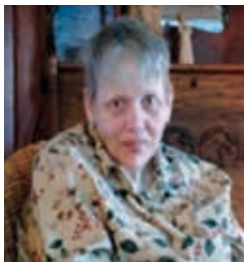


M A T T E R S

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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SPRING IS AN ACTIVE TIME AT MILESTONE

More sunshine and warmer temperatures means more outside activities at MILESTONE.

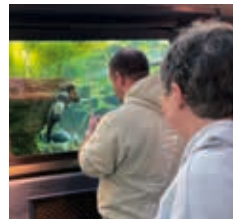


Our Individuals took the physical fitness part of the Club Wellness program outside as they did laps around the Industries



building while learning the importance of logging steps and miles. The smiles and occasional dance steps show how much everyone enjoys getting outside.

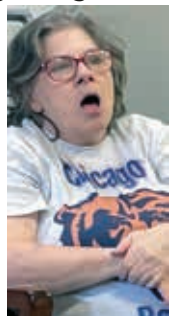
It is also a time for just enjoying the sunshine.



Spring is also when Community Outings can include places like Chicago and the Shedd Aquarium, always a favorite place to visit.



Spring is also when the MILESTONE Singers start rehearsing and getting ready for the County fair season and performances.





FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

Summer 2025

They say, "One thing constant in life is change." Living in the Midwest we can see that with the changing of the seasons. And oh, how we do look forward to the transition between them. There are changes that are happening daily just looking at the news, changes to our world, our nation, our state, and community. Change can revitalize someone, give them a new perspective. Change comes in many ways and various times and affects others in separate ways; some will argue that change is good; others will argue that change is bad or disruptive, it is all about perspective. I believe that change can be good.

But there is something to say about the "constant." One of the "constants" at Milestone is our incredible staff and their unwavering drive to fulfill Milestone's Mission "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." Our staff work hard day in and day out to ensure that those that call Milestone home can exercise these rights. Our staff are one of the constants, but they also embrace the change, they participate with vigor and open their hearts and minds to learning and adapting. These incredible people change but remain constant all at the same time.

There is another constant and that is you, our parents/guardians, families, friends, board members, and community. You have never wavered in your support for Milestone and in these ever-changing times I pray that will not change. We cannot thank you enough for your gifts, thoughts, prayers, and unwavering support. We are truly blessed by each and every one of you. Together we are Stronger!

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

Bill Grahn
President and CEO

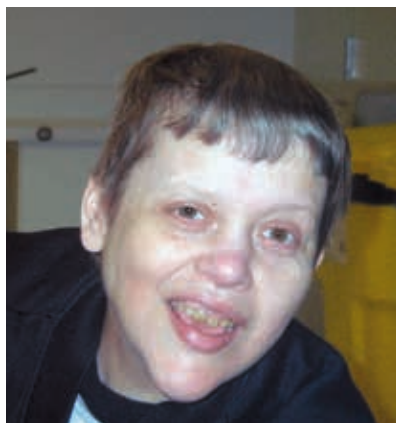


FINDING A HOME THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE



Unexpected changes in a parent's health have an impact on the entire family. In Lorna's case her family needed to find a place where her epilepsy could be monitored all the time.

At the time the closest option was in Dixon, and it really was not ideal as the home Lorna moved into had stairs and was far from her family, but it was the only option. Her sister knew that MILESTONE was building Elmwood Heights, and after talking to Lorna's case worker knew it would be an ideal choice. Her name was added to the waiting list and soon, it became her new home. Her family was thrilled



because it meant they could visit more often.

Lorna was also happy, she had more freedom, made new friends, loved all the activities, enjoyed talking to the staff and most importantly she knew she was safe. Everyone felt a sense of relief.



Soon she was able to move to Elmwood East, and after that a group home. Her seizures became fewer and fewer, but her mobility became more limited as she aged. However, she still enjoys getting out in the community and getting together with her family for holidays and birthdays.

While she enjoyed working at MILESTONE Industries Lorna is currently enjoying the benefits of retirement. Those benefits include going out for a shrimp dinner and an occasional ice cream sundae with whipped cream.

Lorna's sister, Anita Crays-Winder says, "I admired my parents for the difficult decision they made. Everyone needs their safe place, their Home! This very often can't continue to be their childhood home because of their needs or circumstances." Crays-Winder added, "At some point we all venture away from home, but find another safe place of our own. Such it is with Lorna! She is happy! MILESTONE is her Home. Never hesitate to help your loved one find a happy, safe and secure Home for the rest of their life." Crays-Winder and Lorna both agreed, it was a plus that their family could be a part of Lorna's new world, while she kept her place within the family.



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.



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.

ENJOYING THE SYMPHONY

Thanks to the "Share A Seat" program offered by the Rockford Symphony Orchestra our Individuals have the opportunity to enjoy live performances at the Coronado Theater. Those who attended the April Concert had a wonderful evening and we cannot thank the RSO enough for this great program.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HELP MILESTONE

Members of the Knights of Columbus from St. Bridget's Parish presented MILESTONE CEO Bill Grahn with a check to be used to help with our greatest need. The money was raised during the group's annual Tootsie Roll drive.



THANK YOU BOYLAN FRESHMEN

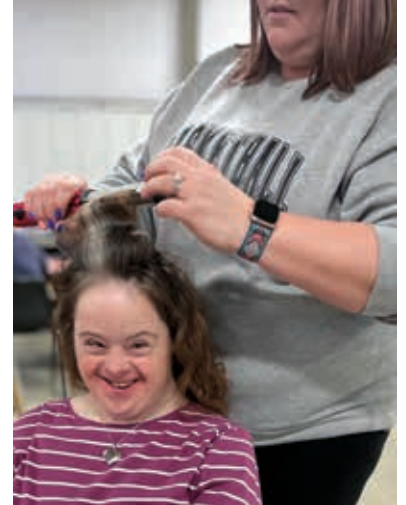
Thirty Boylan High School freshman lent a helping hand at MILESTONE Industries. They did crafts with the Individuals, played ping pong, danced, and played badminton. Everyone involved had a great time, and our individuals are still talking about it.





FAVORITE HOBBIES

Our Individuals all have favorite hobbies, for some the hobby is doing Arts and Crafts, and for others it is having a spa day.



KJELLSTROM FAMILY FOUNDATION HELPS MILESTONE

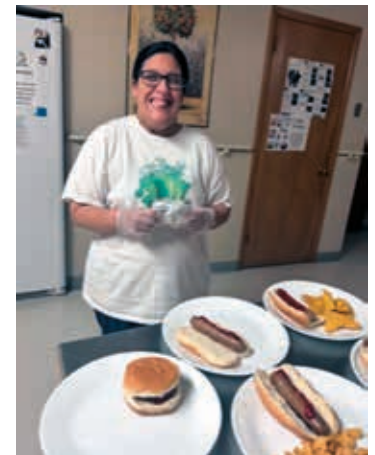
A grant from the Kjellstrom Family Foundation will provide the funding for a new walk-in whirlpool tub at one of the Adult Group Homes and for a supportive standing scale. The Kjellstrom Family Foundation is a private grant-making foundation that was established in 2013. It is named after Rockford native Janet Kjellstrom who was a philanthropist and contributing community member. She passed away in 2017 at the age of 92. Her memory and legacy live on through her foundation, the Kjellstrom Family Foundation.

HELP US PUT SMILES ON THE FACES OF THE INDIVIDUALS MILESTONE SERVES



Summer camp is a yearly highlight for the Individuals at MILESTONE.

It will be a hybrid this year with some people 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

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





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

TRACK AND FIELD REGIONAL COMPETITION

MILESTONE was well represented at the regional Track and Field meet at Harlem High School with 80 athletes. One of the highlights of the day was when 4 MILESTONE Athletes lit the torch signaling the start of the games. Everyone who earned a gold medal advances to the State Games at the ISU Campus in Normal/Bloomington.



Track and Field Medals

- 22 gold medals
- 18 silver medals
- 15 bronze medals
- 16 - 4th place ribbons
- 10 - 5th place ribbons
- 12 - 6th place ribbons
- 4 - 7th place ribbons
- 2 - 8th place ribbons



BOCCE REGIONAL GAMES

The Region A Bocce games in DeKalb included 18 MILESTONE athletes and 3 unified players. Everyone had a great time and did their best. The gold medalists will advance to the State Games.

Bocce Regional Games

- 4 - gold medals
- 6 - silver medals
- 8 - bronze medals
- 3 - 4th place ribbons



STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MILESTONE athletes took part in the basketball skills portion of the tournament in Bloomington/Normal, and all 6 did a fantastic job. Everyone agreed they had a great time.



State Basketball Tournament

- 1 - silver medal
- 1 - bronze medal
- 1 - 4th place ribbon
- 1 - 5th place ribbon
- 1 - 6th 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.....	\$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

10 years

Raenique Gates	June
Karen Artega	June

15 years

Leah Alexander	June
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20 years

Arles Hendershott Love	May
Tyra Benford	June

25 years

Nina Etchin	April
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30 years

Shana Smith	April
Chantell Wade	May

35 years

Bill Grahn	May
Laretha Gladney	June



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MILESTONE MATTERS

SUMMER 2025



 **Milestone**

We're Hiring!

Open Positions:

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

C.N.A.: \$19.50/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