

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

FALL 2024 CONTENTS



Adapting to Change
3

CPR Training
4

Monster Cup Golf Play Day
5

Special Olympics Update
6

Wish List
7

We Are Hiring
8

MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



25 years ago in 1999, great visionaries tackled the need for dental services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The MILESTONE Dental Clinic opened its doors and was the first clinic of its kind in the State of Illinois to provide state-of-the-art dentistry for patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

“We are celebrating this great accomplishment, said MILESTONE President and CEO Bill Grahn. This clinic would not have begun or remain strong without the many wonderful people who have and continue support these efforts. We thank everyone who has been and continues to be involved and we look forward to the next 25 years.”

The MILESTONE Dental Clinic provides superior dental care to patients from over 40 counties in Illinois, because this is the only place they can receive the care they need.

Thanks to support from MILESTONE’s Clinic Champions no patients are turned away regardless of ability to pay.

Over \$1,400,000 in grants and donations from these Foundations, Service Clubs and Corporations made this possible.

CLINIC CHAMPIONS

Alpine Kiwanis
Blazer Foundation
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
Cosmopolitan Club
DAO Foundation
DeKalb County Community Foundation
Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation
Helen V Brach Foundation
Illinois Children’s HealthCare Foundation
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois State Dental Society
Kjellstrom Family Foundation
Riverside Dental/Dr. Kelli Aaby
Rockford Kiwanis
Trippel Family Charitable Fund
Winnebago County Dental Society
Woodward Governor Charitable Trust

Along with support from the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2



FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As they say, time flies when you are having fun. What an amazing summer with many activities and celebrations. Many of the hard-working athletes accompanied by our coaches and staff participated in the State Summer Games at Illinois State University. Due to the unwavering support of you, the friends of MILESTONE, countless individuals once again were able to enjoy time at various camps. These camps, whether they are day camps or a weeklong are a true highlight of every summer. Our staff also worked hard in planning celebrations for Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and July 4th. And we cannot forget the recognition of 25 years providing dental services at MILESTONE Dental Clinic.

We did end a chapter in our rich history with the official closing of RocVale Children's Home. In 2001 RocVale Children's Home became a division of Milestone and it has been our joy and pleasure to provide services to its residents and families. We have many wonderful staff that have dedicated many years of service to RocVale, and we cannot thank them enough for all that they have done. We are excited that nearly all staff from RocVale have stayed with MILESTONE and have transitioned to the adult system. This is a wonderful testament to our staff and their dedication in providing exceptional services to those that call MILESTONE home.

We have a lot to look forward to in the months ahead. Our athletes are preparing for their next activities which include bowling and basketball skills. Our singers and dancers are enjoying time together and continue practicing for their upcoming events following their heartwarming performance at the Boone County Fair. Staff have engaged in the next steps identifying what is working well and where we can improve as we continue to look forward to fortifying the strength and health of our MILESTONE Family.

To the individuals, families, parents, and guardians, the amazing staff, you our cherished friends, and our wonderful community, thank you for your dedication, thoughts, prayers, and support. You, the members of the MILESTONE Family, providing the strength, encouragement, and support to keep us moving forward, we are truly blessed.

Thank You!

Bill Grahn

MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC CELEBRATES 25 YEARS





ADAPTING TO CHANGE



James helped take care of his parents for years. He mowed the grass, did the laundry and anything else that needed to be done around the house. But His life drastically changed in the fall of 2023 when both his mother and father passed away within months of each other. At first, he lived with his siblings, but everyone knew that was not a good long-term plan. His sister, Rose Layne started planning for

her brother's future several years ago and said she is glad she started the process when she did. The family looked at several options, but MILESTONE always came out at the top of the list. The family hoped James could move into his own apartment, but they also knew the openings in that program were rare. So, when there was an opening at a group home, they scheduled a visit, but before that could happen an apartment became available. After visiting the apartment and talking to staff they knew it was the perfect fit. James loves his new home. Layne says the move has opened a new world for her brother. He has made new friends, loves all the activities he has become involved in, including going out to eat, and going to work. James works in the kitchen at MILESTONE Industries and helps with assembly jobs. He has also taken up bowling and is part of the Special Olympics bowling team.



Layne says the best part is he can still see his family while gaining his independence. He can still be part of family traditions like going to her house for Thanksgiving and playing games with his 7 brothers and sisters.

Layne says she is so appreciative of the care James is receiving at MILESTONE, adding the staff is simply



great and go above and beyond everyday. Also, when things do come up the staff is proactive and is great about communicating with her.

Her advice to other families is to do your leg work early. It is never too soon to start looking at possibly alternatives for your loved one. Layne added it is not an overnight process, there are many forms that need



to be filled out and many interviews that need to be scheduled. You owe it to your loved one to be proactive and do your homework and start the process early.

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.



CPR TRAINING

Several Individuals at MILESTONE Industries learned a life saving skill during CPR training. The class was taught by MILESTONE's trainers and each person received a Certificate of Training Completion.



FISHING FUN

In collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, MILESTONE sent groups fishing twice a week. The Individuals love it and have been asking to go more than once! In Illinois Individuals with disabilities can fish without a license. This program was started to increase interest in fishing in Illinois



ENTERTAINING AT THE FAIR

The MILESTONE singers and dancers wowed the crowd at the Boone County Fair this year with many musical numbers. The performers enjoy going to the Fair and seeing everyone smile while they entertain.





MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY A SUCCESS

The tenth 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

- Gallagher
- GrahamSpencer
- Helm Group
- Illinois Bank and Trust
- LaMonica Beverages
- Wipfli

Hole in One Sponsor

DiBenedetto and Associates

Monster Sponsors

- Agnew Law Group
- Genoa
- M3 Insurance
- Venetian Club
- Viking Chemical
- Washed Up Titans

Hole Sponsors

- Encova
- Sturm Family
- Meridian Printing

GRANT FOR WHEELCHAIR VAN

Thanks to a grant from the Blazer Foundation MILESTONE will be adding a new Wheelchair van to its fleet of vehicles. 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.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED "ADOPT A CAMPER"

Thanks your generosity 3 groups were able to attend summer camp for a week at Camp Albrecht acres in Iowa, and special staycation boxes were delivered to the group home so everyone got to enjoy the fun of Summer Camp. Thank you for a summer full of smiles and fun.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

ATHLETES SHINE AT STATE GAMES

MILESTONE was well represented at Summer Games in Normal-Bloomington with 19 athletes traveling downstate. From opening to closing ceremonies it was a full weekend and every one had a great time making new friends and seeing old friends.



State Games
7-Gold Medals
4-silver medals
1-bronze medal
3-4th place ribbons
2-5th place ribbons
2-7th place ribbons



ATHLETES SHINE AT STATE GAMES

Seven MILESTONE Athletes traveled to LaSalle for the Golf Skills competition. Everyone did a great job.



Golf Skills
2-silver medals 1-4th place ribbon
2-bronze medals 2-5th place ribbons

SOFTBALL COMPETITION

MILESTONE Athletes shone brightly at the skills portion of the Softball tournament in Elgin. 22 athletes made the trip and many advanced to the state games in Springfield.



Softball Tournament
6 gold medals
4 silver medals
4 bronze medals
2-4th place ribbons
3-5th place ribbons
1-6th place ribbon
1-7th place ribbon
1-8th place ribbon



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
Copyright © 2024 by, MILESTONE inc.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years

Tina Raymond July

15 years

Stephanie Simmons July
Brenda Ruiz August
Tammeca Howard August

20 years

Michelle Wilson August

25 years

Regina Williams September
Joyce Jones September

30 years

Buddie Wade July
Amber Barcelona August
Kristine Markin August
Crystal Kane August

35 years

Yvonne Alexander September

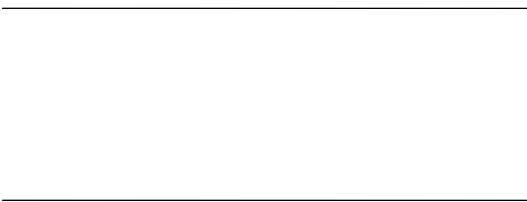


Building Lives & Futures

4060 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61111

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit #640
Rockford, IL



MILESTONE MATTERS FALL 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

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