

M A T T E R S

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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TECHNOLOGY LEADS TO OPPORTUNITIES

MILESTONE's mission is to help each Individual reach their full potential and live as full and independent a life as possible. New technology and a grant from Comcast is both changing and improving everyday life for the Individuals MILESTONE serves. Digital technology is now helping our Individuals learn how to control both their health and their environment.



Through the use of Smart Scales and Smart Blood Pressure Monitors and apps on iPads, Staff can teach Individuals what happens to their weight and blood pressure as a result of the choices they make. This also helps MILESTONE's Medical staff monitor progress or catch a possible problem early.

Many of our Individuals have seizure disorders, they now will be able to use a Smart Sleep mat with their iPad to help identify seizure activity while sleeping which will allow our medical team to adjust medication accordingly.



The second part of this project allows our Individuals to use technology to control their environment.

Equipment and iPad apps or voice commands will allow them to turn lights on and off, control a ceiling fan, or lock doors. They will no longer have to ask a staff for help with simple daily tasks.



Many of our Individuals are non-verbal and the ability to communicate with more people has become a reality thanks to the GO TALK NOW App and their iPad.

This is a program that MILESTONE is actively looking to expand with the goal of giving our Individuals more independence and opportunities. But we need more equipment in order to meet this goal. Please consider helping by looking at our Amazon Wishlist page by using the QR code to the left.



FROM THE DESK OF BILL GRAHN, MILESTONE CEO AND PRESIDENT

Spring 2026

Dear Friends of MILESTONE

Spring is here once again and although here in the Midwest spring can mean seeing all four seasons in one day it is an exciting time of year. Spring brings rebirth and excitement. It provides fresh air that rejuvenates and breathes new life. Winter provided time to think, reflect, and plan then spring propels us forward. Here at MILESTONE, we have always believed that the people we support deserve more than services, they deserve stability, dignity, connection, and opportunities to thrive. Winter has provided that time for reflection and planning and now spring breathes life into two amazing additions.

We have identified a need to enhance coordination across clinical, residential, and day services that is why we are proud to announce that MILESTONE is actively working towards the opening of a new division of MILESTONE, our Behavioral Health Clinic. We are completing the regulatory process for our licensure and will soon announce the formal and official opening. I cannot wait to share all the wonderful news in the next edition of MILESTONE Matters.

Our commitment to the individuals served and our amazing staff does not stop there. We also asked the question how can we do better for the people we support and for each other? It was decided that the time is now to establish and fill the roll of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). Our VP of CQI will help MILESTONE use collaboration, experience, and data to strengthen systems across the agency. They will assist in identifying opportunities for growth, and support teams in turning insight into meaningful change. Together these initiatives are designed to support staff, strengthen systems, and ensure that no one is carrying complex challenges alone.

What an exciting time as we look to the growth of the future as we strengthen today. These endeavors are not only attributed to our wonderful and resolute staff but to you, our community, parents, guardians, families, and individuals served. We are so blessed and renewed by your continued thoughts, prayers, and unwavering support. You, the members of the MILESTONE Family, providing the strength, encouragement, and support to keep us moving forward, Together We are Stronger!

Thank You!

Bill Grahn



DOESN'T WANT TO RETIRE



Many people have the days counted until they can retire, but that is not the case with Janet who is upset when she can't go to day Training at MILESTONE Industries. Janet is past the age when most people retire, but that does not stop her. She says being able to go to work every day is a wonderful thing. Janet moved into one of MILESTONE's first facilities in 1987, after her mother

passed away. Her sisters had very busy lives and knew they needed to find a place where she had the opportunity to grow and learn. MILESTONE was the only organization they looked at and they knew it would be a perfect fit, and it was. The other residents and staff welcomed Janet with open arms and helped her through the grief of losing her mother. Deborah, her sister would pick her up to take her to dinner on Friday night and Janet was excited to share stories about her new friends and what she had done.

Her sister says Janet has a wonderful sense of humor and loves to be teased. When that happens, she will give you the biggest smile you have ever seen. In fact, if Janet is having a bad day if someone starts teasing her she immediately forgets it and starts smiling.



She also loves doing things with her friends at MILESTONE Industries and her housemates, including watching Baywatch, and going out to dinner. Spending time with her sister Deborah is also a priority.

Her sisters agreed, placing Janet with MILESTONE was a very difficult decision and for a while they felt guilty. But then they saw how she was growing and blossoming and they realized it was the best decision they could have made for her.

Deborah says, "If there is a family who believes they would be in the wrong if they had to place their loved one at MILESTONE, they should not hesitate one bit. I remember when Janet could not order off of a menu, and now she can. She has learned independence. Before MILESTONE, my sister Jo and I would do everything for Janet, now we know Janet can and wants to be independent." She added, "The choice to place at MILESTONE is one of love and not one of shirking your family responsibility. It is hard to take the step, but I encourage anyone considering this option to realize it is probably best thing for their loved one. I have never witnessed in 40 years any resident ever say they want to go home. MILESTONE is their home and they will be happy living at a MILESTONE facility."



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.



THANK YOU ST. RITA'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Members of the St. Rita's Knights of Columbus presented MILESTONE with a check from their latest fund-raising efforts. The group sells tootsie rolls to raise money for numerous non profits in the area including MILESTONE.

THANK YOU ST. BRIDGET'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Members of St. Bridget's Knights of Columbus also presented MILESTONE CEO Bill Grahn a check from their fund-raising efforts. Knights of Columbus throughout Illinois sell Tootsie rolls to raise money for various non-profits.

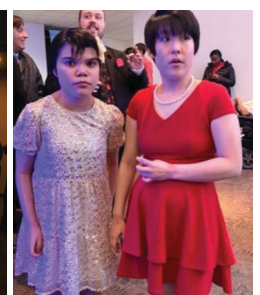
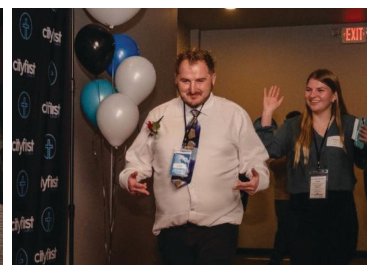
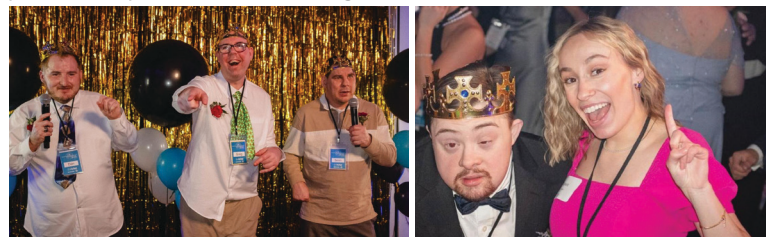
THANK YOU TO HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Members of Holy Family's Knights of Columbus also sold tootsie rolls to raise money for MILESTONE. Four members attended a check presentation at one of MILESTONE's group homes.



NIGHT TO SHINE

Sixty-Two Individuals walked the red carpet and danced the night away at a "Night to Shine" at City First Church. Everyone went above and beyond to make it an unforgettable event. Each person was greeted by paparazzi, had their hair and make-up done, received a corsage or boutonniere, enjoyed a catered dinner, and danced the night away. The Tim Tebow Foundation started a "Night to Shine" in 2014 by partnering with local churches and businesses. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the smiles provided proof it was a "Night to Shine".





HONORING SHAWN WAY



Illinois State Senators Steve Stadelman and Dave Syverson honored former MILESTONE CEO Shawn Way with a Proclamation from the Illinois State Senate for his years of dedicated service to the community. The proclamation was presented to his family during a ceremony at MILESTONE Industries.

ENJOYING THE SYMPHONY



Thank you to the Rockford Symphony for the tickets to concerts for our Individuals through their Share a Seat program. Symphony subscribers who can not use their concert tickets can donate them back to the RSO so they can be donated to area non-profit for their clients to use. This program gives many

Individuals at MILESTONE the chance to experience a concert at the Coronado theater they would not be able to have otherwise.

A GRANT FROM WOODWARD GOVERNOR HELPS ELMWOOD HEIGHTS



A grant from the Woodward Governor Charitable Foundation provided the funding for new

High/Low hospital beds for MILESTONE's Elmwood Heights facility. The beds allow the medical staff to position the staff at the correct height with ease to receive the treatment they need.

HELPING AREA PANTRIES



One of the largest expenses area food pantries must deal with is the cost of bags for people to take items home. The Individuals at MILESTONE's group homes collected plastic grocery bags and took several large garbage bags full of them to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry in an effort to help out.

HAVING FUN WHILE RAISING MONEY

Everyone at Elmwood Heights and MTC enjoyed a Mocktail party while raising money for The ARC of Winnebago, Boone and Ogle counties. The decorations were made by the Individuals during Day Training and James created delicious mocktails that everyone enjoyed. The event was part of the America Gives Program which is a nationwide initiative launched by America250 to make 2026 a record-breaking year of volunteerism in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary. The staff at Elmwood Heights have projects planned for every month.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

REGION A BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



MILESTONE was well represented at the region A Basketball Tournament at Dixon High School with 33 athletes. The weather was cold but that did not prevent everyone from having a good time and doing a great job. The gold medalists advanced to the State Tournament in Bloomington/Normal.

Basketball Skills

- 7 - Gold medals
- 6 - silver medals
- 8 - bronze medals
- 3 - 4th place ribbons
- 2 - 5th place ribbons
- 5 - 6th place ribbons
- 2 - 7th place ribbons



NEW SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Illinois Special Olympics approved Cornholes as an official event starting in 2026, and members of Alpine Kiwanis made sure the MILESTONE team will be ready. Alpine Kiwanis provided a grant for the equipment needed to train for the competition. The grant also covered the cost of getting sun visors for all team members.



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



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

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 various celebrations throughout the summer. These will feature activities like a petting zoo, face painting and of course special food and treats. All the fun of summer camp will be brought to them, through a combination of activities and group events.

We will also plan special outings and trips to places like Chicago's Navy Pier and Galena.

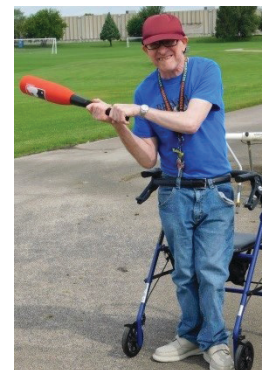
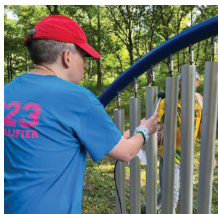
Please help us make it a reality by Adopting a Camper or an Activity

For \$50 you can help cover the cost of a celebration or day trip.

Or

For \$100 you can Adopt a camper's trip to summer camp.

For more information, please call the Development Office at 815-639-2965





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

Beth Gilmore	January
Lori Neuschwander	January

30 years

Brian Scantlin	March
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25 years

Tiseka Curry	March
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20 years

Tamisha Mclin	February
Monique Evans	February
Lakeia Knight	February
Douglas Wallbank	March

Tabitha Jindrich	March
15 years	
Artasia Leonard	January
Victoria Martinez	January
Jacqueline Robertson	February
10 years	
Palomia Lyons	January
Monika Hopkins	January
Audreya Byrd	January



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MILESTONE MATTERS

SPRING 2026



We're Hiring!

Open Positions:

Direct Service Provider: \$20.25/hr • QIDP: \$26.50/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