

M A T T E R S

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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GARDEN GOODNESS



enjoyed selecting and planting the various vegetables. Because of their location the planters have to be watered because rain water does not reach

Individuals at MILESTONE Industries and MTC learned about gardening and how to grow their own vegetables this summer. 3 years ago the staff at Industries was looking for a way to recycle wooden boxes, which lead to the start of the garden area. The soil was added and everyone



them. But that task is done with smiles. Watching everything grow is also a favorite part followed by the harvest. This year's crop includes banana peppers, jalapenos, green peppers, several varieties of tomatoes, and cucumbers that are taking over in size. After the plants are harvested everyone shares them during lunch.





FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

FALL 2025

Dear Friends,

Where has the time gone, I cannot believe that fall is upon us. I guess my first indication that Fall would soon be here was when our MILESTONE Singers made their annual appearance at the Boone County Fair what a spectacular performance. Well, that indicates fall is here but what was happening before the performance. A wonderful summer that was full of activities and excitement. Once again camp(s) were an incredible highlight. Because of your generosity to our Adopt a Camper program an incredible number of individuals were able to attend various camp offerings and experiences once again. These included several sessions of a weeklong camp in Iowa, to camp activities conducted here in Rockford. Everyone worked hard to bring the joy and fun of what many can remember of summer camp. Our athletes participated in State Special Olympic track and field, they also competed in regional and state level competitions in golf, softball skills, and bowling.

We are blessed to have incredible staff that planned celebrations and activities throughout the summer. Staff that take it upon themselves to encourage the individuals who call MILESTONE home to express their wants and desires and then help them to plan and make them happen. Again, a wonderful testament to our dedicated and resilient staff in providing exceptional services.

I wish I had the time and space to tell you of all the incredible things that are happening, but I can summarize, our mission does not waver. We are committed to the 250 individuals we serve. We exist to provide safety, comfort, and the best quality of life 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days each year. Our 500 employees from all departments take pride in assisting and nurturing a safe, healthy, and impactful environment for all who call MILESTONE home.

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 strength, encouragement, and support to keep us moving forward, we are truly blessed.

Together we are stronger!

Thank you!

Bill Grahn
President and CEO



LOVES CALLING MILESTONE HOME



Peter wants everyone to know how much he loves being part of the MILESTONE family, which is why he volunteered to be featured in MILESTONE Matters. When asked what he likes about living at MILESTONE his answer was simply, 'EVERYTHING, I just LOVE it here, all the activities and the staff is wonderful.'

Peter has called MILESTONE home for almost 25 years. His parents needed to move into a smaller home and they wanted to make sure Peter's future was secure. All 3 of them worked with MILESTONE's Independent Living program, and soon Peter was able to move into his own apartment with support from MILESTONE staff. Everything was going great until 2016 when an accident left Peter paralyzed. His family says once again MILESTONE was there to help and support Peter. He moved into MILESTONE's Elmwood Heights facility where he could receive the help and support he needed and started working at the MILESTONE Training Center. His cousin John Fischer says the transition was easier because Peter knew many of the staff already as well as the residents.



Peter loves to go on outings with his housemates and going to Culvers for mint chip frozen custard is at the top of the list. But he also enjoys Special Olympics and has gone to Bloomington for State Games competing in the wheel chair races in

the past. The Cubs and Bears top his list of favorite sports teams to watch on TV, but his favorite sport is going to Boylan Basketball games.

When asked if he has any advice for other families Fischer said,



"MILESTONE is a great place for any of our loved ones with any type of intellectual disability to live and to be involved with and there is a system of professionals

that offer each individual respect, care, support, compassion and love. Each client is priority first."

He added, "They help each person live as independent as possible, offering each person their own space as well as one on one care. The communication from Management, Individual Home Case Managers and Individual Home Staff is 100% . Any communication for needs is always answered in a timely manner ."

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.



BLAZER FOUNDATION HELPS 3 MILESTONE PROGRAMS

Thanks to a grant from the Blazer Foundation 3 MILESTONE programs were helped. The first grant funded a therapeutic whirlpool tub for an adult group home, a second grant provided funding for critical vital monitors for the Dental Clinic and the third funded iPads for MILESTONE Industries. 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.

ARTSCENE

MILESTONE artists will have their work on display
CJs Public House, • 300 State Street
Friday October 3 • 5:00 – 9:00pm
Saturday October 4 • 4:00 – 9:00pm

THANK YOU GRANDMA SUGARS AND THE GRANDS

This year Grandma Sugars and the Grands lemonade stand raised over \$700 for MILESTONE. The annual event also features many lemon themed treats and is a family affair.



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.



ENJOYING CHICAGO

A trip to Navy Pier is a “must do” activity, and this summer was no exception. Everyone enjoyed the sights, sounds and of course the food.





MILESTONE SINGERS SPREAD JOY

During their annual Boone County fair appearance, where they are always greeted by a smiling, clapping crowd and at the MILESTONE Training Center.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED

Thanks to your generosity 2 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

WINNING AT STATE GAMES

MILESTONE was well represented at State games with 23 athletes and 1 unified partner. It was hot, really hot and as a result the men's bocce singles and the unified doubles bocce team were unable to compete because the outdoor activities were canceled. But even with that everyone had a great time.



State Games Medals

- 7 - Gold medals,
- 3 - Silver medals
- 3 - Bronze medals
- 4 - 4th place ribbons
- 2 - 5th place ribbons
- 2 - 6th place ribbons

SOFTBALL SKILLS KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE PARK

A large group of 21 athletes traveled to Elgin for the Softball Skills tournament. The heat did not impact the performance as the athletes made their presence

known and made their mark. All gold medal winners will go to the state tournament in Springfield this fall.



Softball Skills Medals

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



MILESTONE GOLFERS MAKE THEIR MARK

MILESTONE Golfers traveled to the Senica Oak Ridge Golf Course in LaSalle, Illinois and competed in the Special Olympics Region A golf tournament. It was a great day and the gold medalists advanced to the State Tournament in Decatur later

this year.

Golf Regional Medals

- 2 - Gold medals
- 3 - Bronze Medals
- 2 - 4th place ribbons
- 1 - 5th place ribbon
- 1 - 6th 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.....	\$4000



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 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
Washer/Dryer for 6 Homes @ \$5,200.....	\$31,200
Closet Remodels in 6 Homes @ \$3,000.....	\$18,000
Ceiling Fans for 6 Homes @ \$1,920	\$11,520



MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

Parking Lot Repair and Repaving.....	\$40,000
Replace Carpeting/Flooring	\$9,000
Desk Chairs 4 @ \$150.....	\$600
New Office Windows.....	\$15,000
Dental Curing Lights 3 @ \$2,500.....	\$7,500
Mouthwatch I/O Camera 2 @ \$300	\$600

AGENCY WIDE

AEDs Used for Training	\$2,000
Robo-Coupe Commercial Food Processor 2 @ \$1,900.....	\$3,800



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
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
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
New Couch and Love Seat.....	\$2,000
Seated Scale.....	\$1,500
Large Standing Scale with Handles.....	\$1,000

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

Sheila Myers July

25 years

Susan Al-Sayani September

20 years

Tameka Porter July
Christina McCullough August
Carol Jackson August

15 years

Jeana Jones July
Brian Bunkers July

10 years

Samantha Jones August
Lisa Doyle September



Building Lives & Futures

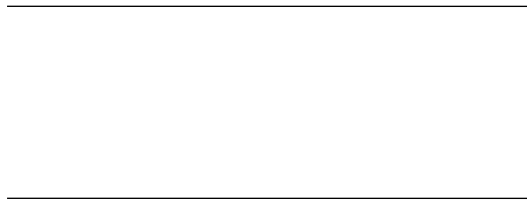
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MILESTONE MATTERS

FALL 2025



 **Milestone**

We're Hiring!

Open Positions:

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

C.N.A.: \$20.50/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