

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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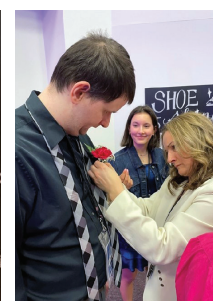
MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

2024 marks the 25th anniversary of the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. The clinic is the only freestanding dental clinic in the country designed to serve only patients with a primary diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability. The demand for the unique services of the clinic is high with patients coming from 40 counties throughout Illinois for dental care.



"NIGHT TO SHINE"

Fifty-Eight Individuals walked the red carpet and danced the night away at a "Night to Shine" at City First Church. Everyone went above and beyond to make it 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 wonderful time, and the smiles provided proof it was a "Night to Shine".



FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

Friends of MILESTONE:

Incredible that it is already Spring. We are genuinely excited about upcoming events and another impressive “MILESTONE” to celebrate. This year, 2024, marks the 25th Anniversary of the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. Yes, in 1999, once again our great visionaries tackled the need of dental services for those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. What they developed was the first clinic of its kind in the State of Illinois that provides state-of-the-art dentistry for patients with developmental disabilities. Our amazing staff continue to provide services to patients from dozens of Illinois counties. Through their efforts, and the continued support of our community, and all of you, we will continue providing quality care and services for years to come. Plans are underway to mark this momentous occasion. Happy 25th Anniversary MILESTONE Dental Clinic!

Spring also brings the excitement of new activities and planning. Our MILESTONE Artisans are hard at work designing and completing new creations. These works of art and creations will be on full display as they once again participate in Rockford's annual Spring Art Walk. This year the event will take place April 19 – 20, 2024. The athletes are preparing for the annual Spring Games Track and Field competition. This event will be an early weekend in May, and

all are working hard vying to earn their way to the State Summer Games. Spring also brings planning and practices for our MILESTONE Singers and Dancers. They currently are and will continue to work hard as they love being on stage showing the greater Rockford community their incredible talents.

Some may wonder how all of this comes together. The answer is simple, MILESTONE has incredible, fantastic, resolute staff. No matter what want, or need is put in front of them they join forces and find a way to get it done. I continue to be amazed daily by what they do. Some time back Shawn Way was asked what MILESTONE was? He stated, “Hands around a heart that is what we are?” That statement rings loud and clear when looking at all they can accomplish.

Thank you to everyone, the individuals, families, parents and guardians, the amazing staff past and present, you and our wonderful community for your continued thoughts, prayers, and support. Together we make a difference.

Thank you!

Bill Grahn

ROCVALE UPDATE



In 2001 RocVale Children's 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.



LIVING HER BEST LIFE

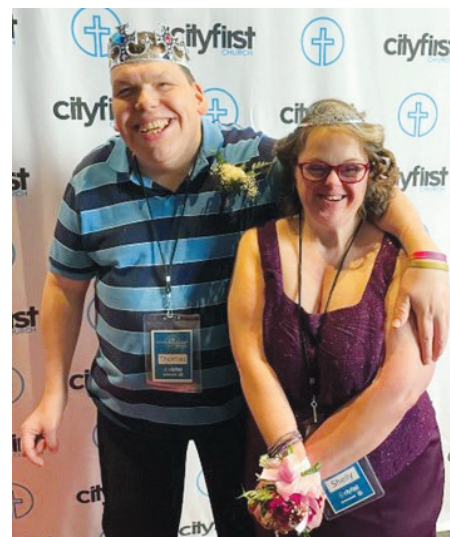


Shelley lived with family until she was in her forties, and everything was great. Shelley was happy and very involved with activities in her community. But the health of other family members declined and it became harder and harder to get Shelley to everything she wanted to do. Shelley had many friends at MILESTONE

and was enthusiastic about exploring that option, plus an added bonus was the fact her sister worked at the Corporate Office. If she became part of the MILESTONE family it would be easy for her to do the things she loved to do with her peers, plus she could see her sister when she was at MILESTONE Industries before or after work. So, the family began looking at what MILESTONE offered. Her sister-in-law Niki Maurice said everyone was amazed at the wonderful opportunities MILESTONE offered, and quickly decided to explore the possibility of Shelley calling MILESTONE home. After a tour and a visit and completing a pile of paperwork the time came for Shelley to move in. The night before she became nervous and scared, her family said the staff at her soon to be new home was wonderful and helped Shelley settle in and make her room her own. Maurice describes Shelley as a social butterfly who loves spending time with people and socializing. She loves the fact she can do crafts, watch her favorite TV shows, and play games with her new friends. MILESTONE's Special Olympic program allows her to participate in bowling, bocce, swimming, and track/field events. Maurice says if someone finds themselves in the same situation, they need to take the time to explore all options available. If the decision is made to place a loved one in a group home give them the option of spending a weekend at home occasionally, taking them out to dinner or



go shopping or just hanging out together. Spending time together is the best way to adjust to the changes. Shelley and her family agree the move was the right decision and was made at the right time, adding she is currently living her "Best Life."



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.



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 cannot 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 box.



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

HARD ROCK HELPS MILESTONE

Officials from the Hard Rock Casino presented MILESTONE with a \$5,000 check after Individuals at MILESTONE Industries wrapped 3,000 gifts for a promotion.



**SAVE THE DATE • MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024
10TH ANNUAL MILESTONE
"MONSTER CUP" GOLF PLAY DAY
THE MAUH NAH TEE SEE CLUB
5151 GUILFORD ROAD • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS.**

MILESTONE HONORED BY THE ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

State Representatives Dave Vella and Maurice West presented MILESTONE President and CEO Bill Grahn an Illinois House of Representative Resolution in honor of MILESTONE's 50th Anniversary.



Both Representatives commented on MILESTONE's long-standing commitment to providing outstanding services to the Individuals it serves.





WOODWARD GRANT HELPS ELMWOOD HEIGHTS

A grant from the Woodward Governor Charitable Foundation funded the purchase of 5 wound care carts for our Elmwood Heights Facility. The carts are part of our transition to an electronic medical records system and will lead to overall improved care of the individuals MILESTONE serves.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS PROVIDES FUNDING FOR TWO PROJECTS



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

An Emergency grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois provided the needed funding for a new suction pump for one of the exam rooms at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. A second grant is providing the funding for a bathroom renovation at Hermitage group home to make it more accessible for the current resident as part of MILESTONE's Aging in Place program.

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 \$85 million for charitable purposes. Learn more about CFNIL's history, grantmaking, and commitment to endowment at <https://cfnil.org>.

TRY BETA CLUB HELPS MILESTONE

New Educational materials are in use at MILESTONE Industries 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.

THANK YOU MILESTONE DONORS

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 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 items on our wish list.

Thank you to The Goddard Family Foundation for the grant.

Thank you to The Alexander Charitable Foundation for the grant.

Thank you to Gibbons Electric for the funding for iPads.

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.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

STATE VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

MILESTONE's Modified Volleyball Team competed in the Special Olympics State Volleyball Games. They faced some very tough competition and played the best game sets the coach has ever seen them play, and it was against the toughest teams they have ever played against. They came away with the Bronze medal. The team also enjoyed a team pizza party awards banquet at MTC.



WEATHER CANCELED BASKETBALL SKILLS COMPETITION

MILESTONE had 36 athletes training for the basketball skills competition that was to be held in Dixon, IL. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather the event was canceled. A lottery drawing was held for advancement to the state games and two athlete's names were drawn. They will advance to the State Basketball Games in Bloomington/Normal.



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

10 years

Tchkia Maclin
Edna Jones

February
March

20 years

Lisa Valentine
Christine Toribio

January
January

15 years

Deborah Dean
Jenna Schiraldi
Bonika Addison

January
February
March

25 years

Lashay Pinkey

January



Building Lives & Futures

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MILESTONE MATTERS

SPRING 2024



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