



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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A PARENT'S DREAM COMES TRUE

The journey took eight years from the first call to find out about guardianship to placement, but when it was over Milton



Carrie enjoying a favorite pass time.

Aaby says his dream came true when his daughter Carrie was placed in a MILESTONE group home. Aaby said he and Carrie's step mother had been discussing the need for group home placement for awhile but they never thought the process would take 8 years. Carrie is now 37 and her dad knew all too well how fragile life could be after losing her mother in 1993. He knew he was getting older and that arrangements needed to be made. So he started 8 years ago by becoming Carrie's legal guardian, he then went to Access Services of Northern Illinois to start making arrangements for placement in a group home facility. It took a lot of work, and he looked at many different agencies in all parts of the state. He said he could have placed Carrie sooner but he did not like the location of the facility where she was first accepted. So he gambled and said no. Then one day he got the call he was hoping for, after six years on the waiting list his daughter Carrie was one of 3 people being considered for placement in a MILESTONE Group home. He said he wanted MILESTONE for many reasons, the fact it was in Rockford but more importantly

because he considered MILESTONE to be the Cadillac of providers. He was impressed with the facilities and Carrie knew many of the individuals living at MILESTONE

through Special Olympics. Then a few days later he got the much anticipated call, funding had been finalized, Carrie could live at a MILESTONE facility. He said it was almost too good to be true. Today Carrie lives in an apartment, which she loves, in one of the group homes. She goes to work every day at Illinois Growth Enterprises, something she has done since she graduated from Jefferson High School, but looks forward to coming home. She meets her parents and grandparents for dinner on a regular basis but is finding her schedule is getting full with activities around the house. Carrie loves sports so the Special Olympic activities are a favorite thing for her. Milton Aaby and his wife say they can rest a little easier knowing Carrie is happy and where she wants to be.



Family holiday.



The Aaby Family.



CROWD LOVES THE MILESTONE SINGERS

The MILESTONE Singers wowed the crowd at the Boone County fair. Nine members of the group took to the stage for their first appearance at the fair and entertained the crowd of over 150 listeners with favorites from the fifties and sixties. The group did a Tribute to Elvis, who made an appearance to the delight of everyone involved. One fair goer told the singers their performance was the best part of the fair.



A surprise guest.



Getting into the groove.

SUMMER FUN AT CAMP



Having fun at camp.



A relaxing Afternoon.

Sixty Five individuals from MILESTONE, INC, traveled to Camp Albrecht Acres of the Midwest in Sherrill, Iowa for a week of fun in the sun. Some campers stayed in cabins while others stayed in the dorms. Everyone had fun swimming, fishing and feeding the pony. There were theme dances each week including a 50's-60's dance and a Classic Car night complete with a Harley Davidson motorcycle on display. No camp would be complete without a campfire where campers could exchange stories and build memories and Camp Albrecht was no



Everyone enjoyed the Toga party.

exception. This year there was an international flavor to the camp with counselors from New Zealand, South Africa, Portugal, South Korea, the United Kingdom and El Salvador. MILESTONE campers have been attending Camp Albrecht each summer since 1995.



ADOPT A CAMPER PROGRAM A HUGE SUCCESS

MILESTONE'S adopt a camper program was a huge success and gave 25 individuals the chance to attend Camp Winnebago. Staff from the YMCA teamed with MILESTONE staff to make it a memorable camping experience for all. Campers had fun making large 10 foot bubbles and balloon sculptures. They dressed up and acted out stories and made tie dyed shirts, and no camp is complete unless there is a campfire. MILESTONE campers enjoyed a delicious meal cooked over an open fire. All activities were designed to help with the development of motor skills, academic skills, imagination use and for just plain fun.



Teamwork makes bubble blowing easy.



Balloons are always fun.



A masterpiece.



Nothing beats a cook out.

The Family.

THANK YOU ADOPT A CAMPER SPONSORS

Alpine Kiwanis

Mr and Mrs. Frank Burja

Children's Ministries at First Evangelical Free church and Pastor B. Swanson

Mr. Mike Johnson - Crooked Creek Cattle Company

Mr. And Mrs. Sean Kelly

Ms. Doris Latham

Mr and Mrs. George Licari

Mr. And Mrs. Joe Love

Northeast Christian Church

Mr. And Mrs. James Packard Sr.

Mrs. Mary Ann Smith

Ms. Maria Sullivan

The Community at Rockford First Assembly



MILESTONE ARTIST HOLIDAY CARDS AVAILABLE

Orders being taken for holiday cards designed and created by MILESTONE individuals. 4 designs are available.



The Process

At MILESTONE Industries, our individuals are hard at work creating our new card stock out of recycled paper. They blend, screen, roll, and press the paper and let it air dry. They then send it over to be embroidered. Our individuals thread, hoop, and monitor the machines.

Others print and fold the card stock to prepare it to mount the embroidered piece on. They then tear the embroidered piece to size and mount it on the printed card stock to create our beautiful holiday cards.



Prices

Quantity

1-9
10-99
Over 100

Price Per Card

\$2.00
\$1.50
\$1.00

To order: Use the enclosed envelope or for information call Jeanette Moore at MILESTONE, Inc. at 815-639-2821.



DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE



Lenny - On the job at Wal Mart.

MILESTONE, INC. was well represented at a Diversity in the Workplace training event sponsored by WalMart. MILESTONE resident Lenny Mabry spoke to two groups of WalMart managers about why a company should hire a person with a disability. Lenny is a greeter at the East State Street Walmart, and has gotten glowing reviews from his fellow employees who love his wonderful smile. Representatives from MILESTONE,INC. also handed out information about the organization's various training programs and answered questions from the managers. Over 60 Walmart representatives from locations throughout Northern Illinois attended the event.

MILESTONE, INC. PROGRAM GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

More than 50 people heard a presentation from Amie Moist from MILESTONE,INC. dealing with day programming for adults with autism and mental retardation at the National Qualified Mental Retardation Professionals Conference in Las Vegas in August. Moist has been working on the program for the past five years with the assistance of Dr. Robert Fox, Lauri Krull and Joe Pingo. People from other agencies throughout the nation have been calling MILESTONE for more information about the program.

ASK A DENTIST

Dear Dr Jason-

My friend said that my favorite drink Gatorade was even bad for my teeth, I thought that was a healthy drink? Is this true?

-Carry



Sports beverages like Gatorade or Powerade actually cause MORE harm to your teeth than even SODA! Sports and energy drinks were made to help athletes after a long workout, if you drink them every day they can really hurt your teeth. So, no they are not good for your teeth! If you're feeling thirsty, drink water it's the best thing for you or you can try sugar free drinks like sugar free soda pop or milk (even chocolate milk). Remember Carry, you've got to brush and clean all your teeth, at least the ones you want to keep. J.

For more information about the MILESTONE Dental Clinic call 484-8678



HOW THE MILESTONE, INC. RESPITE PROGRAM HELPS ONE FAMILY

By James Enright

Our family moved from Binghamton, New York to Rockford almost a year ago. We were pretty nervous about the transition because my daughter has Floating Harbor Syndrome and she has never done very well with change. We were dealing with a lot of new stresses - from the new school for Monica, to the new job that brought us here, to a new house. We left behind our families and with them a lot of the support that we depended on from time to time. In the 7 years of her life, we had tried to have others watch her for the day, but those friends and relatives soon learned what we had already known about the difficulties and they stopped volunteering. But after moving to Rockford, there was no one at all. We hired babysitters who quit after one or two nights of watching her.

Our life here got pretty stressful. Monica's condition makes her very busy, and very needy. She is as cute as a button, but she is in constant motion. She is 7 years old, still in diapers, and needs a lot of help in dressing, eating, and communicating. She still plays like a toddler, meaning that she is more interested in taking everything out of a box, or down from the shelf, than actually playing with it. Monica can turn a room upside down, before you are even done cleaning it, and it goes on all day long until she finally wipes out in the evening. Since she was a baby, she has always required so much of our attentions, that when her brother, Ryan came along, we feared that we wouldn't have enough left for him. He is 4 years old and we hardly ever got quality time with him. The stress was really getting to us and we surrendered to the idea that we might have to put her in a home of some kind if we didn't find the help we needed. We were coming apart at the seams, but just then we found out about MILESTONE.

Our first interaction with MILESTONE was through the Respite program. A couple of times a month, we would take Monica to the gymnasium where some really dedicated and energetic people would watch her and the other special needs children. She had lots to do there, and she could be kept pretty busy. I think that first day with Monica at Respite, we were actually able to go for a walk without having to carry her, and just spent time enjoying our son. We could even clean up a



All smiles after the perfect day.

room, and it would stay cleaned, but mostly we were able to breathe. I can't tell you how grateful we are for those Saturdays at Respite. Monica loves going there, and she is constantly asking if it is a Respite day or not. For the first time in 7 years, we get to relax. But more than that, MILESTONE provided us with a list of names for in-home respite, and they even reimbursed us for the cost of using them. Because of that, we even got to go out on a date - twice! That isn't something we have been able to do since we had children.

MILESTONE also told us about a summer camp where Monica could go for a whole week. We had never been separated from her for more than a single night, and that hadn't happened in a couple of years. They even helped make it affordable. Monica had a great time, and it took us half the week just to figure out what to do with ourselves.

MILESTONE has been a Godsend to Monica, but more than that, it has been a Godsend to us. The pressure of our life has backed down off the boiling point, and we seem less stressed, less angry, and less frustrated. We have MILESTONE to thank for much of that. I can't say enough about those who help our daughter. They provide my daughter with a fun, safe place to play, they helped us get some relief. They have been helpful, understanding, and committed. They let us know about available services inside and outside of MILESTONE so we have not had to do as much searching for help. We just want to let everyone know how thankful we are for all of you. Thank you for taking such good care of our daughter. Thank you for allowing us to have some time with our son. Thank you for giving us some quiet time. Thank you for everything

For more information on the MILESTONE,INC. respite program contact Yvonne Alexander at 639-2973.



The Enright family.



Monica enjoying one of the activities.



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE DENTAL CLINIC

The people working at MILESTONE Industries have been busy all summer. Along with doing packaging work for local companies they have also played an important role for other businesses, including the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. While much of the record keeping at the dental office is done on the computer, paper charts and files still play a vital role in the day to day operations of the clinic. A file with clinical examination information, progress notes and treatment plans is kept on each patient about each visit. The workers at MILESTONE Industries are busy printing part of each file and assembling the final product. The clinic uses an average of fifty new files each week or about 200 each month. Clinic Administrator Kathy Olson has high praise for the work of MILESTONE Industries particularly the high level of professionalism and the low margin of error. Olson also says there have been times when something is needed in a hurry and MILESTONE industries is able to fill the need. For more information on how MILESTONE Industries can help your business call Ed Klein at 639-2810.



Hard at work.

THANK YOU WIFR AND ROCKFORD BUSINESS COLLEGE

The Adopt a Camper program was an overwhelming success in part due to the work of WIFR's MiMi Murphy and the WIFR news department. Many campers were adopted as a result of the story that aired on the evening news in July.

Rockford Business college helped the MILESTONE resource Development office by arranging for a work study student to help with data entry and spread sheet work.

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 the greater Rockford area. To learn more about MILESTONE and the individuals we serve, please call (815) 654-6100.

Chief Executive Officer: James P. Hamilton
MILESTONE Matters Editor: Arles Hendershott

MILESTONE, INC. RECOGNIZES LONG TERM EMPLOYEES

25 year anniversary

Susana Davis Aug
Deborah Langan Aug
Hugh Lippitt Aug

20 year anniversary

Teresa Miller Sept

15 year anniversary

Markita Alton Sept
Shelia Myers July
Derrick Neely Sept

IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn Burnett
Resident Services Coordinator
24 year employee

Shirley Anderson
NOC Shift Coordinator
17 year employee



MILESTONE-INC. HAS A NEW WEBSITE

You are now able to find out about the latest happenings at MILESTONE by going to our website www.MILESTONE-Inc.org.

MILESTONE,INC. staff designed the site and pages and supplied information and photos to Jennifer Peterson and her husband Jim who donated their time and talent and built the site. Other people whose talent helped make the website a reality included Diane Goerlitz, artists at MS2, Mike Kost, Rich LaRue and Joe Love. Each MILESTONE division will have a page and there will be a section with links to other related resource sites. Families also are now able to download admission packets from the Social Services section and new patient forms from the Dental Clinic pages. MILESTONE CEO Jim Hamilton says the focus is on the people who make MILESTONE what it is, along with being a source of information for families and the community.



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