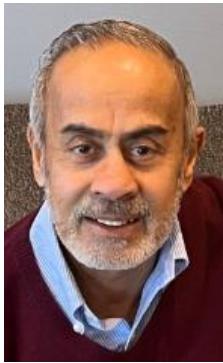


Wishing you a Happy 2025

Letter From our CEO



Thank you for your generous support. Your commitment to Pioneer Center and our 3 Pillars of Services – Intellectual & Development Disabilities (IDD), Behavioral Health (BH) and Homeless Services (HS)/PADS, amazes me. We continue to grow, expand and serve more people who need vital services in the community. This past year we have shown significant achievements and a strong commitment to integrate the 3 Pillars and leverage each other's expertise to collectively serve our clients and the community. Our drive to serve comes from every single employee who is committed to our Mission to help people live a life of well-being, independence and inclusion. Pioneer Center's passion to serve and commitment to care is seen each day in the faces of our clients in our Group Homes, Community Day Centers, Therapy Center and Homeless Shelter.

We are currently completing the renovation of our IDD Community Day Program bathroom with a mobile lift system to transport clients. In addition, we are updating the patio, fence, landscaping and interior at the Lawndale Group Home. We recently purchased a new Group Home in Crystal Lake, and renovations will start soon. We are also in the process of converting our Pyott community home to a full-fledged Group Home. All three residential homes will open in April and serve twelve new clients.

In our Behavioral Health pillar of services, we are busy launching a new program with the intent of providing mental health services to our IDD residents and clients. We are in the process of hiring a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst to start these services. We are excited about the launch of this new program and the addition to our existing services in Outpatient Therapy, Mentoring, Homeless Youth, Prevention and Education.

PADS, our emergency and transitional housing shelter in McHenry, served 210 clients, including children, almost a 10% increase over the previous year. The average length of stay for clients is 90 days, signifying the need to provide stability with the goal for better outcomes, such as permanent housing, earning an income, improved health and well-being. Our commercial kitchen continues to prepare and serve freshly cooked meals by our two amazing chefs to nourish and satisfy our clients. Once funding is raised, we can begin improvements in the kitchen, including replacing the automatic dishwasher and updates to our sinks to expand drainage and improve sanitation. Our new shelter is celebrating 5 years in June, a remarkable milestone and accomplishment. Stay tuned for more information on the upcoming celebration.

My wish for this year is that we expand and grow across each of our Pillars of Services and to offer a sense of belonging to all who participate in our programs, including our staff and volunteers. I thank all of you for helping me with our mission and I am grateful for the support Pioneer Center receives year after year.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Samuel".

Frank Samuel, CEO