



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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PLEASE HELP US MAKE THESE WISHES REALITY

Just like many people this time of year, the staff at MILESTONE makes a “Wish List”, which includes items that are needed to insure the Individuals in our care continue to receive the highest level of care possible while working towards reaching their highest potential. Many items on the list each year become reality thanks to the continued support of the entire community. A vast majority of MILESTONE’s revenue comes from contracts with the State of Illinois to provide both care and services to our Individuals. Those funds are restricted and cannot be used for the items on this list. Support from the community is what has made the difference and allowed us to maintain our levels of care.

This is only a look at some of the items we hope will be in Santa’s bag for MILESTONE.



iPads allow our Individuals to learn new skills and communicate with family. We have an ongoing need iPads at all facilities.



EZ Lifts and slings allow our staff to safely move an Individual from bed to a chair.



Outdoor recreational equipment allows our Individuals to enjoy the outdoors and the sunshine.



Sensory Equipment can change an Individuals life by reducing both behaviors and the need for medication.

A complete list is on page 7



FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friend of MILESTONE,

What a year it's been. When the calendar turned over to 21' I was so optimistic, but in all honesty, between COVID-19 and a staffing shortage unlike anything I've ever seen before, I'm ready to say good night to 21'. Last month I shared the message below to our staff in our employee newsletter. Much of this message applies to any and every one; we're all dealing with something.

In the past few weeks I've had interactions with MILESTONE family members whose lives have been turned upside down. Tragedy can strike at any moment; depression can enter one's life in a heartbeat, especially over the past 18 months.

A formal description of MILESTONE's "business purpose" is that we are an organization that serves the intellectual and developmentally disabled community. What we really are is a family, a community of nearly 800 that live, work, and care for one another.

These past 18 months have been brutal. But here's the thing. We're in the Human Services field. Every day we come together to aid in providing the best life possible for the individuals we serve. We also come together as a workforce to work through the challenges we face each and every day.

During these difficult times, whenever you have the opportunity, lend a hand, lend an ear to a co-worker in need. As a country we seem to be splintered over this, that and the other. But here at MILESTONE, always remember why we're here; to serve, and the best way to serve is to work together and be there for a co-worker in need.

On behalf of the individuals we serve and the staff that care for them, thank you for your continued support. With the Christmas holidays approaching, may you, your friends and family find peace. My best wishes for a joyful and healthy 22'!

Sincerely,

M. Shawn Way
President and CEO



WHEN YOUR LIFE HAS TO CHANGE



A parent knows when it is time to start planning for their child's future needs. Mary Ann Corey knew that when her husband passed away she needed to make long term plans for her daughter Anita. Anita lived at home and after graduating from Page Park School she worked at the Barbara Olson Center of Hope,

but her Mother was concerned about her future. After talking to the rest of family, she decided to look at residential placement possibilities. After looking at a MILESTONE home, they decided it would be a good fit and started the process. Anita was nervous when she first moved in but her family visited often and she spent the weekends with her mother. She continued working at the Center of Hope but soon transitioned to MILESTONE Industries so she could be with her friends.

Her sister says she loves going to work and her sorting job. She also enjoys going out to eat with her housemates and watching movies. She spends time at her sister's house on a regular basis and always



likes to make cookies to bring home to her friends. Anita's sister Karen says it is important for families to plan for the future because you never know



what will happen. When Anita's Mom passed away she had built a life at MILESTONE and had friends. MILESTONE's staff was also there to help with the transition. They sat with Karen when she told Anita

about their Mom and attended the funeral services to make sure Anita had everything she needed. Karen added she knows her sister is getting the best care possible, which allows her to spend time building memories with her.



MILESTONE MISSION STATEMENT

"Everyone has the right to be treated with respect, to participate in community life, to develop and exercise personal competence, to have family and friends, and to make decisions in their lives." MILESTONE, Inc. exists to ensure that persons with developmental disabilities can exercise these same rights.



ILLINOIS CHILDREN’S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION AWARDS A GRANT TO THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

The grant will provide the funding for the upgrading of the air purification systems in 3 exam rooms at the Dental Clinic, resulting in an environment that is free from any possible COVID carrying respiratory droplets.

ILCHF has a single vision: that every child in Illinois grows up healthy. Working through grantee partners across the state, the Foundation focuses its grant making on identifying and funding solutions to the barriers that prevent children from accessing the ongoing health care they need, with a primary focus on children’s oral health and children’s mental health.

BLAZER FOUNDATION HELPS WITH TRANSPORTATION NEEDS



research and development, as well as programs designed to directly support those individuals with disabilities.

A grant from the Blazer Foundation in memory of Cedric Blazer, provided part of the funding needed for a new Wheelchair van. The new van will allow staff to take individuals to doctor appointments and community outings, as well as to work at MILESTONE Industries. The Blazer Foundation was established by Cedric W. Blazer in 1986. Originally called the CWB Foundation, its focus continues to be to improve the lives of individuals with mental or physical disabilities living in Winnebago County and adjoining counties of northern Illinois. The Foundation supports local initiatives in research and development, as well as programs designed to directly support those individuals with disabilities.

MICHAEL BURJA MEMORIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

MILESTONE employee Passion Holliman is the recipient of this year’s Michael Burja Memorial Education. She is long time MILESTONE employee.

Passion is currently studying to become a Registered Nurse, and was selected from a field of several worthy applicants.

The scholarship was established by the Burja family in memory of their son, Michael, who was part of the Elmwood Heights family for over 7 years.

MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP CHILDREN

The MILESTONE Dental Clinic received a grant from the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation to cover the cost of providing care to children who are uninsured. The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois and their access to care, with a specific focus on children.

EVERYONE LOVES TO GO TO THE APPLE ORCHARD

There is nothing better than spending the day at the Apple Orchard with friends. Visiting the animals, enjoying the sunshine and enjoying cider and apple donuts are the perfect combination.





EARTHLY ESCAPES PRODUCTS ARE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Are you looking for that perfect gift to pamper someone on your Holiday gift list?

Look no further than MILESTONE Industries.

Our Individuals are busy making Bath Bombs, Bath Salts, and Scented Wax Melts.



Each product is wrapped tightly with a dryer and plastic wrap, and is labeled with its scent and ingredients.

Other packaging is offered for gifts including Alotte Cups, Gift Baskets, and The Bomb Box.

There are over 25 scents and 3 different sizes of bath bombs to choose from

And there is a line for kids with fun scents such as Grape Soda, Dirt, among others.

Scented wax melts and candles are also being made.



Check out these products and more at www.etsy.com/shop/EarthlyEscapes
Prices start at \$1.50 each and go up for gift baskets.
For more information contact Margaret DeBerry at 815-543-6323 or mdeberry@milestone-inc.org



Wax Melts \$3



Holiday Wax Warmer Gift Box \$35
Includes three wax melts,
candle and wax warmer



Wax Melts \$3



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

MILESTONE Athletes were amazing at the Bowling Tournament. 32 athletes took part in both the Ramp Bowling Tournament and the Singles Tournament. All first place finishers automatically advanced to the state tournament.

RAMP BOWLING MEDALS

- I - 2nd place
- I - 3rd place
- I - 4th place

SINGLES TOURNAMENT

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 5 - 1st place | 5 - 2nd place |
| 4 - 3rd place | 6 - 4th place |
| 2 - 5th place | 6 - 6th place |
| 1 - 7th place | 1 - 8th place. |



FRIDAY FUN AT MILESTONE INDUSTRIES





WISH LIST



ROCVALE CHILDREN'S HOME

New Furniture - 2 homes @ \$5,000 \$10,000



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

Outside recreation area upgrades \$2,000
Sensory equipment - 12 classrooms @ \$3000 \$36,000



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

iPads - 4 @ \$400 \$1,600
Various Educational Materials \$3,000



MILESTONE INC.



AGENCY WIDE

AED Training Units \$2,000
Robo-Coupe Commercial Food Processor - 2 @ \$1,900 \$3,800



MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

Parking Lot Repair and Repaving \$40,000
Replace Carpeting/Flooring \$9,000
Ultrasonic Surgical Equipment \$7,000
AED updated unit \$3,000



ADULT GROUP HOMES

Slings for EZ-stand - 3 @ \$350 \$1,050
Patio \$1,500
iPads - 4 @ \$400 \$1,600
Exercise Equipment \$2,550
Support Railings \$3,000
Washers and Dryers - 6 @ \$1,000 \$6,000
Screened Porch or 3 Season Room at 1 Group Home \$7,000
Carports at 2 Group Homes \$11,000
New Furniture - 10 Homes @ \$4,000 \$40,000
Bathroom Renovations - 2 @ \$30,000 \$60,000



ELMWOOD HEIGHTS SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

Slings for EZ-stand 3 @ \$350 \$1,050
Patio \$1,500
iPads 4 @ \$400 \$1,600
Exercise equipment \$2,550
Support railings \$3,000
Washer and Dryer 6 @ \$1,000 \$6,000

ELMWOOD EAST

Replacement Windows for Home \$20,000

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Marilyn Fulton Foundation for the grant

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Busse for the Adopt A Camper donation

MILESTONE, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) Illinois not-for-profit organization. MILESTONE Matters is developed to inform the public of the program services we offer to developmentally disabled citizens from Northern Illinois. To learn more about MILESTONE and the individuals we serve, please call (815) 654-6100.

President and CEO: M. Shawn Way
MILESTONE Matters Editor: Arles Hendershott
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EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years		25 years	
Robin Swaziek	November	Bonita Dismuke	December
20 years		30 years	
Robelys Batista	October	Emma Jenkins	October
Keri Johnson	October		
Patrice Neely	October		
Laura Van	October		



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 **MILESTONE MATTERS** WINTER 2021 



WE'RE HIRING!

Direct Service Providers:

- Full Time and Part Time available
- All three shifts available

Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse:

- Full Time available
- Sign on bonus!
- Starting wage contingent with years of service

Benefits include: Personal Leave, Vacation, Medical, Dental/Vision, Life Insurance, 401k, tuition reimbursement, etc!

Apply online at:
jobsatmilestone.com

Questions? Call Human Resources at
815-639-2849 or e-mail at
hr@milestone-inc.org