



# MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

## MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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### FIRST ANNUAL SENSORY FIELD DAY AT ROCVALE

The children at RocVale had a wonderful time during the First Annual Sensory Field Day. Most of the children have a form of autism, and sensory integration/stimulation is one form of behavior modification therapy that reduces each child's maladaptive behaviors while having fun. The day was filled with objects and activities designed to strengthen sensory integration for

each child. This is a form of therapy in which specific exercises are designed to enhance each of the senses. There was a sensory pool filled with edible objects, activities with bubbles, water balloons, sidewalk chalk and paint, bean bags, and texture materials. These activities also allow the children to enhance their communication and social skills and develop habits that will carry them into

adulthood. But the highlight of the day was a visit from the Ice Cream Truck. All of this was made possible thanks to a Hometown Grant from the General Mills Foundation.





## FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

December 2017

Friends of MILESTONE:

Each year as I write the holiday version of my CEO letter, I love to review the accomplishments of the individuals we serve, the care and commitment of the nearly 600 staff that are essentially extended family to the 350 intellectually and developmentally disabled children and adults we serve. 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 350 individuals doesn't change. We exist to provide education, recreation, 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. Our guys and gals are pretty special. Just last week we held a fundraiser, selling apple donuts and cider, to benefit the victims of the hurricanes. This was a fundraiser our individuals developed, organized and executed all to benefit folks a thousand miles away. That's pretty special.

For the past 8 years I've been privileged to lead MILESTONE. Operating in the state of Illinois, we are continually challenged to make the most of the funding we receive. There was some positive news this year, as the legislature passed a budget which included an increase in wages for our direct care staff. We were pleased to be one of the first agencies in the state to pass that increase along to our hard working staff.

But we won't rest on our laurels. We continue to expand our fundraising efforts, including our most successful Adopt-A-Camper campaign to date, two different golf fundraisers, along with numerous other efforts to balance the budget. In fact, we are expanding our annual appeal effort in an effort to more than double community support.

The community has been generous to MILESTONE for over 44 years. There are so many worthy causes in and around our community, and the need is not diminishing. 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.

My best to you and your family this holiday season, and may you have a safe and blessed 2018!

Sincerely

Shawn Way



## FINDING A WAY TO MEET CHANGING MEDICAL NEEDS



Rita lived with her parents her entire life, and went to work at the Village of Progress workshop. But in 2006 things took a turn when her father needed more care than he could receive at home, and her Mom realized she needed help caring for Rita. So her mother and sister, Lynda Sassaman, started the process so Rita could be placed in a group home. She moved into Opportunity House in DeKalb, and started working in their Training Center, which she enjoyed. But over the years

Rita's needs changed, and it was determined she needed 24/7 nursing care, something



that was not available at Opportunity House. MILESTONE was the first option they explored for many reasons, but they were told there was a waiting list. While they waited for an opening at MILESTONE's Elmwood Heights facility they looked at other facilities. The morning they were ready to accept placement in Galesburg, they received a call that there was an opening at MILESTONE. Rita's family was overjoyed and within 3 weeks Rita was in her new home at Elmwood Heights. Rita's sister says the transition was an easy one and her sister is very happy, adding short visits to her new home were a key part in making the transition a success.

Rita loves the Senior Program at MILESTONE Industries because she does not want to fully retire. She also loves looking at the ads in the newspaper so she can help keep a grocery shopping list, something

she did with her parents at home. Rita also looks forward to attending church and going for ice cream in the summer with the other residents of her home. All are activities she enjoyed when she lived at home, and her family is happy MILESTONE's staff has continued the tradition.

Her sister says MILESTONE's staff is very good at communicating with family members about Rita's care, something everyone appreciates. The staff also know that Rita is a hugger and they look forward to being on the receiving end of one of her greetings.

If she could offer any advice to other families Sassaman says she would tell them to not be afraid to ask for help, adding she quickly discovered people were always willing to give them any help they needed.



## 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 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus at St Bernadette's raised over \$1,200 for RocVale through their annual Tootsie Roll sales. The group also prepared a delicious picnic lunch with all the trimmings to the children and staff this past summer.



## EVERYONE HAD FUN AT THE ROCVALE GOLF OUTING

The Fifth Annual Golf Play day benefitting 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 makes sure everyone has a great time. The money raised at the event will be used to fund a new music therapy program at RocVale.

## NEW ART CENTER PLANNED FOR ROCVALE

Plans are underway for a new Art Center at RocVale. A generous donation from the Employees of HMC Products is the lead donation and will allow the project to get started. Art therapy is a great way to allow the children to express themselves, and will become part of each child's care plan. It is a great and fun activity on its own.



## ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION HONORS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

The MILESTONE Dental Clinic was awarded one of the 15 for 15 Anniversary Grants from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. ILCHF is committed to cultivating, supporting, and promoting initiatives that improve the health and wellness of children in Illinois. Through these grants ILCHF seeks to support current and past grantees as they work to improve the health of children and families in Illinois. The grant was presented at ILCHF's anniversary luncheon.



### THANK YOU HOLE SPONSORS

Jake Duhr, Kelly Quinlan and Jim Yagen  
RK Dixon  
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HMC Products  
Bobbie Holzwarth & Norm Lindstedt  
Arles Hendershott  
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Swanson Vacuum  
Micki and Larry Gess  
Bill and Sue Olson  
DeKalb Elks  
The Stables  
Midas

### HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR

Williams Manny

## CIDER AND CINNAMON

Milestone Artists sold their work at Edgebrook Center's annual Cider and Cinnamon art fair. People raved about the wonderful work on display and purchased a record number of items. The money will be used for a special community outing for the Artists who had work on display.



### HONORED BY THE BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts Blackhawk area council honored 3 people from MILESTONE.

Both Reggie Parham and Javon Oden received the Torch of Gold Award for Service to church, community, schools, and people with special needs. Bill Grahn was awarded the Special Needs Scouting Service Award for his years of service. This was the first time these awards were presented by the Council.



### MICHAEL BURJA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Christina McCullough is the recipient of this year's Michael Burja Memorial Scholarship. Christina has been employed since August 2005 and is currently a Team Leader at Windcloud group home pursuing her degree at Rasmussen School of Nursing. The scholarship was established by the Burja family in memory of their son, Michael was part of the Elmwood Heights family for over seven and a half years.



### ENJOYING BOY SCOUT CAMP

The rainy weather did not damper the fun 15 Boy Scouts from MILESTONE had at Camp Lowden.

They enjoyed a nature hike and preparing many delicious meals and desserts.

They also spent time playing card games, relaxing on the front porch and with the help of wifi and a drop down screen they were able to watch the Cubs playoff games.



### HELPING THE HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

When Lenny, Mario, Jake and Sean heard about Hurricane Harvey and the number of people who were impacted, they knew they needed to do something to help. They decided to sell apple donuts and cider from Edwards Orchard to raise money. The event was a success raising over \$206.00. The money was donated to the Red Cross for the Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.





## SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

### VOLLEYBALL

Six MILESTONE Athletes in the Unified Volleyball Team competed at the regional tournament and placed second. They advanced to the State Tournament and again placed second.

### BOWLING

Seventy Five bowlers took to the lanes at the 4 Seasons Bowling Center in Freeport, 7 advanced to the sectional meet.

### HOCKEY

Three MILESTONE Athletes competed in the regional hockey tournament. One Athlete won a gold medal and will compete at the State Tournament.

### OUTDOOR GAMES

This is the state competition for golf and baseball.

5 Athletes from MILESTONE competed, 4 in baseball and 1 in golf. Combined they brought home 2 gold medals, 1 silver medal, 1 bronze medal and 1 fifth place ribbon.



### THE 2018 SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE AMBASSADOR

Jake is the 2018 Special Olympics Ambassador for Northwest Illinois.

His picture is on all of the flyers for the event, and he will help with media interviews and group presentations about the event. He will also encourage as many people as he can to also take the plunge!



### 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. Most of MILESTONE’s revenue comes from contracts with the State of Illinois to provide both care and services to our Individuals. Support from the community has allowed us to maintain our levels of care.

This is only a look at some of the items we hope will be in Santa’s bag for MILESTONE.

#### ROCVALE CHILDREN’S HOME

- Outdoor Sensory/Water Fountain \$5,000
- Outdoor Sensory Equipment \$10,000
- Tractor/Mower \$12,000
- New Furniture \$20,000
- Art Therapy Program \$10,000

#### MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

- Go Pro Camera \$500
- Outside Recreation Area Upgrades \$2,000
- Sensory Equipment \$36,000

#### MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

- iPads 4@ \$400 \$1,600
- Various Educational Materials \$3,000

#### ELMWOOD HEIGHTS SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

- Adaptive Swing Set with Wheel Chair Swing \$8,000
- Medical Equipment \$10,000
- Replacement Doors \$21,500
- Sensory Equipment \$30,000
- Patio Door Replacements for homes \$40,000
- Bedroom/Bathroom Remodels \$60,000

#### ADULT GROUP HOMES

- Patio \$1,500
- iPads 4@ \$400 \$1,600
- Exercise Equipment \$2,550
- Support Railings \$3,000
- Screened Porch or 3 Season Room at 1 Group Home \$7,000
- New Furniture for 10 homes \$40,000
- Bathroom Renovations \$60,000

#### ELMWOOD EAST

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

#### MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

- Waiting Room Furniture - 2 Loveseats and 12 Chairs \$10,000
- Upgrade Digital X-Ray System \$15,000
- Parking Lot Repair and Repaving \$40,000

#### AGENCY WIDE

- AED Training Units \$2,000
- Robo-Coupe Commercial Food Processor 2@ \$1,900 – \$3,800
- 24 Chairs for Training Room \$4,000
- Smart Board and Stand for Training Room \$6,100
- Oven and Refrigerator for Main Kitchen \$15,000
- Standing Cooler for Main Kitchen \$32,000
- 12 and 15 Passenger Vans 9@ \$30,000 – \$270,000

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

- Daysia Dismuke November
- Shatana Goodloe December

#### 15 years

- Estella Dandridge November
- Shawn Klagues December

#### 20 years

- Anquetta Williams October
- Jennifer Griffey November
- Stacey Watkins November

#### 25 years

- Arthur Turner October
- Marsha White-Smith November
- Tina Steward November



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## Address Service Requested



## MILESTONE MATTERS

WINTER 2017



### GRANT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR ROCVALE'S BOY SCOUT TROOP

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. 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.

### BANNER YEAR FOR HOLIDAY CARD SALES

Everyone at Milestone Industries has been busy making holiday cards. By early



October orders surpassed last year's numbers.. Workers were kept very busy making

paper, sewing the designs, and filling the boxes. While it is too late to get cards for the 2017 holiday season, they will return in 2018.

