



Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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HOW MILESTONE BEGAN



50 years ago MILESTONE was a vision, shared by a group of parents who wanted more for their children and worked hard to make it a reality. In the early 1970's the only option was for parents to place a child with a developmental disability in an institutional setting far from their home. These parents knew there could be something better, and in 1973 the dream became reality with MILESTONE opening its first apartment building and Jim Hamilton becoming its

Executive Director. The Kishwaukee Apartments were the first residential program of it's kind in Illinois, and marked the beginning of a program that would greatly increase the number of options available to families throughout the state. Six short years later, a grant from the State of Illinois provided the funding for the building of Elmwood Heights, a facility with 6 homes and an administration building on campus designed to meet the needs of adults with both developmental disabilities and complex medical needs. Milestone was also one of 15 agencies in the nation to be part of a Department of Housing and Urban Development project which led to the building of Elmwood East. But there was still a large unmet need in the community for services. MILESTONE's mission is to ensure each person had the opportunity to achieve his or her highest level of personal growth and independence and to be an active member of the community.

With this mission in mind Milestone expanded again in the 1980's with an adult group home system, a part of the organization's history we will explore next time in MILESTONE Matters.





FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE INTERIM CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friend of MILESTONE:

Spring is in the air and the individuals we serve, and our staff are looking forward to the newness that Spring provides. The winter was relatively mild, and we've taken advantage as best we can, but the promise of longer days, green grass, new blossoms, and all that the outdoors can provide has everyone excited.

I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Bill Grahn, I have worked directly with the individuals we serve for 33 years, and managed the adult programs for the past 16 years. I am now acting as Interim CEO and Executive Director of MILESTONE due to the unfortunate medical circumstances that have impacted Shawn Way, our CEO for the past 13 years. Although Shawn is unable to return as CEO, we are so very blessed that he will remain involved with MILESTONE. We are grateful for his years of unwavering leadership and guidance and look forward to our new partnership as we forge ahead.

Moving forward we will continue to focus our efforts on providing the individuals we serve with their best life. We are 100% dedicated to our mission. Our staff do a wonderful job of caring for the individuals and providing them with opportunities for their best life.

Words alone cannot express our appreciation for those that support MILESTONE. On behalf of the individuals, the staff, parents, guardians and our Board of Directors, thank you!

Sincerely,

Bill Grahn
Interim CEO and Executive Director



LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST



We all have a goal of living life to the fullest, but many of us fall short. Robbie is one person who not only has met that goal he has surpassed

it. He is man on the go, who believes in living life to the fullest. He became part of the MILESTONE family in 1979 and he quickly adjusted to his new home and made many new friends. Soon after he started working at The MILESTONE Training Center and later MILESTONE Industries and Illinois Growth Enterprises/ Bridgeway. Always willing to accept a new challenge Robbie started working at Fairhaven Nursing Home and helped other staff make beds. He has lived in his own apartment but missed the feeling of family that is found in a group home, and currently is living with his friends at a MILESTONE Home. He keeps busy and looks forward to attending Camp Albrecht each summer, participating in Special Olympics, attending events at GIGI's Playhouse and through the Rockford Park District. Most Sundays he will be found at church and attending adult Sunday School.

His summers are jam packed, he is active with the MILESTONE Boy Scout troop and looks forward to going to Camp Lowden and enjoying all the wonderful camp foods he loves. He also loves to travel and takes at least one trip each year through Travels Able Trek Tours. Among his favorite places are California, Wisconsin and Branson.



Thema Robnson, Robbie's Guardian says, "One thing that I love about Robbie is that he loves



to talk and is always in such a good mood. Robbie laughs easily and is so passionate when he talks, especially when he is talking about wanting to move to a home with a pool table. She added, Robbie gets along with everyone and is just a pleasure to have around."

Robbie says he is content and happy, but he is always ready for his next adventure.



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 PROVIDES FUNDING FOR A PORTABLE LIFT



Kiwanis

A grant from the Alpine Kiwanis club provided the funding needed for a new portable EZ Lift for the Adult Group Homes. This lift can be moved from one location to another and be used when Individuals travel to Bloomington for the state Special Olympics competition.

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.

TRY BETA CLUB HELPS MILESTONE

There are new iPads in use at MILESTONE 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

BLAZER FOUNDATION HELPS FUND INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SENSORY THERAPY PROGRAMS



A grant from the Blazer Foundation in memory of Cedric Blazer, provided funding needed an outdoor sensory walkway at the MILESTONE Training center. The grant also allowed for the purchase of additional sensory equipment for the classrooms at the center.

ELMWOOD HEIGHTS TRANSITIONING TO ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

A grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois provided the funding for the transition to an electronic medical record system at MILESTONE's Elmwood Heights facility. The change will improve communication with medical staff for both routine appointments and in the case of an emergency.

The mission of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is to inspire endowment and promote philanthropy for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois. Since its founding in 1953 CFNIL has granted more than \$80 million for charitable purposes. 2023 is CFNIL's 70th anniversary: learn more about CFNIL's history, grantmaking, and commitment to endowment at cfnil.org.

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 ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and concerns 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, or taking part in local group activities.



Our goal is to send as many Individuals as possible to summer camp for a week. However for those who can not travel, 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, group events and a special "Camp MILESTONE" area at MILESTONE industries.



Please help us make it a reality by Adopting a Camper or an Activity

For \$50 you can adopt an activity box.

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



NIGHT TO SHINE

Over 50 Individuals walked the red carpet and danced the night away at a “Night to Shine” at City First Church. For the first time since 2020 “Night to Shine” was a live in person gathering and an unforgettable event. Each person was greeted by paparazzi, had their hair and make-up done, received a corsage or boutonniere, enjoyed a catered dinner and danced the night away. The Tim Tebow Foundation started a “Night to Shine” in 2014 by partnering with local churches and businesses. Everyone had a great time, and the smiles provided proof it was a “Night to Shine”.



WOODWARD GRANT HELPS ELMWOOD HEIGHTS



WOODWARD

A grant from the Woodward Governor Charitable Foundation funded the purchase of an EZ Lift for Elmwood Heights. The EZ Lifts allows staff to safely transfer Individuals from their wheelchairs to their beds while minimizing the chance of injury to either the Individual or staff.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

BASKETBALL SKILLS TOURNAMENT

31 athletes travel to Dixon High School to compete in the Region A Special Olympics Basketball Skills Tournament. Everyone tried their best and had a good time and the 4 gold medalists will be heading to the state competition.



MEDALS

4 - gold medals
6 - Silver Medals
5 - bronze medals

4 - 4th place ribbons
6 - 5th place ribbons
3 - 6th place ribbons

1 - 7th place ribbon
1 - 8th place ribbon
1 - participation ribbon

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the DAO Foundation for the grant for classroom sensory equipment at MTC
Thank you to the Harding Foundation for the year end grant.
Thank you to Molly's Deli and Uncle Charlie's Slots for the Secret Santa donations for RocVale and Elmwood Heights.
Thank you to the Ralph Baudhuin Foundation for the grant.
Thank you to the Marilyn Fulton Foundation for the grant.
Thank you to the Anderson family funds for the grants.
Thank you to HMC products for the grant.
Thank you to Rockford Heating for providing the funds for the TV for Rocvale on our wish list.
Thank you to State Rep. Maurice West for the donation for the Intra-Oral camera for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic.
Thank you to the Arthur Gallagher Foundation for the grant.
Thank you to The Goddard Family Foundation for the grant.





WISH LIST



ROCVALE CHILDREN'S HOME

Nintendo Switch gaming system 3 @ \$400.....	\$1,200
Sensory equipment	\$2,000
Big Screen TV.....	\$2,000



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

iPads 4@ \$400	\$1,600
Sensory equipment 6 classrooms @ \$3000	\$18,000



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

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



ADULT GROUP HOMES

Slings for EZ-stand 3 @ \$350.....	\$1,050
Patio	\$4,000
iPads 4@ \$400.....	\$1,600
Exercise equipment	\$2,550
Support railings.....	\$3,000
Washer and Dryer 6 @ \$1,000	\$6,000
Carports at 2 group homes @ \$8,000.....	\$16,000
New Furniture 10 homes @ \$7,500	\$75,000
Bathroom renovations 2 @ \$30,000	\$60,000
New Flooring multiple homes.....	\$50,000
Automatic door openers for bedrooms and bathrooms 6@ \$3500	\$21,000
Bike rack.....	\$500
New windows	\$6,000
New Furniture - 10 Homes @ \$4,000	\$40,000
Bathroom Renovations - 2 @ \$30,000.....	\$60,000



ELMWOOD HEIGHTS SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

Adaptive Swing Set with Wheel Chair Swing.....	\$8,000
Medical Equipment.....	\$10,000
Positioning Slings 40@ \$275.....	\$11,000
Replacement Entrance Doors 6@ \$5,000	\$30,000
Sensory Equipment 6 homes@ \$5,000	\$30,000
Patio Door replacements for homes	\$40,000
Bedroom/ bathroom remodels and upgrades in each home 6 @ \$15,000.....	\$90,000
Replacement flooring for two homes.....	\$20,000
EZ lifts 5 @ \$8,000	\$40,000
EZ Lift Replacement batteries 10 @ \$100	\$1,000
Medical Exam Bed.....	\$10,000
Replacement Windows for 6 home@ \$15,000.....	\$90,000
Wheel Chair Van 7 passenger	\$80,000

Milestone

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
Schick 33 digital x-ray sensor, cable, box kit 3 @ \$7000.....	\$21,000

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		25 years	
Palomia Lyons	January	Danyel Smith	February
Kelly Olson	January		
Victoria Burnside	January		
Shuntay Posley	February		
15 years			
Vicky Street	February		
Aadriana Rowell	February		
Terri Collins	February		



Building Lives & Futures

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MILESTONE MATTERS SPRING 2023



We're Hiring!

Open Positions:

Direct Service Provider: \$16.25/hr • QIDP: \$23.25/hr
C.N.A.: \$17/hr • C.N.A. Team Leader: \$19/hr
3rd Shift Home Coordinator: \$18.95/hr

\$600 Sign On Bonus

Benefits: Health Insurance, Dental/Vision insurance,
Paid Time Off, Life Insurance, 401k Profit Sharing,
Tuition Reimbursement, and so much more!

EOE



Apply online today at
www.jobsatmilestone.com

Contact Human Resources with any questions
at 815-639-2849 or hr@milestone-inc.org