



# Milestone

Building Lives & Futures

## MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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### A DAY LONG CELEBRATION MARKED MILESTONE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The day started with the dedication of a time capsule to be opened in 2073.

Individuals and Staff from MILESTONE contributed items along with area Mayors and Legislators.



This was followed by a Celebration with music and food at the BMO Center for the Individuals at MILESTONE and their families and staff.



### THANK YOU 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPONSORS

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## FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

September 2023

Dear Friends of MILESTONE,

Where did the time go? It feels like we just celebrated the July 4th holiday, and it is already Fall.

We celebrated Memorial Day, Juneteenth, July 4th, and the 50th Anniversary of MILESTONE. All wonderful and momentous occasions.

As we celebrated our 50th Anniversary we had a chance to look back and reflect on the impact MILESTONE has had on the Community and the thousands of lives that have been touched over the years.

The Time Capsule buried at MILESTONE Industries will remind people in 2073 when it is opened of the work we have done and the work that still needs to be done. The contents reflect our past, the present and hopes for the future.

We also dedicated the area around the time capsule to MILESTONE's second CEO, Shawn Way, a man who shaped MILESTONE's present and left it a better place when he retired. Shawn had a special way of describing MILESTONE:

“Hands around a heart, that’s what we are.”  
Those words are inscribed on a bench in his honor.



Wrap your hands around someone’s heart, let us lift each other up.

Enjoy the company of others or take time to just relax and reflect on your own accomplishments. Take time each day and find the good, in a world where there can be so much negative there ALWAYS is good in each and every day. Find that good, that moment and save it, keep the mental note that puts a smile on your face and warms the heart. Take that moment and spread to someone else who may be struggling to find that moment. That is what friends do, that is what family does and, in the end, we are all part of the MILESTONE Family.

Thank you for all you do!

  
Bill Grahn  
CEO and President



## A SPECIAL REASON TO CELEBRATE



Susie has a special reason to celebrate MILESTONE's 50th anniversary, she has been part of the MILESTONE family since 1976 and lived at MILESTONE's very first facilities, the Kishwaukee Apartments. She says as time goes by MILESTONE just keeps getting better and better.



Susie is glad to be part of the MILESTONE family and could not imagine living anywhere else.

Susie attended Page Park School and she loved her teachers and they remember her fondly, many kept in contact with her after she graduated.



She loves working at MILESTONE Industries and says she would be very sad if she could not go to work everyday like she has for the past 37 years, and see her friends. She also likes the fact the staff will help her whenever she needs it, and make time to talk to her.



She says she has a large family because the MILESTONE staff, her peers, special friends and her guardian are all her family. She loves doing things in the community with her housemates including going to Sunday School each week.

But her favorite activities involve animals, she loves feeding the birds and squirrels at her home with the help of her friends and says animals should be able to live without the fear of being abused.



## 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.



### START OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM



The new Millennium started with MILESTONE purchasing the former Rockford Title building in downtown

Rockford to serve as the new location for our downtown CILA office and the new MILESTONE Community Center. The programs and services at the Center were available to the individuals MILESTONE serves as well as other citizens with developmental disabilities from other social service agencies and the surrounding community.

MILESTONE also successfully merged with RocVale Children's Home, this allowed MILESTONE to expand its services, but more importantly, for the children and staff at RocVale, provided a sound financial basis and administrative structure for the organization.

MILESTONE also opened two new group homes serving an additional ten individuals with disabilities.

Shortly after the merger a 1.5 million dollar renovation of RocVale began. MILESTONE also opened an additional group home serving five individuals.

2003 saw both the completion of the RocVale renovation and the enrollment of the 1300th patient at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. .

A year later MILESTONE began the construction of three new group homes, these group homes replaced MILESTONE's Javelin I and Riverside properties. The MILESTONE Dental Clinic was able to expand thanks to a \$265,000 grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation.

In 2005 three new group homes opened and the expansion of our dental clinic was completed. An additional dentist was hired and MILESTONE Dental Clinic began serving five additional counties in northeastern Illinois. The emphasis is to provide dental services to children with disabilities.

MILESTONE also started an "Adopt A Camper" program so both adults and children could attend summer camp.

In 2006 MILESTONE converted to a "Lift-Free Environment" at all facilities.

MILESTONE opened the Eggleston Group Home in 2007 which featured an open floor plan.

Followed by the opening of the Southbridge group home, which replaced MILESTONE's Country Club property. The Hanford Group Home was also remodeled.

A grant paid for the construction of enclosed walkways connecting the building at Elmwood Heights and for

canopies to cover the loading areas for the vans.



Towards the end of the decade the staff at MILESTONE expanded the Sensory Programs at the MILESTONE Training Center and Elmwood Heights facilities. The number of patients regularly seen at the dental clinic hit 4000, and the service area for the clinic was expanded to include 18 counties in Northern Illinois.

MILESTONE also opened an apartment building on South Mulford for individuals in the Independent Living Program with 8 separate apartments and a staff apartment. Funding for the building was provided by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Funding was also secured for a second 8 unit apartment building with a staff apartment from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This facility was built on Commonwealth Drive in Loves Park.

RocVale went through the process to change its license from a Children's Care Institution to a Children's Group Home facility.

2010 was a record setting year with MILESTONE Industries filling orders for over 7100 custom made Holiday Cards.

The Sensory Programs at RocVale Children's Home facility was also expanded in 2010.

2011 was a record setting year for "Adopt A Camper" with 73 individuals sponsored for a week at Camp Albrecht Acres and 21 individuals sponsored for Camp Winnebago in Rockford. The program also providing funding for 30 day camp programs for the children at RocVale.

The sensory program was again expanded to include the MILESTONE Dental Clinic.

MILESTONE sponsored the Monster Cup golf play day for the first time in 2014 at The Mauh Nah Tee See Club. Golfers enjoyed the challenge of using an oversized cup at each hole. Money raised will be used for the various programs offered to the Individuals MILESTONE serves.



"Sophie's Place", the home of RocVale's Art, Music and Speech therapy programs was dedicated in 2018.

Sessions are offered several times a week for the children.

And MILESTONE celebrated a MILESTONE 50th Anniversary in 2023 by burying a time capsule.

While the programs offered by MILESTONE over the years have changed, one thing has remained constant; MILESTONE has remained a leader in providing services to people with Developmentally Disabilities.



## THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION INCLUDED A SPECIAL DEDICATION

Retired CEO Shawn Way always describes MILESTONE as “Hands around a Heart” those words will forever be on a bench dedicated in his honor next to the location of the time capsule.



## MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY A SUCCESS

The ninth annual “Monster Cup” golf play day was a success with people having fun while raising money for MILESTONE. First Responders from several area Law Enforcement agencies and the Rockford Fire Department were again



honored by being asked to golf as MILESTONE’s guest with a registered team.



## THANK YOU MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY SPONSORS

### Event sponsors

- Encova
- Gallagher Williams-Manny
- Genoa Healthcare
- Graham Spencer
- HELM
- Illinois Bank and Trust
- LaMonica Beverages
- William Charles Construction
- Wipfli

### Monster Sponsors

- Agnew Law Group
- HMC Products
- Viking Chemical

### Hole Sponsors

- Sturm Family
- Meridian Printing

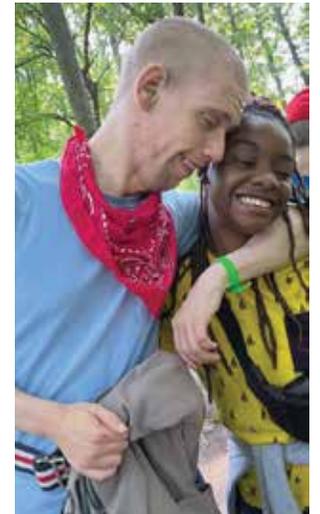
## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED



Thanks your generosity 2 groups were able to attend summer camp for a week at Camp Albrecht acres in Iowa, and 2 Staycation Summer Camp special staycation boxes were delivered to home so everyone got to enjoy the fun of Summer camp. Thank



you for a summer full of smiles and fun.





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

## STATE SUMMER GAMES

14 athletes traveled to Bloomington for the State Special Olympics Summer Games. Everyone had a great time, did their best, and enjoyed both the opening and closing ceremonies. They also enjoyed seeing old Friends from around the state and making new ones.



### STATE SUMMER GAMES MEDALS

- 3 - gold medals
- 4 - silver medals
- 2 - bronze medal
- 1 - 4th place ribbon
- 2 - 5th place ribbons
- 2 - 6th place ribbons
- 1 - 7th place ribbon
- 1 participation ribbon

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

Five athletes traveled to LaSalle and competed in the Special Olympics Region A Golf Tournament at the Seneca Oak Ridge Golf Course. Everyone did a great job and one athlete earned a trip to the State tournament in Decatur this fall.



### GOLF TOURNAMENT MEDALS

- 1-gold medal
- 3-silver medals
- 1-bronze medal



## SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

16 athletes traveled to Elgin to compete in the Special Olympics Softball Tournament, and everyone did a great job and had fun. All of the gold medal winners will compete at the State tournament in Springfield this fall.



### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT MEDALS

- 5 - gold medals
- 3 - silver medals
- 3 - bronze medals
- 1 - 4th place ribbon
- 1 - 5th place ribbon
- 2 - 6th place ribbons
- 1 - 7th place ribbons

## BOWLING TOURNAMENT

MILESTONE was well represented with 43 bowlers competing in The Region A Special Olympics Bowling tournament. Everyone had fun and the gold medalists advanced to the Sectional tournament at Cherrybowl.



### BOWLING TOURNAMENT MEDALS

- 9 - gold medals
- 7 - silver medals
- 6 - bronze medals
- 6 - 4th place ribbons
- 5 - 5th place ribbons
- 3 - 6th place ribbons
- 4 - 7th place ribbons
- 2 - 8th place ribbons



### 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



**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



**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, 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.

Bill Grahn, CEO and President  
MILESTONE Matters Editor: Arles Hendershott  
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### EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

<b>10 years</b>			
Bradley Zarembski	July	Tom Cassady	Sept.
Ashely Collins	August	<b>25 years</b>	
15 years		Michelle Austin	July
Courtney Meeks	August	Lonnie Williams	July
Latonia Purifoy	August	Sarah Meyers	July
Rebecca Crain	August	Angela Ruper	July
<b>20 years</b>		Geneise Hunt	August
Kutansha Driskell	August	Kristine Mueller	Sept.
Deborah Trader	August	<b>30 years</b>	
Rodney Moree	Sept.	Robert Meyers	Sept.
Tisha Lewis	Sept.		



Building Lives & Futures

4060 McFarland Road  
Rockford, IL 61111

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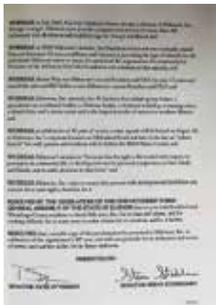
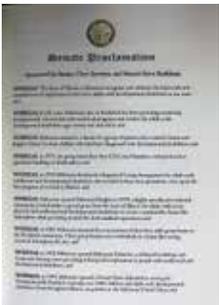


MILESTONE MATTERS FALL 2023



### RECOGNITION FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

MILESTONE was honored to received a joint proclamation from Illinois State Senators Steve Stadelmen and Dave Syverson in honor of the 50th Anniversary celebration.



# 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](http://www.jobsatmilestone.com)

Contact Human Resources with any questions at 815-639-2849 or [hr@milestone-inc.org](mailto:hr@milestone-inc.org)