One of MILESTONE’s founders and longtime supporters received a special honor. The MILESTONE Industries campus has been renamed in honor of Peg Hanson.

Over 45 years ago Peg saw a need in the area for better and more inclusive services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Peg experienced the need first hand, and she vowed her son and other children with developmental disabilities would have the same opportunities as other children.

She was asked to join a group of parents and community leaders, working to meet the long term needs of the developmentally disabled population. This group of dedicated volunteers were the founders of what is today MILESTONE, Inc. Peg continued to be a driving force. She worked to raise money so the group could buy an apartment building on Kishwaukee Street in Rockford, and create a residential facility for 21 individuals. She worked countless hours painting and cleaning getting the building ready for the first occupants, and was part of the search committee who hired MILESTONE’s executive director Jim Hamilton. But, Peg knew more needed to be done. She worked with State Representative Zeke Giorgi and lobbied Governor Dan Walker until the bill was signed securing the funding for the construction of 5 specialized living centers, one being MILESTONE’s Elmwood Heights facility. Peg knew that once the buildings were done area families could take their children with developmental disabilities out of state institutions and bring them home to Rockford.

Her tireless service, passion, vision and drive have made a difference in the lives of thousands of area families.

For 18 years she chaired the organization’s yearly Poinsettia Sale, and was part of the group that located the land for MILESTONE Industries and the Corporate Center on McFarland Road. She has served on the Board of Directors since MILESTONE’s inception, and been a board officer, many times, and been on every committee.

She and her husband Dick have always been extremely supportive of MILESTONE throughout our history, and their son now lives in a MILESTONE home.
Friend of MILESTONE,


Direct Support Professionals, or DSP’s as they are often referred to here at MILESTONE, are the backbone of our organization. DSP’s spend all their time working directly with the intellectually and developmentally disabled men, women, boys and girls we serve at MILESTONE, Inc.

Imagine caring for, nurturing and ensuring that the folks we serve at MILESTONE are fed 3 meals a day, provided clean clothes, helped with personal hygiene, taken out in the community to enjoy all the activities we all enjoy, taken to doctor and dentist appointments. Our DSP’s work 40 or more hours each week. We are truly one large family, 550 employee’s caring for 320 individuals, a family nearly 900 strong.

With the employment market as strong as it’s ever been in our community, our DSP’s could easily seek and find jobs that pay more than we are able to provide. But so many of our staff are committed to the individuals we serve; they simply put the men, women, boys and girls interests ahead of their own.

By the end of 2019, we will have employed over 200 employees that have worked at MILESTONE for more than 10 years, some as many as 40 years.

The bottom line is this; we thank our DSP’s, we wouldn’t be here without them. If you see a Direct Service Provider out in the community, assisting one or more of the individuals we serve, extend a hand, thank them for the wonderful work they do. It will go a long way in providing the recognition they so greatly deserve.

Sincerely,

Shawn Way

There is still time to order your MILESTONE Holiday cards. Please see the enclosed order form for details.
WISHES DO COME TRUE

When Debbie entered her teenage years, her parents realized they could no longer meet her needs, so they sought placement in a residential facility. The state of Illinois did not offer many options in the 60’s and she was placed in a facility in Iowa. After a few years, state funding for the Iowa facility was withdrawn and Debbie was moved to a facility in Missouri. After turning 21, appropriate placement was found in Dixon, Illinois, bringing Debbie closer to home. A few years later, she moved into a group home in Dixon and was able to work at a day training facility. While she was happy, her parents knew there was something else she really wanted. During the twice-a-year meetings with staff and family, Debbie would bring up 2 things. First, she wanted her own room 100% of the time. Her group home could not guarantee that. Second, she wanted to live closer to Rockford so she could spend more time with her family. A meeting with Access Services was set up and the process of finding a home for Debbie that would grant her 2 wishes began. When her parents received a call about an opening at a MILESTONE group home, they met with the staff and toured the home. When Debbie visited the home, she liked it and everyone agreed it would be a good fit. So the staff and her family started packing her belongings for the move to Rockford. Debbie was thrilled that her 2 wishes had come true. She would have her own room in her new home and she would be living closer to her parents.

The staff at MILESTONE helped with the adjustments because Debbie did miss her friends. One of her brothers also lived in Dixon and after the move she was not able to see him as often, but she adjusted rapidly, making new friends at her new home. Her parents also say the MILESTONE staff have kept them informed of any issues and add she has enjoyed working at MILESTONE Industries and going to the MILESTONE Community Center during the day. She is generally quite happy, joining the people she lives with on community outings and going out to eat. She loves listening to music either on her radio or in the car or van when she is going places.

If her parents have any advice for other families it would be to listen to the professionals, and trust the Illinois care system to provide the proper placement for those with developmental disabilities, and to have every confidence in the MILESTONE staff to provide care for your family members should they have a need.

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 EMPLOYEES SPEND THE DAY PAINTING

BMO Harris Bank employees volunteered to paint rooms and hallways at MILESTONE’s Elmwood Heights facility as part of their “Make A Difference Day”. The freshly painted kitchens, dining areas and hallways put a smile on everyone’s face when they were done.

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.

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.

MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY A SUCCESS

The fifth annual “Monster Cup” golf play day was a success with people having fun while raising money for MILESTONE. First Responders were again 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 Play day. 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.
ADOT 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 “ADOT 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, Camp Fireside in Winnebago, Camp Wac a Doodle in the Wisconsin Dells or Camp Wac a Doodle in Rockford. Camp Wac a Doodle was designed by the Milestone staff for Individuals who are medically fragile and was expanded this year so more campers could attend. Thanks to the staff at the Rockford Park District, camp was held at Sportscore One’s main shelter. 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.
SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

TRIP TO THE STATE GAMES A SUCCESS
Twenty Two athletes from MILESTONE competed in the State Track and Field meet at Illinois State University. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed everything from the torch lighting during Opening Ceremonies to the closing ceremonies. Another highlight was being able to stay in campus housing which was close to all the activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medals Won</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Gold Medals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Silver Medals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bronze Medals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 4th Place Ribbons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 6th Place Ribbons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 7th Place Ribbons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WINNING GOLF SKILLS
Six MILESTONE athletes traveled to Oglesby for the Golf Skills competition. They brought home 1 - Gold Medal, 1- Bronze Medal, 2 - Fourth Place Ribbons, 1 - Fifth Place Ribbon, and 1 - Sixth Place Ribbon.
MILESTONE MATTERS FALL 2019

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

Seven 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 seven Special Olympians trained all year for this opportunity.

40 YEARS OF CARING

When Ellen Allen started at RocVale Children’s Home in 1979 she had no idea how her position would evolve. Over her 40 years of dedicated service she has seen many things change including the merger of RocVale and MILESTONE. In this time she has met and cared for hundreds of children and made a difference in their lives, always helping them to reach their full potential as they enter adulthood.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH ONE OF MILESTONE’S ONGOING PROJECTS

Several of the homes on the RocVale Campus need new furniture. The items needed are special designed and built to meet the need of the children living at RocVale. $20,000 is needed to complete this project.

Each year over 200 slings need to be replaced. These slings are used when individuals need to be moved or lifted. $15,000 is needed to meet this goal.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years
Stephanie Simmons July
Brenda Ruiz August
Tammeca Smith August

15 years
Michelle Wilson August

20 years
Joyce Jones September
Regina Williams September

25 years
Buddie Wade July
Amber Barcelona August
Crystal Kane August
Kristine Markin August

30 years
Yvonne Alexander September
Jorene Blair September

40 years
Ellen Allen July

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
Copyright ©2019 by MILESTONE, Inc.
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. Our Art and Music and Therapy programs are housed on campus at Sophie’s Place and are offered several days a week. These programs are helping the children in our care learn the skills they will need as adults.

But we need your help. Please consider donating to Sophie’s Place so we can continue to offer these valuable service.

For $100 you can sponsor 1 Art, or Music Therapy sessions

For $200 you can sponsor 1 week of Art, or Music Therapy sessions