immense potential, and we’re excited to be a part of its growth story. We’ve carefully tailored our offerings to meet the demands of the Tinley Park community, ensuring that our services align seamlessly with the local community and preferences. We believe this new location will not only enhance our brand’s presence but also enrich the lives of our families.

The Discover program provides the same curriculum and opportunities as CHOICE but with a bit less community involvement. Instead, participants spend more time at Park Lawn enjoying activities, classes and the camaraderie of peers and staff members.

Palos Heights – Discover & Grace Programs

Palos is the latest addition to our growing family of locations. This expansion reflects our commitment to providing convenience and accessibility to our families. We’re excited to serve the people of Palos and provide their families with the exceptional service experiences that have become synonymous with our brand. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that this new location is not just a branch but an integral part of the Palos community, fostering meaningful connections and contributing positively to the local economy.

In addition to providing top-quality service, we are committed to becoming an active and engaged member of all our communities, contributing to their growth, sustainability, and well-being. As we embark on this exciting journey of expansion into these new locations, we do so with gratitude for our loyal families and enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead. Our commitment to delivering excellence in every aspect of our business remains unwavering, and we can’t wait to share our facilities with the wonderful people of our communities. Thank you for being a part of our growth story, and we look forward to serving you in our new locations!