



# MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

## MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.



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### LEARNING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

**M**ILESTONE Industries is once again buzzing with activity with a focus on learning about the community. Getting out and about and exploring and learning about new things is a priority. Each month the Individuals have a planning meeting and can select where they would like to go and what they would like to see. At least 2 times each month the journeys take them to locations at least an hour away. Favorites include Rock Cut State Park, Lockward Park, IceHog games, Klehm Arboretum, Burpee Museum, Stronghold and the BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding & Educational Center. Groups have traveled to Chicago to see the sights and enjoy the Chicago Sports Museum at Watertower Place. Every Tuesday the focus is on exercise when everyone goes to the Rockford Park District Sports Factory to have fun and get in shape. The arts are also being explored. Dance as a form of exercise is also a new activity many enjoy while working with the members of the Rockford Dance Company. Twice a week groups are working with the ARC's art teachers with the goal of having an art show.





## FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friend of MILESTONE,

Summer, 2022.

As a supporter of MILESTONE you are well aware of our mission, providing the best life possible for the Individuals we serve.

The phrase “It Takes a Village” is truly applicable to MILESTONE; we serve approximately 250 Individuals in 38 homes throughout the Rockford community. Our Day Training sites are back open and thriving.

The staff that care for the Individuals we serve provide life skills training, safety, support and good times.

We’ve been operating significantly below our full staffing level. Operating 24/7, 365 days a year, the current staffing crisis is unprecedented. However, despite being close to 25% below full staff occupancy, we get by. How? With incredibly dedicated Team Members that put the needs of the Individuals ahead of their own.

Last month we established a “bonus” plan that is based upon the hours worked in the past 12 months. Upon review of each and every staff member, I came across “hours worked” by a good number of employees in excess of 3,000 in the past 12 months; a handful surpassed 4,000 hours worked! A standard 40 hour/week measures 2,080 annually, so we have many Team Members working an average of more than 60 hours/week. This commitment requires sacrificing their own personal lives for the Individuals we serve, covering hours that open positions cannot fill.

Our Human Resources team is recruiting non-stop; you’ve likely seen our television commercials, heard our radio spots and seen billboards throughout the community. We’re spending money recruiting like never before.

There is no “down time” in the MILESTONE mission. We don’t close up shop early due to a staffing shortage. Our Team digs in and does whatever it takes to care for the Individuals they serve. Human spirit doing God’s work. Team members, supervisors, families and the support of the community.

Thank you!

Stay Safe and Stay Strong. These are challenging times, but we’re on a mission!

Sincerely,

M. Shawn Way  
President and CEO





## BECOMING AN ADULT



Guardians know when the time is right to seek out new ways to help the child in their care. Tori was 11 when her grandparents knew she needed more assistance

then her current school district could give her. School District Officials helped guide them through the various services that were available, and her grandparents did their own research including learning about the state and federal regulations. A social worker at Tori's school told them about RocVale Children's home. Her child lived at RocVale and she thought it would be a good fit. After seeing the home and talking to the staff they agreed and the process was started. Tori visited several times and it was a good fit. Her grandparents say the staff at RocVale and her former school made the process

fairly easy. Tori is entering adulthood and they say looking back they are glad they made the decisions they did. Tori has blossomed into a young woman who loves nail polish and body spray, along with shopping for shoes. She loves being around people and when she can go someplace to swim. Soon she will be moving to an adult home but her grandparents say they know Tori is ready. The staff at RocVale have taught her all the skills she will need to succeed. Her grandparents do have some advice for other

parents. They say admit your child needs help at an early age, and seek out the resources. They also recommend learning everything you can about the laws and rights for both children and adults with disabilities. And finally remember you are your child's best advocate. They need you to fight for them.



## 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.



## HELEN BRACH FOUNDATION HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

A grant from the Helen Brach Foundation will provide the funding so uninsured and under insured patients can get the dental care they need. The MILESTONE Dental clinic provides care to children and adults with developmental disabilities from 40 counties in Illinois, including the Chicago area.

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS



The Board of Directors of MILESTONE, Inc. have elected 3 new Board Members

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GIVING



MILESTONE was honored to be part of Alpine Kiwanis' 50 years of giving celebration. Over the years Alpine Kiwanis has been a faithful supporter of MILESTONE and its mission.

and recognized a founding Board member as an Honorary Member. Ms. Lynn Williams, MSN/RN/CMRSN is Director of Adult Medicine/Surgical Inpatient Services at UW/Swedish American Hospital. Mr. Derek Kiley is Director of Sales and Marketing at Integrated HomeCare Services. Mr. Dan VanSistine is Sales and Distribution Manager at Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. In addition to the election of 3 new Board members the Board is honoring long-time and founding Board member Audrey Wickstrand. Audrey and her late husband Dick Wickstrand were instrumental in the development of MILESTONE, Inc. and have provided support to the organization in a multitude of ways. The Individuals served, staff and management of MILESTONE, Inc. will be forever grateful to Audrey Wickstrand.

## 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







## HUNTING FOR EASTER EGGS

Everyone was busy at Elmwood Heights before Easter looking for the eggs that had been cleverly hidden. Both the Individuals and staff had a good time hunting them down.



## ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Two MILESTONE artists, Nancy Becker and Doug Henley had their work on display during Rockford Area Art Council's ArtScene. Both Individuals are part of the ARC's art program.



## POEM READING

A poetry reading was also part of this year's ArtScene, and Matt was chosen to read his poem to the audience as part of the program.



ArtScene, as a gallery walk, hosted by the Arts Council, featuring new and established artists of the Rockford Region.





## SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

### EVERYONE GAVE THE TRACK AND FIELD MEET A THUMBS UP

This was the first regional Track and Field meet at Harlem High School since 2019. Over 50 athletes from MILESTONE competed this year, and everyone had a great time. All gold medals winners are eligible to attend the state games in June.

#### TRACK AND FIELD MEDALS

- 15 - GOLD MEDALS
- 15 - SILVER MEDALS
- 17 - BRONZE MEDALS
- 9 - 4TH PLACE RIBBONS
- 9 - 5TH PLACE RIBBONS
- 10 - 6TH PLACE RIBBON
- 1 - 7TH PLACE RIBBON
- 1 - 8TH PLACE RIBBON



### BOCCE IS BACK

Special Olympics Bocce is back at MILESTONE for the first time since 2017. Bad weather and COVID forced the competition to be cancelled for 5 years. 19 athletes competed in the regional games and many will move on to the state games in Bloomington in June.



#### BOCCE MEDAL COUNT

##### SINGLE COMPETITION

- 4 - GOLD MEDALS
- 3 - SILVER MEDALS
- 7 - BRONZE MEDALS
- 3 - 4TH PLACE RIBBONS

##### DOUBLES TEAMS

- 2 - GOLD MEDALS
- 3 - SILVER MEDALS
- 2 - BRONZE MEDALS
- 2 - 4TH PLACE RIBBONS



## 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



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

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

Damarshun Burnside	April
Jessica Simpson	May
Andrea Byrd	June
Ginges Tan	June

### 15 years

Kimberly Simons	May
Jeremy Peterson	June

### 20 years

Brooke Milligan	April
Vickie Chandler	June

### 25 years

Lisa Fonda	May
Renee Harlan	June
Monica Esquivias	June
Cheri Poage	June

### 30 years

Linda Craig-Ellis	June
Terrie Garlow	June

**MILESTONE**  
**INC.**

Building Lives • Building Futures



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Rockford, IL



**MILESTONE MATTERS**

SUMMER 2022



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



**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Available Positions:**

Direct Service Provider

Cook

Housekeeping

Maintenance

Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional

**\$600 Sign  
on Bonus!**

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

Apply online at:  
[jobsatmilestone.com](http://jobsatmilestone.com)



Questions? Call Human Resources at  
815-639-2849 or e-mail at  
[hr@milestone-inc.org](mailto:hr@milestone-inc.org)