



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

M A T T E R S

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.



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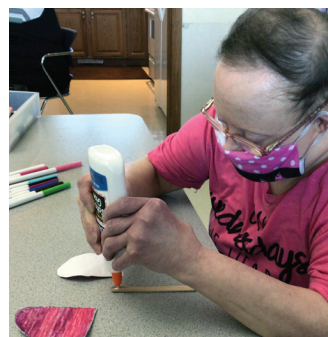
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DAY TRAINING - LEARNING SKILLS WHILE HAVING FUN

Individuals who work at MILESTONE Industries are learning new skills while having fun. Due to COVID restrictions some Individuals go to Industries 3 days a week, while a second group attend the other 2 days. On the days they are home they enjoy doing special projects. Lesson plans and all needed materials are sent to their group home and are designed for them to have fun while learning. The lessons also included COVID protocol reviews and mask wearing practice. What better way to learn about nutrition and cooking than by doing things in the kitchen. So, one week they learned to make cookies and special nutritional snacks, which they enjoyed making and eating. The week before the Superbowl they designed and made special shirts using a new process, and the shirts were auctioned off after the big game. A good way to learn about heart health, was to make special Valentine's and Valentine treat bags. Plans are already in the works for this spring when the weather warms up and they can be outside more. Gardening tops the list of activities and will include planning and planting a garden, picking out plants and making sure they are cared for and grow. Each home will be able to plant their own garden deciding if they want vegetables or flowers, plant and tend to them as they grow and finally enjoy the harvest. All while learning about the science of gardens and planting. Some fun lessons are also planned like "Fly a kite day" when Individuals will be able to design and decorate their kite and watch as it takes flight. Currently more homes are returning to a five day a week schedule at MILESTONE Industries but



until then the learning will continue whether it is at home or at MILESTONE Industries.



FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friend of MILESTONE,

Well, a year ago I wrote that I was ecstatic to say good night to 2020. Things eased up into 2021 and then “BOOM”, Omicron. We were hit hard with infection, both staff and the individuals we serve, but fortunately we came through unscathed. The individuals we serve are fully vaccinated, including the “booster”. We’re closing in on 85% of staff vaccinated; it’s been quite an effort to get to this level, but we continue making progress. We’re masking, social distancing and are slowly returning to day training, with the individuals served having the opportunity to see their friends after a lengthy hiatus. We aren’t using the phrase “returning to normalcy”, as we are cautious for the benefit of the individuals and staff, but we are hopeful. Parent and guardians visits are in full force, unless a home is under quarantine. So are hugs!

The pandemic has been compounded by the staffing crisis. We’ve been operating significantly below our full staffing level. Operating 24/7, 365 days a year, the challenge has been exhausting. However, I have witnessed a commitment from our Direct Care and Supervisory staff that is beyond description. Many staff are working 60 hours a week or more, sacrificing their own personal lives for the individuals we serve, covering hours that open positions cannot fill. My appreciation is beyond description. Our Human Resources team is recruiting non-stop, you’ve likely seen our television commercials and billboards throughout the community. We’re spending money recruiting like never before.

In the end, when you provide human services there is no down time. At the same time, we rely on the human spirit. Staff, supervisors, families and the support of the community. Having spent my entire life in Rockford, other than a couple years in the 90’s, I am continually amazed at the support from the community of MILESTONE and other social service agencies. Thank you!

Stay Safe. Stay Strong...and go outside, it’s spring!

Sincerely,

M. Shawn Way
President and CEO



A SPECIAL MEETING



When Jean Wedgbury started volunteering at an orphanage in Jamaica she did not know the impact it would have on her family. One day as she was leaving the orphanage the staff brought in a very sick baby who had been abandoned at a local hospital. She took one look at the child and her heart melted, she put one finger

next to his little hand and he grabbed hold of it and would not let go. This was the first indication of the special bond that was to develop. The Wedgbury's became the foster parents for the child, and when he was 3 years old they adopted him and he became a U.S. citizen. They named him Kevin and they knew he had several challenges to overcome and they were committed to helping him. His education included speech and occupational therapy, and he made great strides. When he graduated he started attending the Barbara Olson Center of Hope, which he enjoyed. He also enjoyed going places with his dad, especially the hardware store. Things were going well, and then one day their lives changed again. His mom started thinking about Kevin's future after his father passed away, and she wanted to make sure she had everything in place so that he would be taken care of if something happened to her. She had always heard good things about MILESTONE, and after taking a tour of MILESTONE Industries she wanted to learn more about the organization. After looking at several options she decided MILESTONE was the place she was looking for. Kevin moved into a group home as the COVID pandemic was starting. She said the staff



went out of their way to make sure everyone was comfortable with the transition and the changes resulting from COVID. This also meant that Kevin was now able to work at MILESTONE Industries, along with Center of Hope. He enjoys going to MILESTONE Industries 2 days a week and the Center of Hope the other 3. Mrs. Wedgbury said the preplacement visits and communication from the staff made the transition easier than she expected. But, she advises other parents to not rush into placing someone in a residential facility, take the time to look at all your options. She is happy with the way things worked out and knows her son will be taken care of in the future.



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.



GRANT FROM THE ALPINE KIWANIS HELPS THE DENTAL CLINIC



Kiwaniis®

A grant from the Alpine Kiwanis club provided the funding needed for a new AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic, designed for both pediatric and adult patients. The unit is critical and allows the clinic to sedate patients for certain procedures.

BLAZER FOUNDATION HELPS FUND NEEDED WHIRLPOOL



THE **BLAZER**
FOUNDATION

A grant from the Blazer Foundation in memory of Cedric Blazer, provided funding needed for a whirlpool tub at Elmwood Heights. The tub is needed to provide needed therapy to aid

with circulation and stimulation of the skin, and helps maintain the integrity of the skin in our residents with limited to no mobility.

WOODWARD GRANT HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC



WOODWARD

A grant from the Woodward Governor Charitable Foundation funded the purchase of a new ultrasonic surgical hand piece for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. This will allow the dental staff to do needed restoration work quicker, making the process easier on the patient.

TRY BETA CLUB HELPS MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

There are new sensory and educational items at the MILESTONE Training center thanks to a grant from Rockford's Try Beta Club. These items will be used to help teach help teach both job skills and life skills.

HELP US PUT SMILES ON THE FACES OF THE INDIVIDUALS MILESTONE SERVES.

Summer camp is a yearly highlight for the Individuals at MILESTONE, but, due to COVID-19 restrictions our camp program is a bit different. It will be a hybrid with some people traveling to summer camp again this year, and others will be camping at home. We will bring Summer Camp to them with a Summer Camp Staycation. All the fun of summer camp will be brought to them, through a combination of activities, virtual events, and a special "Camp MILESTONE" area at MILESTONE Industries. Please help us make it a reality by Adopting a Camper.



For \$50 you can adopt an activity box delivered to the Group Home

Or

For \$100 you can Adopt a Camper's Staycation, or trip to summer camp.

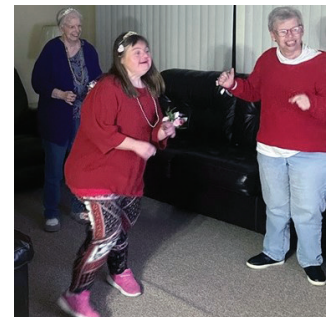
For more information please call the Development Office at 815-639-2965





IT WAS A NIGHT TO SHINE

It was a Night To Shine for the Individuals at MILESTONE. This year City First Church partnered with the Tim Tebow Foundation for the virtual event. Everyone was excited when they went to pick up their a “Prom in a Box” which included a crown or tiara, a countdown to prom, confetti, glowsticks, and more! After logging into the event everyone had fun with Tim Tebow and his special guests making it a night they won’t forget.



ELMWOOD HEIGHTS GET NEW MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPY EQUIPMENT



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

A grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois provided the needed funding for additional EZ Lifts, digital chair scales, physical therapy tables and a bariatric tilt chair for MILESTONE’s Elmwood Heights facility. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois serves as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, preserve, and grow an endowment for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois. Since its founding in 1953 CFNIL has granted more than \$75 million for charitable purposes.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Five MILESTONE athletes traveled to Peoria to compete in the State Bowling tournament at Landmark Lanes. They all did great and each bowler advanced to the state tournament after from placing first at the Regional tournament last fall.

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

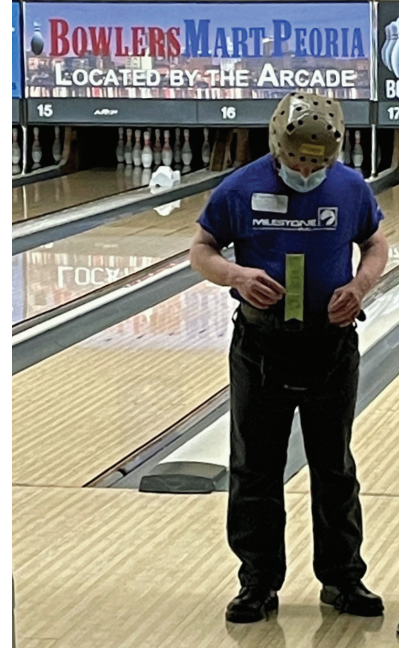
I - GOLD MEDAL

I - SILVER MEDAL

I - 6TH PLACE RIBBON

I - 7TH PLACE RIBBON

I - 8TH PLACE RIBBON



EARTHLY ESCAPES PRODUCTS ADD NEW SPRING LINE

Are you looking for that perfect gift to pamper someone?

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 to choose from.

Scented wax melts and candles are also being made.

Prices start at \$1.50 each and go up to \$10 for a gift basket.

For more information call Jill at 815-639-2835.



NEW SPRING SCENTS LIMITED EDITION

Bewitched Orchard
Cashmere
Drakkar
Dark Roast Coffee
Lush Succulent
Lily Lemon
Wax Melts \$3.00

NEW SPRING SCENTS

Sea Salt Lily
Tobacco and Bay Leaf
Secret Gardens
Sweet Pea
Watermelon
Wax Melts \$3.00
Candles \$4.00



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



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 to the following supporters:

The Marilyn Fulton Foundation for the grant

Uncle Charlie's Slots and Mollie's Deli
for the Secret Santa donation

The Bauduin Foundation for the grant

Thank you to the Harding Foundation for the grant

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

15 years

Monique Evans February
Janelle Cazy-Gander March

20 years

Albenedict Adarlo January
Alexis Harper February
Anika Davis February

25 years

June Lagrassa January

35 years

Clarency Isom January

MILESTONE
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4060 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61111

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MILESTONE MATTERS

SPRING 2022



**MILESTONE's
Monster Cup
Golf Play day
June 20th
at
Mauh Nah Tee See**



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