



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 ensure 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 for 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.



Please see page 7 for a look at MILESTONE’S complete WISHLIST.



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

Friends of MILESTONE:

As Fall is upon us and the Holiday season draws near, I must take time to express my sincere thanks and admiration to all our employees who have dedicated themselves to serve the intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals who call MILESTONE home. And my unending gratitude to you, the community who supports our mission.

2023 is a "MILESTONE" year for us as the individuals celebrated our 50th Anniversary. To date they have made the most of this momentous year. Summer Camps, both in and out of State, were highly attended, and our Scouts will have returned to Camp Lowden for a week-long adventure. Our Special Olympics teams and individuals made memories and brought home countless awards. We celebrated Juneteenth and spent endless days enjoying our wonderful community. Our artisans again participated in ArtScene in downtown Rockford and are already looking forward to and preparing for next year's event. And of course, our talented singers and dancers once again took to the stage at the Boone County Fair.

We continue to be blessed with amazing staff who continually go above and beyond for the individuals who call MILESTONE home. We cannot thank our extended family enough, YOU, our amazing community, for your continued support both financially and prayerfully.

Thank you for your unselfish love and ongoing support. May you and your family have a blessed Holiday Season and I pray that you have a safe and blessed 2024.

Sincerely,

Bill Grahn

ROCVALE UPDATE



In 2001 RocVale Childrens Home became a division of MILESTONE. It was our pleasure to provide services to RocVale's residents and families. Unfortunately, over the past few years we have seen a steady decline in the number of children we have been able to serve. As a result, we have made the very difficult decision to end this chapter in our history and discontinue that service. We thank our dedicated staff, parents, and community for your support of children's services,

we could not have done this without you. MILESTONE remains strong and will continue what we started 50 years ago; providing services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We look forward to the continued support of our dedicated staff, family, friends, and community as we look forward to the next 50 years.



MEETING NEW PEOPLE IS THE BEST PART OF LIFE



Mark has called MILESTONE home for over 40 years and has always lived in his own apartment. Over the years has also enjoyed working at several places including Illinois Growth Enterprises, Rockford Memorial Hospital, Chuck E Cheese, and Goodwill. Mark

says he is not ready to retire just yet, so he works a couple of days a week at MILESTONE Industries. He likes putting boxes together and sorting bolts, but mostly he likes seeing people and talking to them. He will also quickly add making a buck or two is also very nice.



But his dream job would be working at IGA and making the fried chicken. He enjoys taking Paratransit, which not only gets him where he wants to go, it also gives him a sense of independence. The staff at MILESTONE

say Mark is the happiest when he is on the go, and he always has plans for his next adventure. That adventure may be going to one of his favorite places, Toad Hall, looking for records or tapes to add to his



growing collection which includes all types of music, or hunting for vintage toys to add to his collection. Or it could include a trip to Applebees or Steak and Shake because they have the best cheeseburgers and shakes, but that is only if he has done well during the week following his diet, otherwise the treat must wait. He also loves art and enjoys being part of the Art classes

offered at The ARC. But Mark says the highlight of 2023 was MILESTONE'S 50th anniversary party when he got to see all his friends and dance while enjoying great food. He wants to keep going and enjoying life as long as he can, and meeting new people, because as he says he is not ready for a rocking chair just yet.



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.



ENJOYING THE NICOLAS CONSERVATORY

A group from MILESTONE Industries was able to take advantage of one of the final days of summer and enjoy the beauty of the Nicholas Conservatory. They also took time to enjoy the sculptures and flowers along the bike path and river.



THIS YEAR'S BURJA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Deonika Vaughn is the recipient of this year's Michael Burja Memorial Education Scholarship. Deonika is studying to become a CNA and then will continue her education to become a Registered Nurse.

become a Registered Nurse.

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.

The selection committee chose Deonika from a field of several worthy applicants.

EARTHLY ESCAPES PRODUCTS AND CARDS 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 scented wax melts and hand painted holiday cards.

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 gift tins, and boxes.

There are over 25 scents to choose from including special holiday scents.

Prices start at \$1.00 each and go up to \$35 for a gift basket. Holiday cards are \$2.00 each.



For more information call Margaret at 815- 543-6323 or e-mail her at mdeberry@milestone-inc.org



EXPANDED SENSORY WALKWAY AT ELMWOOD HEIGHTS

The combining of two memorials resulted in the expansion of the outdoor sensory walkway at Elmwood Heights. The Individuals can enjoy the musical flowers and drums as while using the recreation path. The memorials are for Dorothy Bjork and RoseMary Hendershott.



SAYING SO LONG TO SUMMER

Everyone at Elmwood Heights enjoyed the sunshine and great summer weather one last time at the End of Summer Bash. Festivities inside and outside had everyone smiling.



FUN AT CAMP LOWDEN

Boy Scout Troop 360 from MILESTONE enjoyed the crisp fall days at Camp Lowden, hiking, cooking, and having fun. There was also time at night to enjoy a football game or 2.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

EXCITING VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

MILESTONE'S Modified Volleyball team traveled to Oak Lawn High School and fought hard until a nail-biting finish to win the gold medal and advance to the State Competition. The referees and parents of the opposing team congratulated MILESTONE'S athletes on a job well done and said it was one of the most exciting matches of the tournament.



SECTIONAL BOWLING SUCCESS

Eight bowlers competed in the Region A Sectional Bowling tournament. They had to bowl against the best bowlers in Region A as they won gold medals at the Regional Tournament. They all did an outstanding job.



REGIONAL BOWLING MEDALS

- 2 - Silver medals
- 1 - Bronze medal
- 1 - 4th place ribbon
- 1 - 5th place ribbon
- 2 - 7th place ribbons
- 1 - 8th place ribbon



STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT VICTORY

The MILESTONE Modified Volleyball Team ended their season with a Bronze medal at the State Tournament. They played the toughest and best teams in the state and did a great job. Congratulations to everyone.





WISH LIST



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

iPads 4@ \$400	\$1,600
Outside recreation area upgrades	\$5,000
Sensory equipment 12 classrooms @ \$3000	\$36,000
Concrete work/leveling	\$15,000
Commercial grade entry doors 2 @ \$2000	\$4000



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

iPads 4@ \$400	\$1,600
Various Educational materials	\$3,000
Concrete work/leveling	\$15,000
Art Supplies	\$3000
Replacement carpeting	\$20,000
Outdoor covered Swings 3 @ \$1000	\$3000
Outdoor Recreation area	\$20,000

ELMWOOD EAST

Emergency Generator	\$18,000
Replacement Windows for home	\$20,000
Bedroom/ bathroom remodels and upgrade 4@ \$6,000	\$24,000
Flooring for front, back lounges, and hallway	\$20,000



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
Desk Chairs 4 @ \$150	\$600
Exam Chairs 2@ \$7000	\$14,000
New Office windows	\$15,000



AGENCY WIDE

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



ELMWOOD HEIGHTS SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

Adaptive Swing Set with Wheelchair 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
Wheelchair Van 7 passenger	\$80,000
Hi/Low hospital beds and mattresses 5@ \$4,000	\$20,000
Washer/dryer for 6 homes @ \$5,200	\$31,200
Closet remodels in 6 homes@ \$3,000	\$18,000



ADULT GROUP HOMES

Slings for EZ-stand 3 @ \$350	\$1,050
XXL EZ Lift Slings 2 @ \$400	\$800
Commercial grade Oven	\$6000
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 12@ \$3500	\$42,000
Large dining table with seating for 8	\$2000
Bedroom conversion	\$12,000
Screened in porch	\$8000
Extended/widened driveway	\$10,000
Car/Sedan	\$40,000
Acoustic/noise reducing tiles 2 rooms @ \$8000	\$16,000
Bike rack	\$500
New windows at 2 homes @ \$6,000	\$12,000

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

35 years		20 years	
Phillip Batchelor	October	Courtney Udelhofen	October
		Kimberley Knuckles	October
30 years		15 years	
Millie Baymon	October	Regine Kilbert	October
Reginald Parham	November	Renee Cazy	November
		Arreane Toney	November
25 years		10 years	
Tisha White	October	Xaveria Williams	October



Building Lives & Futures

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MILESTONE MATTERS WINTER 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 RN/LPNs: \$27.12 to \$44.28/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