

# MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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## EXPANDING PROGRAMS TO MEET NEEDS

MILESTONE is proud to welcome the addition of our Behavioral Health Department. We recognize the development of this department is essential in providing much needed support to our staff and Individuals served. The department's mission: "We are anchored in the understanding that ongoing learning is essential for providing meaningful support. Our priority is to comprehend the individual experiences of each person we serve. We are built on a foundation of openness, adaptability, and teamwork."

### The department will consist of 3 professionals:

A BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst)

A LSW (licensed Social Worker) Level II Behavior Therapist

An additional part time Level II Behavior Therapist

They will be providing Behavioral Assessments, Skill Building, and Therapy, along with Team Training.

## HIS COMMENCEMENT SPEECH RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION

Everyone was standing and applauding when Matt Cummings completed his speech during Rock Valley College's Commencement exercises. Matt's journey to getting his Associate Degree in art was long and took 12 years because as he said sometimes life just gets in the way. Not only did he earn his AA degree, but he also earned it with High Honors.

Matt ended his speech by telling everyone, "I am smiling right now because when I was growing up, people who didn't know me wouldn't think I'd have a future. I knew I did. I had to overcome the gamut of impediments to get here. I had an opportunity to succeed through hard work and my decision to take the road that seemed impossible for anyone to travel. So did you. Nobody can deny that this accomplishment is heroic, and our legacies aren't part of wishful daydreaming anymore. Christopher Reeve reminded us, "A Hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." But looking out to all of you... I see no ordinary individuals. I see extraordinary college graduates. I see heroes.





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

Dear Friends,

I am truly blessed to be a member of the MILESTONE family. Every day, I have a front row seat, watching our individuals and staff members grow and exceed expectations. What a wonderful time to be part of the Milestone family.

Our artisans completed another successful Spring Art Walk, displaying and selling their fares. Our athletes had an incredible time at the Spring Games with several individuals bringing home the Gold and now preparing for the State Summer Games. Our amazing staff are preparing for our 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration. We wait in anticipation of this year's event.

Our MILESTONE Singers are always ready, willing, and able to perform, and they did not disappoint when Shawn Way paid a visit to us at MILESTONE Industries. They were in prime form as they welcomed his visit with heartfelt song. It is always a wonderful day when we receive visits from members of the MILESTONE Family that we have not seen in a while.

I am proud to state that our dedicated staff continue to look to the future and develop ways to increase and or enhance services. One way, as seen highlighted in this printing, is the addition of our Behavior Health Department. With the addition of the department, we found ourselves in need of

more room. A space that not only provides an office but one that encourages and provides a place to collaborate. We have found that venue and this will house our Group Home Administrative Team and Behavior Health Department.

To Grow we must Know. That is why I am excited to see the launch of a pilot program examining culture. We are looking to see what is working, identify potential problems, train healthy communication, and so much more. We look forward to fortifying the strength and health of our Milestone Family.

How does all this work, how does it all come together...it is because of our incredibly resolute staff, parents/guardians, families, board members, and you the wonderful friends of Milestone. We are so grateful for your gifts, thoughts, prayers, and unwavering support. Thank you as we look to a bright future serving our beloved friends that call MILESTONE home. The MILESTONE Family!

"Hands around a heart, that is what we are."

Bill Grahn

## MILESTONE PERRYVILLE OFFICE OPENED

On June 3rd the new MILESTONE Perryville Office opened. This will be the new location for many of the Group Home supervisory staff including Administration, RSDs, and QIDPs, and will also contain the new Milestone Behavioral Health Department. Staff has been eagerly anticipating this opportunity to join forces, strengthen and unify our Adult Group Home system, brainstorm, and enhance the support and services provided to the Individuals we serve.





## A LIFETIME OF MAKING FRIENDS



Charlie has called MILESTONE home for over 40 years and was one of the first people to move into MILESTONE's Elmwood Heights facility when it opened in the late 70s. He has since moved into an Adult Group Home, where his housemates are his family. Charlie likes to be busy and

works at MILESTONE Industries every day, where he enjoys both working and seeing his friends.



He also likes to stay in shape so Special Olympics is a very important activity, and over the years he has been involved in bowling, basketball, swimming and track and field competitions. The competition among friends and the traveling to new places are both things he enjoys.

While he loves being with people, he has a special friend, Betty who visits Charlie when she can and calls him to stay in touch when she cannot see him in person. Betty has always been there for Charlie, their friendship is so special he has a special nick name for her, he calls her "MaMa." Both Betty and his guardian Thema have been an important part of his life for 35 years.

Charlie loves helping people, before COVID he would help deliver Meals on Wheels for Lifescape once a week. He loved this because he got to meet and talk to new people all the time.



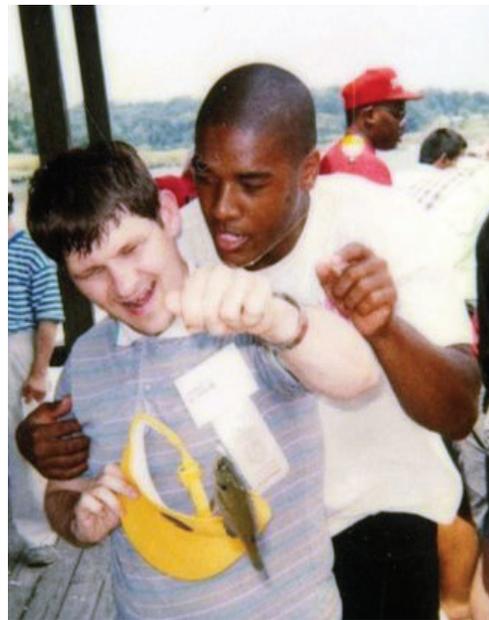
He also loves doing things with his housemates, he loves going to dances, anything dealing with WWF, going out to eat, doing crafts, playing games, and going to church.

But the highlight of his year



is going to Camp Albrecht which is a big week of fun for him. Thanks to our "Adopt a Camper" Program Charlie has been able to go every year, and as

soon as he returns home, he wants to know when he can go back next year.



Charlie enjoys life and lives life to the fullest, he enjoys interacting with staff, especially during one-on-one activities. He is extremely outgoing and affectionate and enjoys helping staff and peers.

He always wants to live the best life possible

## 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.

This year, some people will be traveling to summer camp, 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.**

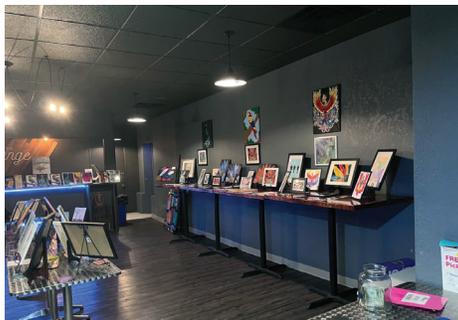
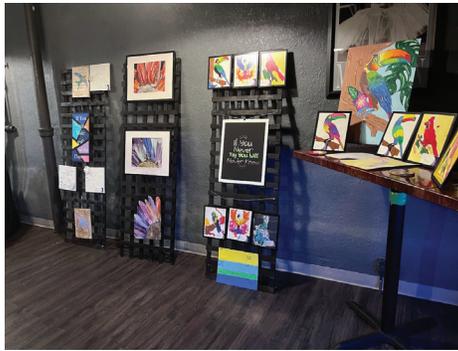
**Or**

**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

## MILESTONE ARTISTS DISPLAYED THEIR WORK

The creations of MILESTONE's Artists got rave reviews during the Rockford Art Council's Spring Artscene. The weekend event was well attended, and everyone had a fun time.



## SHARING THE MILESTONE STORY

MILESTONE President and CEO, Bill Grahn shared his vision for the future of MILESTONE with the members of the Alpine Kiwanis Club. The group has faithfully supported MILESTONE with many grants in the past.





## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PROVIDING SERVICE



Did you Know the MILESTONE Dental Clinic:

- Provides care to children and adults from over 40 counties in Illinois.
- You must have a primary diagnosis of an intellectual/developmental disability to be a patient.
- Medicaid is accepted.
- This is the only clinic where these patients can receive care.

## 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.

## SUPPORTING THE DENTAL CLINIC

A grant from the Kjellstrom Family Foundation provided the needed funding for a new dental x-ray sensor and exam chair for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. Both are critical pieces of equipment. The Kjellstrom family foundation was established in 2004 and sustains Janet Kjellstrom's memory and continues her lifetime of philanthropy.

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

## NEW LOOK FOR MILESTONE'S SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

Thanks to a grant from the Blazer Foundation MILESTONE's Special Olympic athletes have new uniforms and warmups and new banners. The banners were used for the first time at the May Track and Field meet and the uniforms will be debuted at the Summer Games in June. The Blazer Foundation was established by Cedric W. Blazer in 1986. The Foundation supports local initiatives in research and development as well as programs designed to directly support those individuals with disabilities.



## 4 BOCCE GOLD MEDALISTS HEADED TO SUMMER GAMES

MILESTONE athletes brought home the gold when they competed in the Region A Special Olympics Bocce Tournament in DeKalb. Spring rain resulted in many cancelled practices, but the 18 athletes and 2 unified partners did their best and brought home many ribbons and medals



<b>BOCCE REGIONAL</b>
4-gold medals
6-silver medals
3-bronze medals
4-fourth place ribbons



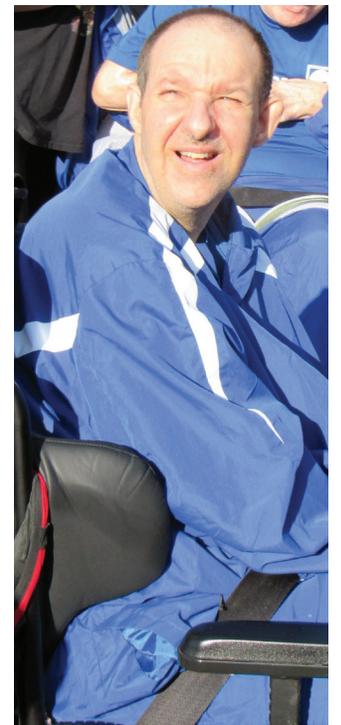
# SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

## TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES WILL BE GOING DOWNSTATE

It was a perfect day for the annual Special Olympics Track and Field meet at Harlem High School. MILESTONE had 91 athletes registered for the various events. Everyone was smiling from the opening parade until it was time to leave. Nineteen athletes earned gold medals and will be heading downstate for the State competition in June.



- Track and Field Medals**
- 19-gold medals
  - 26-silver medals
  - 15-bronze medals
  - 14-4th place ribbons
  - 11-5th place ribbons
  - 10-6th place ribbons
  - 3-7th place ribbons





### 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.....	\$4,000



#### MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

iPads 4 @ \$400.....	\$1,600
Various Educational materials.....	\$3,000
Concrete work/leveling.....	\$15,000
Art Supplies.....	\$3,000
Replacement carpeting.....	\$20,000
Outdoor covered Swings 3 @ \$1000.....	\$3,000
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.....	\$6,000
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.....	\$2,000
Bedroom conversion.....	\$12,000
Screened in porch.....	\$8,000
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

Peggy Clark	April
Kasandra Elliott	April
Thelma Pearson	May
Ashley Fuller	May

#### 15 years

Danielle Hall	May
Clarice Maddox	May
Michael Tadin	June

#### 20 years

Javon Oden	April
Eric Davis	June

#### 25 years

Teena Rodgers Walker	June
Joyce Posley	June
Kiana Gipson	June

#### 30 years

Stephanie Valentine	May
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MILESTONE MATTERS

SUMMER 2024



# We're Hiring!

**Open Positions:**

Direct Service Provider: \$19.25/hr • QIDP: \$25.00/hr

C.N.A.: \$19.50/hr

RN/LPNs: \$29.37 to \$47.23

***\$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)