

M A T T E R S

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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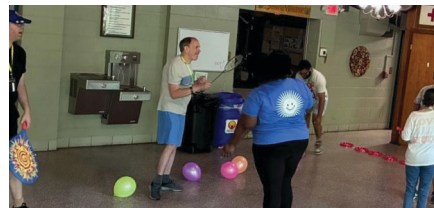
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NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT

Thanks to a new partnership with the Rockford Park District Summer Day Camps at Milestone reached a whole new level.

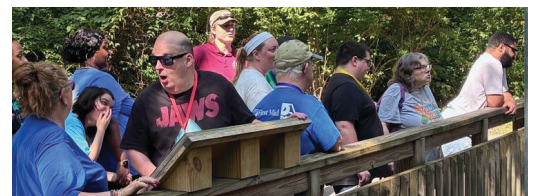
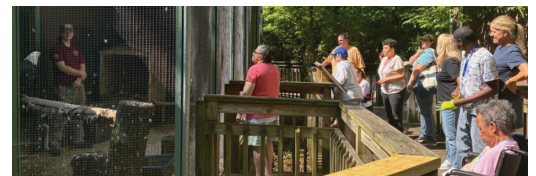
Camp Limitless met four times this summer at Atwood Park, and along with enjoying the Birds of Prey Show campers also tie-dyed their own Camp Limitless T-shirts, and enjoyed

- Rock/Paver painting
- Making Nature Plates
- Duck Pond Games
- An Obstacle Course
- Whiffle Ball
- Water Balloon Toss
- Adapted Badminton
- Hiking



Another Day Camp was held at Lockwood Park where campers got an up-close look at the animals and enjoyed seeing the horses.

Thank you to the Rockford Park District for making these day camps possible.





FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

Fall 2026

Dear Friends of Milestone,

At the heart of everything we do at Milestone is a simple belief: **every person deserves to be respected, valued, heard, and given the opportunity to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.**

At Milestone we understand that every individual is unique, with their own strengths, goals, dreams, challenges, and abilities. Our role is not to define what someone can or cannot accomplish, but to provide support, encouragement, resources, and opportunities that help each person reach their greatest potential.

Our commitment extends beyond providing services. We strive to build genuine relationships, promote independence, encourage self-advocacy, and create opportunities for individuals to participate fully in their families and communities. We believe people should have choices in their everyday lives and a voice in decisions that affect them.

We are equally committed to supporting the families and caregivers who play such an important role in the lives of the people we serve. Through collaboration and open communication, we work together to create an environment where individuals can thrive.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our employees. Their compassion, patience, professionalism, and belief in the people we serve are what make our mission come to life every day. I am deeply grateful for their commitment.

As we look toward the future, we will continue to challenge ourselves to improve, innovate, listen, and grow. We will advocate for inclusion and opportunity while working to ensure that every individual we serve is treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you to the individuals and families who place their trust in us, to our dedicated employees, and to the community partners who share our vision.

Together, at Milestone, we will continue to strengthen a family where **everyone belongs, everyone has a voice, and everyone has the opportunity to live their best life.**

Together we are Stronger!



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Every parent worries about the same thing, "What will happen to my Child if something happens to me." Colleen Groves was no different and worried about her son's future after her husband passed away and she wanted to make sure his needs were taken care of before there was an emergency. Evan lived with her and she wanted to make sure he would always have a home.

Her friends suggested she start the process of looking at possible long term care facilities. But Groves said she did not even know where to start. Evan was attending Day Training Services, which he enjoyed and attended a Sunday School class every week at a local church. The class was led by a Milestone staff member, which was her introduction to Milestone.

After doing some research and setting a geographic limit, she decided to visit four organizations, including Milestone. While each was different, she felt two could meet her son's needs. At the time Milestone had no opening, so she started working on placing him at another facility but discovered it would not be a good match. She called Milestone again, and discovered there was an opening, so the process to place Evan at Milestone began.

She said the fact Milestone had a day training program and that Evan knew so many of the Individuals from his Sunday School class were two things that helped make the decision easier. After a few visits including an overnight visit, placement was offered and accepted.



The transition for Evan was very easy and his Mother said she saw him blossom and grow into the person she knew he could always become. The five people in his home are friends and enjoy doing things together, including Special Olympics, Park District activities and going out to eat.

She says she knows her son is happy.

Groves urges other parents to not wait until there is an emergency, but to start looking at options early and to do your homework, including talking to other parents. Adding, it is not an easy decision but you need to think of your child's future needs. She is grateful she met the Milestone staff before she started looking for Evan's future home, and she is grateful for the help she received during the journey.



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.



ADOPT A CAMPER UPDATE

CAMP ALBRECHT

Thanks to your generosity through the "Adopt A Camper" program three groups of campers were able to spend a week at camp Albrecht Acres in Iowa this year. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the chance to fish and swim and enjoy the outdoors.



DAY TRIPS

"Adopt A Camper" donations also provided the funds for many day trips including to Wisconsin Dells, Madison, Navy Pier and Galena. Everyone had a fun filled summer.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

ELMWOOD HEIGHTS CELEBRATION

Juneteenth was celebrated in style at Milestone's Elmwood Heights facility. There was a game room, a bubble station and photo booth. But the highlight was lunch provided by Whammy's and desserts from Bennys Dariette.



CELEBRATION AT MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

Juneteenth was also celebrated at Milestone Industries. There were games, dancing, food and fun, and a time to remember the meaning of the day.





THANK YOU GRANDMA SUGAR

Every Year Grandma Sugar and the Grands man a lemonade stand benefiting Milestone, and this year was no exception. Everything from cookies to cupcakes is lemon flavored and we can't forget the lemonade.

HELPING THE ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION

Lemonade and summer go hand in hand, and the Lemonade stand at Milestone's Elmwood Height's facility was not only a huge hit it raised money for the Rockford Rescue Mission. Participants had a choice of enjoying refreshing lemonade or purchasing a cute lemon key chain. The lemonade stand was part of our America Gives project.



HELPING AT THE PANTRY

Helping at the Rock River Valley Food Pantry is some thing Milestone Volunteers enjoy doing. They know their efforts are helping others in the community.



MILESTONE SINGERS AND DANCERS ENTERTAIN

Boone County Fair goers enjoyed being entertained by the Milestone singers and Dancers. The groups perform at the fair every year.



BEATING THE HEAT

What better way to beat the heat than enjoying a beach party. Which is exactly what these ladies did on one of the scorching summer days.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

SOFTBALL SKILLS

Milestone was well represented with twenty-two athletes at the Regional Softball Skills Tournament. The weather was hot but that did not stop the Athletes from doing their best.



Softball Skills

- 8 - Gold Medals
- 6 - Silver Medals
- 6 - Bronze Medals
- 1 - 4th Place Ribbon
- 1 - 5th Place Ribbon



GOLF SKILLS

Golf Skills

- 1 - Gold Medal
- 1 - Silver Medal
- 2 - Bronze Medal
- 3 - 5th Place Ribbon
- 1 - 6th Place Ribbon

Seneca Oak Golf Course in LaSalle was the site of the region A Golf Skills Tournament where 8 Milestone athlete competed. Everyone did their best and had a great day.



ENJOYING THE DAY FISHING

A perfect summer day spent fishing. Many of the Individuals at Milestone love spending the day like this at either Levings Lake or Rock Cut State Park.





WISH LIST



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

iPads 4 @ \$400.....	\$1,600
Outside Recreation Area Upgrades.....	\$5,000
Sensory Equipment 12 Classrooms @ \$3,000.....	\$36,000
Concrete Work/Leveling.....	\$15,000
Commercial Grade Entry Doors 2 @ \$2,000.....	\$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 @ \$1,000.....	\$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
Replacement Windows for 6 Home @ \$15,000.....	\$90,000
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
Medical Equipment Medical Rolling	
Crash cart 6 @ \$620.....	\$3,720
Hospital Beds Full electric 10 @ \$2,500.....	\$25,000



MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

Parking Lot Repair and Repaving.....	\$40,000
Replace Carpeting/Flooring.....	\$9,000
New Office Windows.....	\$15,000
Dental Curing Lights 2 @ \$1,400.....	\$2,800
Mouthwatch I/O Camera.....	\$300
Operative Handpiece 2 @ \$2,000.....	\$4,000
X-Ray Sensor 2 @ \$7,000.....	\$14,000



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
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 @ \$3,500.....	\$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 @ \$8,000.....	\$16,000
Bike Rack.....	\$500
New Windows at 2 Homes @ \$6,000.....	\$12,000
New Couch and Love Seat.....	\$2,000
Emergency Generator 3 @ \$1,800.....	\$5,400

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

Maple Jones

30 years

Shirley Womak
Melody Mills

25 years

Adrienne Shields
Rita Miller
Vickie Kolb
Latoya Henderson

15 years

July Jenn Gitchel August
Amber Polcher September

10 years

July Jason Moorman August
July Brenda Sanchez-Beltran August
Chencia Reynolds August



Building Lives & Futures

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MILESTONE MATTERS

FALL 2026



Milestone We're Hiring!

Open Positions:

Direct Service Provider: \$20.00 to \$21.00/hr
QIDP: \$26.50 to \$30.91/hr • C.N.A.: \$21.25/hr
LPN: \$31.37 to \$37.36/hr • RN: \$37.37 to \$44.38/hr
Painter: \$21.56/hr • Maintenance Worker: \$20.00 to \$24.64/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