



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.



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EVERYONE IS ALL SMILES AT ROCVALE'S SENSORY FIELD DAY

The children at RocVale had a wonderful time during the 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

Friend of MILESTONE,

As I begin writing my quarterly letter, I am reminded of the wonderful community that supports MILESTONE, Inc., the individuals we serve and our mission.

Adopt-A-Camper: Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise more than \$55,000 this year to send our campers off to a variety of week-long and day camps, opportunities that are often the highlight of the summer for our guys and gals.

Fish-Abled: This incredible organization provides opportunities for our individuals to “get back to nature”, to experience the joy of fishing and the great outdoors, something we all too often take for granted. During August the “Mighty Men of MILESTONE” led fund raising efforts for Fish-Abled through root beer float Fridays throughout our organization.

Heartland Church: Heartland has hired one of our individuals as a greeter for their Saturday services. This is a wonderful opportunity for our friend to spread some of his sunshine to the community and for the community to in-turn, share their appreciation and affection for the men and women served by MILESTONE. And of course, Heartland hosts “A Night to Remember” prom dance each spring.

We are so blessed by the citizens of this community and the organizations that support social service agencies in and around Rockford. Financial service companies lend a hand throughout the year. Realtors do the same. We receive donations of art supplies, school supplies, ball game tickets; the list goes on and on. We are thankful that so many of you think of us and are willing to go out of your way to provide opportunities for the individuals we serve.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention **Direct Support Professional Week** is celebrated at MILESTONE, September 8 through the 14th. Our Direct Support Professionals are truly the backbone of our organization.

Words alone cannot express our appreciation. On behalf of the individuals, the staff, parents, guardians and our Board of Directors, thank you!

Sincerely,



EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY LENDS A HELPING HAND



Every year Leslie Emerson’s grandchildren count the days until they can travel to Illinois from Texas to see their Grandmother, but also to staff a lemonade stand to raise money to help the organization where their Uncle Doug lives. Each year they help make the lemonade, and lemon cookies, decorate the table that will hold the goodies and ask people for donations while they share the story of their Uncle. The children keep nothing for themselves and insist that all the money donated go to MILESTONE.



Their Uncle Doug lives in one of MILESTONE’s Adult Group Homes. His journey is unique in that he lived at home with his mom until he was in his 40’s. His family knew that placement in a residential facility would be needed at some point, but they also knew it would be

an easier transition for Doug if it happened when there was not a family emergency. Soon after they started the process his mother was notified there was an opening at MILESTONE. Doug’s mother, Myra Schmitt, eased him into the transition by saying he would be able to go more places and make new friends. Not only did Doug move into a new home,



he also started working at a new place, MILESTONE Industries. His mother says she has seen Doug blossom, and while he likes to come home to visit he is always ready to return to his place and his friends. Since moving to MILESTONE he attended camp for the first time, and loves the MILESTONE program at Camp

Winnebago. He enjoys going out to eat with his housemates and to baseball and basketball games. Schmitt says the staff at his home do an outstanding job of planning activities for the guys living there. Doug also still loves attending Festa Italiana each year with mother and other members of his family.

She also knows that members of MILESTONE’s staff will inform her if Doug needs anything or if there is an issue. She says they treat Doug like he is a member of their family and knows exactly what he needs and when he needs it.

While Doug’s transition went smoothly, Schmitt advises other parents to start planning early, and get on a waiting list so you do not need to make decisions during an emergency. Adding the best thing you can do for your adult child is plan for their future starting at an early age.



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.



BMO HARRIS BANK EMPLOYEES SPEND THE DAY PAINTING

BMO Harris Bank employees volunteered to paint rooms and hallways at the MILESTONE Training Center as part of their "Make A Difference" day.



ROCK VALLEY CREDIT UNION HELPS ADOPT A CAMPER

MILESTONE's Adopt A Camper program got a boost from Rock Valley Credit Union. The funds were raised by selling thermal mugs to members and employee casual days. Rock Valley Credit Union has generously supported the Adopt A Camper program since 2012.



ARTISTS SHOW OFF THEIR TALENT

Artists from Elmwood Heights and RocVale got a chance to show off their creations at MILESTONE's Art Show. The projects from the children at RocVale were part of the program at Sophie's Place. Members of the community and staff judged the creations and awards were given in multiple categories. Everyone enjoyed the chance to view the creations and compliment the artists.



THERE IS STILL TIME TO ORDER HOLIDAY CARDS.

Artists at MILESTONE Industries are busy making cards for the 2018 Holiday season.

New Designs are available along with a wide selection of greetings are also available.

Last year was a record setting year, so please order yours early.

An order form is enclosed with more information





ADOPT A CAMPER PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Fishing, swimming and cooking out over a camp fire were just a few of the activities enjoyed by MILESTONE individuals at summer camp. The Adopt A Camper program helped many individuals from MILESTONE's Adult group Homes, RocVale Children's Home and Elmwood Heights facility attend either Camp Albrecht Acres in Iowa for a week, Camp Fireside in Winnebago, Camp Wawbee in the Wisconsin Dells or Camp Winnebago in Rockford. Staff from the YMCA provide the programming for Camp Winnebago, which was designed by MILESTONE staff. Many of the Children at RocVale were also able to attend and have fun at day camps sponsored by the Rockford Park District. While people went to different camps, they all agreed on one thing, they had a lot of fun and can't wait to go back to camp.



THANK YOU ADOPT A CAMPER SPONSORS

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

STATE SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

Twenty-five MILESTONE Athletes qualified to attend the State Special Olympics Competition in Bloomington–Normal. However only 15 were able to compete due to the weather. The extreme heat forced the cancellation of the afternoon events. But everyone was able to take part in the opening ceremonies and all the fun.



STATE GAMES

4
GOLD MEDALS

3
SILVER MEDALS

5
BRONZE MEDALS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GOLF

MILESTONE athletes had a great time at the Golf Competition in Oglesby, IL and brought home 3 second place medals, 3 third place medals, 4 fourth place ribbons and 2 participation ribbons.

TENNIS

This year MILESTONE athletes took part in both skills competition and played a game. The athlete who competed in the game brought home a gold medal. These competing in tennis skills earned 2 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 1 bronze.



MILESTONE AND ROCVALE SPECIAL OLYMPIANS PARTNER WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR TORCH RUN

Four members of the MILESTONE-RocVale Special Olympics team ran with Officers from the Loves Park Police Department for one leg of the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run. The four Special Olympians trained all year for this opportunity.





A PICNIC WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS

The children at Rocvale enjoyed a wonderful summer picnic thanks to the members of the Knights of Columbus from St. Bernadette's. The group prepared all the summer favorites and made sure there was more than enough for everyone.

HELPING THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY PANTRY

When Sean heard the Rock River valley pantry needed peanut butter so that children would not go hungry this summer, he wanted to help. So, he organized a collection and asked MILESTONE staff to place collection bins at each location. Sixty-four jars of peanut butter and \$24 were collected and delivered to the pantry. The staff at the pantry told Sean his efforts made a huge difference.

MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY A SUCCESS

The fourth annual "Monster Cup" golf play day was a success with people having fun while raising money for Milestone. This year First Responders were honored by being asked to golf as MILESTONE's guest with a registered team. The City of Rockford Police Department Honor Guard also opened the event. CEO Shawn Way wanted to create an event that was different and that had sizzle and everyone who took part agreed those goals were met.



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THANK YOU MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY SPONSORS

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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

Nae Shell Goodloe July
Rebecca Crain August
Courtney Meeks August
Latonia Purifoy August

15 years

Kutansha Driskell August
Deborah Trader August
Rodney Moree September
Tom Cassady September
Tisha Button September

20 years

Michelle Austin July
Sarah Meyers July
Angela Ruper July
Lonnie Williams July
Geneise Hunt August
Kristine Mueller September

25 years

Robert Meyers September

4060 McFarland Road
 Rockford, IL 61111

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 **MILESTONE MATTERS** FALL 2018 

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE CHILDREN AT ROCVALE



MILESTONE's mission is to help each individual in our care reach their

fullest potential and live as independent a life as possible. This is especially important for the children at RocVale. Which is why, we launched 3 new programs designed to teach the skills needed so the children can grow to be successful adults.

Our new Art, Music and Speech Therapy programs

are housed on campus at Sophie's Place and are offered several days a week. And while they are new, we are starting to see results.

But we need your help.

Please consider donating to Sophie's Place so we can continue to offer these valuable services.

For \$50 you can sponsor one Art, Music or Speech Therapy sessions

For \$150 you can sponsor 1 week of Art, Music and Speech Therapy sessions

