

50TH ANNIVERSARY >

2018 IS A PRETTY BIG YEAR...

It could've all been very different.

In the 1960's, a teacher in the Chicago Public School district would be forced to take unpaid maternity leave when she became visibly pregnant. This archaic rule had a ripple effect for the Center for Enriched Living (CEL). When one school teacher, Lynne Albanese, who would later become CEL's founding Executive Director, was forced into maternity leave, she became a full-time social worker at the Deborah Boys Club run by the Young Men's Jewish Council.

It was there in Chicago's Albany Park that two mothers approached Lynne asking if their children with developmental disabilities could also participate in the after-school activities. While the other neighborhood kids had many opportunities, their children had nowhere to go after school - no friends and no opportunities for fun and play.



Immediately, Lynne wanted to ensure that the children were accepted and successful at Deborah Boys Club. What was instinctual to her in 1968, is now commonly called mainstreaming. She knew she had to adapt quickly because soon after those 2 kids came, there were 6 more kids looking for activities.

Word continued to spread and Lynne created a new social enrichment program on Sunday afternoons for children with developmental disabilities.

And the Center for Enriched Living was born.

50 years ago, CEL responded to the lack of options for people with developmental disabilities and began fulfilling the need of social enrichment opportunities. Throughout the years many things have changed, but what hasn't changed is CEL's flexibility, responsiveness, and always, looking ahead.

This year, as we look back at CEL's origin story, we will also be looking ahead at what the next 50 years have in store.

- Our Strategic Planning Committee is currently combing through the data from the surveys that many of you took earlier this month. We have received a statistically valid response rate from each of our key stakeholder groups. We thank you for sharing your feedback and helping us as we chart our course forward!
- Stay tuned to our 50th anniversary web page at www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org/50th – there you can see our timeline of key events, pictures throughout the years, and ways you can participate in the celebration with our Social Toolkit!
- Join us as we celebrate throughout the year at Chefs' Night, Annual Meeting, Community Day, Golf Outing, and our culminating 50th Anniversary Celebration in October.

It all could've been very different. But with support from people like you over the years, CEL has survived many challenges, continued to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support! We look forward to sharing this monumental celebration with you.



CENTER FOR
ENRICHED
LIVING

50
YEARS

A Community of Friends. A World of Opportunities.

WINTER UPDATE

EMPLOYMENT >

MEET PATRICK

CEL member, 23-year-old Patrick has always found himself adapting to different cultures. Originally from Chile, he worked at his uncle's factory doing quality control. Patrick, who has Autism, found the work to be very fulfilling.

When Patrick moved to the US, he successfully finished transition services at school, but afterwards had difficulty finding employment. After 2 years of unemployment, Patrick reached out to CEL's Employment Opportunities Program to learn about different opportunities in his community that matched his interests and skills. He learned about an opportunity right down the street from him at CDW!



Patrick is part of the central distribution team and has found the workplace culture to be very understanding and accommodating. He has been employed at CDW for 3 months and has finally found an employer who understands and adapts to his needs.

Two grants totaling \$110,000 will help CEL expand out Employment Program, with the addition of two part-time Employment Specialists! If you know anyone who might be interested in the Employment Specialist.

Submit your resume at Jobs@CenterForEnrichedLiving.org.

*Sign up for our monthly e-newsletters on our website at:
www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org/contact*

Save the Date

10.11.18

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