



MILESTONE INC.



Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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SOPHIE'S PLACE OPENS

A special dedication was held for Sophie's Place, a new Art Therapy studio at RocVale. It's named after Sophie Schwalbach, who passed away five years ago this spring at the age of 10 from cancer.



Art therapy can help people with autism to improve skills in areas such as communication, social skills, sensory issues, behavior, cognition, perceptual/motor skills, and self-reliance or self-determination.



Art therapy is a unique form of treatment for autism, because it channels autistic behaviors into an expressive, creative outlet. It promotes communication, emotional growth and

sensory integration while also fostering social interaction in a fun setting.

RocVale's new speech therapy program will also be housed at Sophie's Place.

The children at RocVale are also taking part in a new Music Therapy Program. The music therapist finds music experiences that strike a chord with a particular person, making personal connections and building trust, while the art therapist works to find a creative outlet for the child.



Because music is motivating and engaging, it may be used as a natural "reinforcer" for desired responses. Music therapy can also help those with sensory aversions to certain sounds to cope with sound sensitivities or individual differences in auditory processing.



After assessing the strengths and needs of each person, each therapist will develop a treatment plan with goals and objectives and then provide appropriate treatment.

Every Wednesday there will be music therapy sessions and every Tuesday the Art Therapist will be working with the children.

Sophie's Place was made possible because of generous donation from HMC Products, Inc. and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Kline.

2018 Holiday Card designs revealed on page 5



FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friend of MILESTONE,

MILESTONE, Inc. was founded 45 years ago by Mr. James P. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton spends most of his time with his wife Cathy in Florida, but returns to Rockford each summer. Jim still maintains an office here at MILESTONE Industries. If you have the opportunity to see Jim, take a moment to extend a hand, and thank him for the vision and the incredible work he did to put MILESTONE on the map

In a small token of our appreciation, we placed a honorary street sign at the entrance of Industries, commemorating “Jim Hamilton Way”



We’re also pleased to announce the opening of “Sophie’s Place”, the art and music therapy space at RocVale. We’ve been blessed by supporters that have helped fund art, music and speech therapy for the children we serve at RocVale. Few, if any agencies serving the developmentally disabled community in the state offer such programs, but thanks to incredible support, we are able to enhance the lives of the children we serve. You’ll read more about “Sophie’s Place” in the coming weeks and months

While we are fortunate to look back at 45 years of serving the men and women, the boys and girls we are entrusted to serve, we always look forward to new and exciting ways to improve the lives of these very special individuals. We could not continue to provide the outstanding care, the new and exciting programs, without the support we receive from our community. Our “Adopt-A-Camper” program helps send hundreds of our individuals to camp each summer. Our Monster Cup golf outing helps fund fun and outings for all the individuals we serve. We cannot thank you enough for your support

Sincerely,

Shawn Way



IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Often it takes a village to provide care when it is needed. When Christopher started attending the church youth ministry program where Dave and Vickie Kieffer were part of the ministry team, no one could foresee the role the Kieffers would play in his future. Christopher is an only child who lived with his mother Mary. Christopher's

father passed away just before he graduated from Jefferson High School, and soon after graduation, his mother lost her battle to cancer. It was very traumatic for him to have his world crash so suddenly. Chris does have an aunt and he and his mother were very close to his landlord and neighbors. While they helped look after Christopher, they did not feel comfortable stepping into the role of his guardian.



The Kieffers did not want Christopher to become a ward of the state and live his life without a Guardian and Advocate. They believe God says to care for "widows and orphans" and the

"least of these" and that they needed to step out in faith to do that.

So they started at ground zero trying to figure things out, starting with the ARC and Access Services. Christopher was eventually accepted as an emergency situation by the State. They were told he may get placed in Southern Illinois if that was the only current opening in the system, but they never gave up hope that there would be an opening in this area. They contacted MILESTONE about any potential opening, adding they did not know much about MILESTONE but soon learned how caring, kind

and positive MILESTONE is towards individuals with disabilities and their families. Vickie still remembers how excited they were when MILESTONE called and Chris was interviewed and then a visit was scheduled so he could learn more about the residence where he would live. The Kieffers also met with another organization in Rockford, but MILESTONE seemed to be a better fit because of the opportunity for a consistent job at Industries. Christopher enjoys his job and works 5 days a week folding boxes, making Christmas cards, untangling hangers, and putting labels in books. They know the work gives him purpose and he has formed many friendships with other individuals and staff at MILESTONE Industries.



They also are comfortable with the fact that when they have questions or concerns with any area of Christopher's care, they are able to discuss and resolve things in a timely manner with the appropriate personnel. Adding, Christopher has done very well at MILESTONE and he enjoys meeting so many new people and he has formed many wonderful friendships. The staff take "the guys" on outings, go to special

places to eat and even have an occasional dinner and a movie night at home. This summer he will be going to camp for the first time. He has continued to do the activities in the community he did prior to MILESTONE: track and bowling with the Rockford Special Olympics Team, going to Church to see friends and Mass with his Aunt along with riding his bike at Cindy and Dennis' house during his Sunday afternoon visits. They say Christopher enjoys earning his own paycheck, and the new friendships he has made and smiles when he says that he "has two homes now."

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.



HELEN BRACH FOUNDATION HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC



A grant from the Helen Brach Foundation will provide the funding so uninsured and under insured patients can get the dental care they need. The MILESTONE Dental clinic provides care to children and adults with developmental disabilities from 40 counties in Illinois, including the Chicago area.

ROCKFORD COSMOPOLITAN CLUB SUPPORTS MILESTONE

A grant from the Rockford Cosmopolitan Club will help pediatric patients at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic who are underinsured receive the care they need. The Cosmopolitan Club, with nearly 200 members, is the largest service club in the Rockford Area and the largest Cosmopolitan Club in the international organization.

BLAZER FOUNDATION PROVIDES FUNDING FOR NEEDED VAN



A grant from the Blazer Foundation in memory of Cedric Blazer, provided funding needed for a new wheelchair van. The van will be used at Elmwood Heights and the Adult group homes to transport

Individuals to day training and community outings.

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

The Individuals at Elmwood Heights and MILESTONE Training Center started the year of celebrations off in a special way. They kicked off the 45th Anniversary celebration in style with a Back to Where We Began celebration 1970. The activity room was packed and everyone had





NEWS DESIGNS UNVEILED FOR 2018 HOLIDAY CARDS

Orders are now being taken for the 6 designs created by the Artists at MILESTONE Industries for the 2018 Holiday cards.

Last year was a record setting year with MILESTONE Industries filling orders for over 7,000 cards, so please place your orders early.

Wide selection of greetings are available

Cards are \$3.00 each

Discounts area available if you order early

Order form enclosed



Comfort and JOY



Trio of Trees



Wispy Wreath



Lamp Post



Sleigh Ride



Happy Holiday Snowman



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

SPRING TRACK AND FIELD MEET

MILESTONE was the largest team at the Spring Regional Track and Field meet for Special Olympics with 99 athletes. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great day. Some athletes said the Opening Ceremonies and Parade were their favorite part of the day, while others enjoyed the funfair and lunch. But, all agreed competing in the events top the list. Gold medal winners qualified to attend State games in Bloomington/Normal.



Medals Won

11
Gold Medals

16
Silver Medals

14
Bronze Medals





A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Individuals from MILESTONE donned their formal wear and attended a special event in their honor at Heartland Community Church in May.” A Night To Remember “was a prom type event complete with limo service, boutonnieres and corsages and a red carpet entrance. Everyone enjoyed a meal by candlelight before heading to the dance floor. The individuals who attended each had their own unique experience but all agreed it truly was a night to remember.



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
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EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years

Tina Lang	April
Stephanie Bauer	April
Nereyda Hoffman	June
Kayla Breit	June
Diane Seymour	June

15 years

Willie Austin-Harris	June
Eric Hanson	June

20 years

Alesia Thompson	April
Paula Burnett	June

25 years

April Adams	June
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30 years

Billie Denson	April
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4060 McFarland Road
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Address Service Requested



MILESTONE MATTERS

SUMMER 2018



HELP SEND SOMEONE TO CAMP THIS SUMMER

Remember the fun you had at summer camp? Help us make summer camp a reality for everyone at MILESTONE by adopting a camper.

For \$100 you can sponsor a camper for a week at a camp in Wisconsin, Iowa or Illinois

Or

For \$75 you can sponsor a camper at Camp Winnebago, a program designed for our medically fragile individuals who need specialized attention and care.

Call the Resource Development department at 639-2965 for more information.