



HALLOWEEN AT CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Kids loved trick-or-treating at our Children's Services Halloween party! They enjoyed spooky snacks and crafts, and had a terrific time dressing up in adorable costumes and playing with their friends.

Families with children ages five and under are encouraged to come by each Wednesday from 9:15am to 10:15am for our drop-in playgroups. Sessions are held at 411 Chicago Avenue and are only \$5 per family.

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is having a terrific month! We're grateful as always for the ongoing support and commitment of all of our Oak-Leyden families.

Participant News & Activities. Oak-Leyden recently completed a tuckpointing project at our Oak Park Lifelong Learning Center. Repairs were made to the building's brick and mortar, with the front facade repainted and improved. Oak Park Lifelong Learning is hosting special **After Hours** activities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 and older. For more details, contact Chuck Nilles, Director of Vocational Services, at cnilles@oak-leyden.org or (708) 524-1050 ext. 201 and visit www.oak-leyden.org/afterhours.

The Arc Opportunity. The Consumer Stipend Program managed by The Arc of Illinois helps individuals and their family members attend educational conferences that discuss topics focused on intellectual and developmental disabilities. Learn more about this opportunity: <https://bit.ly/2Sgwb7f>.

Supporting Oak-Leyden. This past month, family members Dale Gapinski and Anastasie Sénat made contributions. Over the summer, we began meeting with a new Parent/Guardian Group as a way to create a cohesive cohort that embraces the care and well-being of participants, and supports the organization's mission. This has been a great resource for connecting with our families. Please contact Lori Malinski, Director of Development at (708) 524-1050 ext. 102 or lmalinski@oak-leyden.org for more information on the group and future meetings.

Please feel free to share your ideas or concerns with our team at (708) 524-1050 ext. 136. Together, we'll make Oak-Leyden even stronger!

Warm wishes,

Bertha G. Magaña, Executive Director

SPOTLIGHT ON SUPPORT

Carl Palmer, Michelle Ferguson, and Lillian Yarger are a fantastic team of training counselors working in Room 2 at our **Elmwood Park Lifelong Learning Center**. Participants in this space require a higher level of staff support to enjoy scheduled activities and complete routine tasks throughout the day. Carl, Michelle and Lillian are very attuned to their participants' needs, providing quality care rooted in deep compassion. The staff work well together, sharing joy and laughter, while also ensuring each participant is safe and happy throughout the day.

