



THE LEAFLET

An Oak Leyden Monthly Newsletter

November 1, 2023 | Issue #35

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Hello Oak,

Happy November! This time of year brings a grateful tone to our days, culminating in the celebration of Thanksgiving on the 23rd.

As you'll see below, quite a bit has been happening at Oak Leyden: Halloween was celebrated within Children and Adult Services; Vaccines were administered to our participants and team members; and a new sensory room was created at our Hillside Day Services site. November brings more activities and trips for our participants, along with the holiday season!

We are thankful for all our team members who provide opportunities for the individuals in our care to live their best lives! This important work is truly a team effort.

Thank you for your role in making our mission a reality. Wishing Thanksgiving blessings on you and your loved ones throughout this season

Sincerely,

R.J. McMahon
CEO

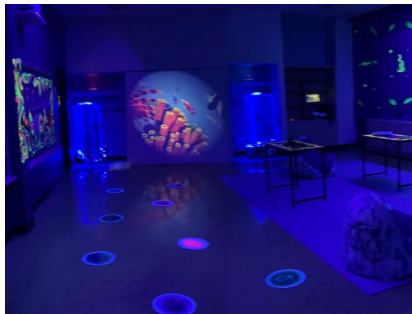
Oak Leyden Vaccine Clinic

Last Thursday, November 2, we hosted a vaccine clinic at each of our Lifelong Learning Centers. Sponsored by Jewel Osco, this clinic offers COVID and Flu vaccines to all Oak Leyden CILA residents, Lifelong Learning participants, interested families from Children's services, and employees. Keeping our community safe and

healthy is always a priority at Oak Leyden!



Check It Out: our new Sensational Sensory Space!



A few months ago, our Lifelong Learning program expanded into a new home in Hillside, IL. We're excited about many opportunities in this new space, and chief among these is our new Sensory Room.

In this safe and controlled space, participants can engage with a variety of stimuli to engage their senses. Studies have shown this type of space and activity can benefit people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays in a variety of ways. It is set up to feel good, which can have a direct impact on emotional regulation, stress reduction, and longer-term mental health. The many stimuli also are shown to improve visual processing abilities, fine and gross motor skills, and communication.

A big thank you to Amazing Sensory Designs for helping us create this space.

October Adventures



Fun and Relaxation:
Our Lifelong Learning day
program participants



We of course celebrated
Halloween! Our Children's
Services team hosted many



Our CILA residents
gathered in one of our
Lifelong Learning centers to

enjoyed a game and spa day, complete with a photo booth, which generated big smiles.

families for games and office door-to-door trick or treating. Cuteness abounds.

celebrate Halloween together.

Follow us on social media for more!



Fall Fun

Our fall-themed social skills group has been learning a lot from our co-facilitators Bianca Boyce and Alison Keane. And they're always having fun!

We're gearing up for our next group, and we'd love for your child to be included. If you have any interest, please contact Melissa Ehmann, Director of Children's Services, at mehmann@oak-leyden.org or (708) 524-1050 ext. 107

PALS Group | Parents. Are. Life. Savers.

In our last guardian survey, parents overwhelmingly indicated that they were looking for ways to connect with other parents who have a child or children with intellectual or developmental disabilities or delays. PALS is our response to that need--and it comes complete with free childcare and the support of Bianca Boyce, our licensed social worker and group facilitator.

You don't have to be a current Oak Leyden family to join us--alumni families and Oak Leyden friends are welcome. **Don't miss our next group tonight at 5:30p.m.**RSVP below.

Group Details:

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
5:30 p.m.
411 Chicago Ave, Oak Park IL
Childcare is available upon request

Facilitated by [Bianca Boyce, LSW](#)

[Sign Up Here](#)



Staff Anniversaries

Thank you to all the team members who support the participants at Oak Leyden.

An extra special shoutout to those celebrating their work anniversaries this month!

William Thotnton, 14 years
Shakira Lane, 10 years
Ariella Chavarria, 5 years
Michelle Reynolds, 5 years

Ilesha Rodriguez, 2 years
Melissa Henricks, 2 years
Ernestas Pacek, 2 years
Elizabeth Aniol, 1 year



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