



THE LEAFLET

An Oak Leyden Monthly Newsletter

October 3, 2023 | Issue #34

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Hello Oak,

Happy October!

Big thanks to the folks who came out to support Oak Leyden at the Second Annual Friends of Oak Leyden Golf Outing on September 21st – the weather was a little rainy, but the golfers had a great day and we raised over \$22,000 in support of our mission! We're grateful for our sponsors and volunteers who made the day.

As we begin the second quarter of our fiscal year, we have several projects and initiatives that will be our focus through the end of the calendar year. We continue the transition at our Hillside Day Services site – working to make it a wonderful space for our participants and the OL team. We are also investing in our onboarding program to ensure that new members to the team feel welcomed and supported, as well as strengthening the connection to our mission and values. Lastly, we have convened a working group to review our transportation and make recommendations regarding the vehicle fleet. Stay tuned on these and other important work happening at Oak Leyden.

Take care and enjoy the wonderful Fall weather!

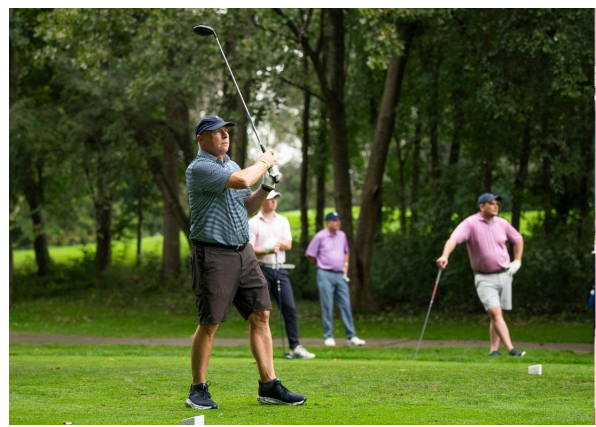
Sincerely,

R.J. McMahon
CEO



**FRIENDS OF
OAK LEYDEN**

GOLF OUTING



Thank you to Chris Guillen Photography for capturing these and many more moments from the event. We had over 40 golfers who braved the rain. The complete photo gallery will be shared with attendees!

September Adventures



We celebrated our Direct Support Professionals the week of September 10-16. Pictured here are Michelle, Shakira, and Norma at a taco celebration hosted at our Lifelong Learning day program.



Day program participants were all over town with community walks, shopping, and adventure outings. Pictured are Ray and Nick at Wild Mile Chicago!



Oak Leyden was one of the area organizations at the Dominican University civic fair, where students can consider possible internship opportunities. We have had seven successful internships in the areas of health and wellness, social work, and advocacy since October of last year.

Follow us on social media for more!





Introducing the Class of 2023!

We had the privilege of hosting one of our favorite events of the year: our Early Intervention Graduation. Each year, we graduate over 100 participants from this program as they turn three. This graduation event was the first in-person graduation we've had since COVID, and we were thrilled to visit with each of these participants and celebrate all that they accomplished. Participants were invited to do a craft, dance and play with their therapists, and eat cake!

Graduates and families--we are so proud of you. Thank you for letting us partner with you and watch you grow!



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 on September 6 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!

Evelyn Davis, 26 years
Tenika Jones Hilton, 18 years
Cynthia Holbrook, 6 years
Ruby Phillips, 6 years

Tiffany Watson, 5 years
Desmon Gordon, 5 years
Alisha Scott, 4 years
Sallamah Aliah, 1 year



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