



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER

Just like many people this time of year, the staff at MILESTONE makes a “Wish List”, which includes items that are needed to insure the Individuals in our care continue to receive the highest level of care possible while working towards reaching their highest potential. Many items on the list each year become reality thanks to the continued support of the entire community.

Elmwood Heights

The homes at Elmwood Heights need some upgrades to meet the changing needs of the Individuals who live there. The greatest need is to remodel and upgrade the bathrooms in each home, replacing both tile and fixtures.



Milestone Training Center

This year the list is varied and includes flat screen TV’s with DVD players for the classrooms at the MILESTONE Training Center. These are needed to show both educational programs and day training material. This year 7 units are needed.

RocVale

The list for RocVale Children’s home includes new playground equipment to replace the older slide and swing set.



Adult Group Homes

A new therapeutic whirlpool tub is needed in one of the Adult Group Homes to replace one that has been in use longer than expected.

But this is only a look at some of the items we hope will be in Santa’s bag for MILESTONE. The rest of the list can be found on page 7.



FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friend of MILESTONE:

Each year as I write the holiday version of my CEO letter, I discuss the accomplishments of the individuals we serve, the care and commitment of the 600 staff that are essentially extended family to the 355 intellectually and developmentally disabled children and adults. As our mission statement reads “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 mission doesn't waiver. Our commitment to these 355 individuals doesn't change. We exist to provide education, comfort and the best quality of life possible given the limitations placed upon them. Life's not always fair, but we try to even the playing field for the girls and boys, the ladies and gentlemen we serve.

In 2015, the playing field feels tilted. At the time of this writing, the state of Illinois does not have a budget for the fiscal year (which started July 1st). Here at MILESTONE we've seen cuts in funding to some of our programs, have no commitment from the state for programs we operate like the MILESTONE Dental Clinic, which serves over 4,000 patients from the northern one-third of the state. In fact, in fiscal year 2014, I failed to deliver a balanced budget, as we operated at a significant loss.

This calendar year we've ramped up our fundraising efforts, introducing the “Monster Cup” golf play day that raised nearly \$20,000. We are expanding our annual appeal effort in an effort to more than double community support. We aren't going anywhere, with or without the full support of the state.

The community has been generous to MILESTONE for over 42 years. There are so many worthy causes in and around our community, many of which are held hostage by the lack of state funding. On behalf of MILESTONE and the other agencies supporting those less fortunate in our community, I thank you for your past support and ask that you dig a little deeper this holiday season. So we can continue to provide the Individuals in our care they deserve.

My best to you and your family this holiday season, and may you have a safe and blessed 2016!

Sincerely



**Save The Date:
MILESTONE, INC.
Second Annual
Monster Cup Golf Play Day
Monday, June 13th, 2016
Mauh Nah Tee See**



PARENTS NEED TO CONSIDER THE LONG TERM NEEDS OF THEIR CHILD

Tom and Bonnie Hooper were your typical parents when their son Chris was in school. Both were involved with his activities and Bonnie was a very active member of the school's PTO, helping to raise money by helping to create and sell Cook Books. Together they both planned for their son's future. But, his future included items and needs many parents do not have to think about including who will be there to care for their son when his parents no longer can. The Hoopers said they always knew they would not be able to care for Chris his whole life, adding "Though this was in the back of our minds, it had to stay there because we had to provide the day to day care Chris and his siblings needed. But, it was something that always weighed heavily, and we knew it was our reality." Chris' Mother added, "We thought of the future often, but when Chris was in school the priority was making sure he was in the right school setting, and that he started to transition to a Day Training program before graduation." She says she first started looking for long term options for her son about 10 years ago, but the time just was not right, he was living at home, going to the Center of Hope each day and with the help of her husband They were meeting his needs and making it work. But as time went on, both of his parents realized it would be best if they made the decision to place Chris while they were still able



to help with the transition, so they contacted Access Services to begin the process. His mother says they wanted MILESTONE from the beginning, because of the homelike atmosphere and the staff to client ratio, and they were willing to wait until there was an opening, because they felt MILESTONE was the place that could best meet both his and their needs. They did not have to wait long before they were

notified of an opening at MILESTONE's Elmwood East facility. Mrs. Hooper says it was one of the hardest decisions she and her husband ever had to make, but they are so glad they did. She said the staff at Elmwood East did everything possible to make the transition as easy on both them and Chris as possible. She says her son now considers MILESTONE his home, and while he is happy when he goes to his parent's house for visits, she knows he is happy to return to his room at Elmwood East and his friends there. She says the staff is very good at communicating

with both parents, and working out any problems that have popped up. She is also glad they made the transition now, so they could help Chris. Their advice to other parents is to always remember you need to do what is best for your child's future, and you need to make the decision about placement while you are still healthy and able to help your child understand and accept the process.

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.



GRANT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR ROCVALE'S BOY SCOUT TROOP AND THE SENSORY PROGRAM STORY

A generous grant from the William S. Howard Charitable Trust will continue to provide funding for the Boy Scout program at RocVale Children's Home. The program provides many educational and social opportunities for the boys who enjoy the many activities. This year the trust also provided funding for new sensory walls for RocVale's behavior modification therapy program in both a home on campus and in the main building. The William S. Howard Charitable Trust was established in 1982 as the charitable component of the companies of William Charles, Ltd., together they comprise one of the largest, locally owned companies in the region.



MICHAEL BURJA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Leah Blake is the recipient of this year's Michael Burja Memorial Education Scholarship. Leah is pursuing her degree in Health Administration. The scholarship was established by the Burja family in memory of their son, Michael, who was part of the Elmwood Heights family for over 7 years. Mr. Burja presented Leah with the scholarship during a reception at Elmwood Heights.

EVERYONE HAD FUN AT THE ROCVALE GOLF OUTING

The Fourth Annual Golf Play day benefiting RocVale Children's Home and Easter Seals was a huge success raising over \$7,000 for RocVale. Joanie Eastman coordinates the entire event each year with the help of Kelly Quinlan, and they make sure everyone has a great time. The money raised at the event will be used to buy furniture for the homes at RocVale.



THANK YOU HOLE SPONSORS

- RK Dixon
- Audio Engineering, Inc
- Representative Joe Sosnowski
- SupplyWorks
- Rockford Bank and Trust
- Morrissey Family Businesses
- Bobbie Holzwarth & Norm Lindstedt
- In memory of Taylor Probasco
- Arles Hendershott
- Kelly Quinlan and Jim Yagen
- Sue and Bill Olsen
- The Gess Family
- The Quinlan Family
- Dixon Midas
- Brierton Group
- The Stables
- Burkardt Family Foundation
- Usana Health
- Dekalb Elks
- Swanson Vaccum
- Friends of Joe Bruscato
- DiBenedetto and Assoc.
- Bonnell Industries
- Genoa Health
- Williams Manny

MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP CHILDREN



Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The MILESTONE Dental Clinic received a grant from the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation to cover the cost of providing care to children who are underinsured. The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois and their access to care, with a specific focus on children.



A FALL TRADITION CONTINUES

The Artists at MILESTONE Industries enjoyed the fall weather while showing off their creations at Edgebrook’s annual Cider and Cinnamon Art Show. The theme pillows, dog gift baskets, cards and other items were a huge hit with the shoppers.



SAYING GOODBYE TO SUMMER AND HELLO TO FALL

Individuals at Elmwood Heights greeted Fall during an “End of Summer Bash” complete with a petting zoo, and the ice cream truck. The event was made possible through the generosity of the Rockford Association of Clubs and Illinois Licensed Beverage Association.



HELPING 2 SPECIAL CAUSES

Once again MILESTONE Individuals helped two special causes. Lenny lead the efforts of Team MILESTONE in raising money for the American Cancer Society’s “Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk”. Lenny alone raised over \$500 by selling coffee creamer to the staff along with asking for sponsors. Mario let the team for the annual Alzheimer’s Association walk and raised over \$600 for the event.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

OUTDOOR STATE FALL FESTIVAL



MILESTONE was represented at the Illinois State Outdoor fall festival in Decatur by 2 Golfers and 6 Baseball players. They brought home one 1 gold medal, 2 silver medals, 2 bronze medals and a fourth and fifth place ribbon.

FIRST TENNIS COMPETITION

MILESTONE's very first tennis participant competed in the state competition and earned a fourth place ribbon.



BOWLING COMPETITION

Athletes traveled to Freeport for both traditional and ramp bowling competition. 75 bowlers took part in both events, and brought home 9 gold medals, 11 silver medals, 9 bronze medals, and 7 fourth place ribbons.



WINNING VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Four teams comprised of 35 athletes represented MILESTONE in LaSalle, IL at the regional Volleyball competition, 4 bronze medals were earned.

ENJOYING BOY SCOUT CAMP

The members of MILESTONE's Boy Scout Troop Varsity Team 360 enjoyed learning more about the outdoors and camping at Camp Lowden. The Scouts took part in many activities and learned a lot. All of them say they are ready to go back next year.





MILESTONE'S HOLIDAY WISH LIST

ROCVALE CHILDREN'S HOME

- Outdoor Sensory Equipment \$10,000
- Outdoor Sensory/Play Water Fountain \$5,000
- New Furniture 5 homes @ \$4,000 \$20,000
- Playground equipment \$15,000

MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

- 7 flat screen TV's with DVD players for classrooms \$5,000
- Go Pro Camera \$500
- Sensory Equipment 12 classrooms @ \$3000 \$36,000
- Outside recreation area with garden \$5,000

MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

- Various Educational materials \$3,000
- Parking Lot Blacktop \$100,000

ELMWOOD HEIGHTS SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

- 40 Slings for EZ Lifts @ \$275 \$11,000
- Sensory Equipment 6 homes @ \$5,000 \$30,000
- Adaptive Swing Set with Wheel Chair Swing \$8,000

Medical Equipment \$10,000

- Patio Door replacements for homes \$40,000
- Bedroom/ bathroom remodels and upgrades in each home 6 @ \$10,000 \$60,000
- 6 replacement doors \$21,500
- Parking lot lights \$40,000

ELMWOOD EAST

- Enclosed patio \$10,500
- Outdoor Water/Sensory Fountain \$5,000

ADULT GROUP HOMES

- Washer and Dryer 6 @ \$1,000 \$6,000
- Exercise equipment \$2,550
- Portable E-Z Lifts \$3,000
- New Furniture 10 homes @ \$4,000 \$40,000
- Carports at 2 group homes \$11,000
- Van Stairs 5 @ \$200 \$1,000
- Slings for EZ-stand 3 @ \$350 \$1,050
- Screened Porch or 3 season room at 1 Group Home \$7,000
- Whirlpool Therapeutic Tub \$12,000

MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

- Parking Lot Repair and Repaving \$40,000
- New Roof \$30,000
- Waiting Room Furniture - 2 loveseats and 12 Chairs \$10,000
- 1 Dental Patient Chair \$8,000
- 1 Autoclaves (sterilizer) \$6,471
- 1 Statim (quick sterilizer) \$6,400
- 1 Precise LTM Diode Laser \$3,931
- 1 Intraoral Camera \$3,750

AGENCY WIDE

- 12 and 15 passenger vans 5 @ \$30,000 \$150,000
- Robo-Coupe Commercial Food processor 2 @ \$1900 \$3,800
- Microsoft Upgrade \$6,350
- Tables for the Training room \$3,300
- AED Training Units \$2,000
- Smart Board and Stand for Training room \$6,100
- Standing cooler for main kitchen \$32,000

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.

President and CEO: M. Shawn Way
MILESTONE Matters Editor: Arles Hendershott
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EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years

- Sheffield Wiley October
- Rita Hanson-King October
- Serena Batten October
- Aimee Kaopua-Hershey December

15 years

- Naomi Nyangaya December

20 years

- Sonia Brown October
- Annette Dunlap November
- Pamela Gitchel December
- Berdena Palmer December

25 years

- Winnie Mack November
- Donna Jones November

**4060 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61111**

Address Service Requested



A WAY TO HELP MILESTONE

While the increase in the estate tax exemption amounts (\$5,430,000 Federal and \$4,000,000 Illinois in 2015) has eliminated the need for most individuals to worry about paying an estate tax when they die, most individuals will still have to address the potential income tax liability that they will be passing on to their heirs when they die. If you own an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), Annuity or any other type of qualified retirement account, the deferred income tax liability from those accounts does not go away upon your death. The person inheriting those accounts upon your death will still be responsible for claiming those dollars as taxable income any paying income taxes on those dollars as they are received.

Charitable Foundations, however, unlike individuals, are not subject to income tax and do not have to pay the deferred tax from retirement accounts. If you would like to remember MILESTONE in your estate planning an easy and very tax efficient way to accomplish that would be to name the MILESTONE Foundation as a beneficiary for a portion of your

retirement account upon your death (or if you are married upon the death of you and your spouse). This does not require you to make any change to your estate plan (no Attorney fees) and involves no cost to you whatsoever. You simply direct the institution that currently holds your IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other retirement account to list the MILESTONE Foundation as a __% beneficiary of that account upon your death. The remaining balance will pass to the individuals you currently have listed as the beneficiaries of that account (your children and/or grandchildren).

The IRS gets no taxes on those dollars. The children and adults of MILESTONE receive a wonderful gift. You do not incur any charges or cost to add MILESTONE as a beneficiary. You do not give up any rights or authority over your retirement account assets while you are alive. You leave a wonderful legacy for which MILESTONE will be grateful.

Sounds like a win, win, win, win!