



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

WINTER 2020 CONTENTS



Moving in During a Pandemic
3

Dental Clinic
4

Monster Cup Golf Day
A Success
5

Life at MILESTONE
6

MILESTONE Needs
7

Grant for RocVale's
Boy Scouts
8

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THESE WISHES REALITY

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. A vast majority of MILESTONE's revenue comes from contracts with the State of Illinois to provide both care and services to our Individuals. Those funds are restricted and cannot be used for the items on this list. Support from the community is what has made the difference and allowed us to maintain our level of care.

This is only a look at some of the items we hope will be in Santa's bag for MILESTONE. *A complete list is on page 7.*



EZ Lifts and slings allow our staff to safely move an Individual from bed to a chair.



Outdoor recreational equipment allows our Individuals to enjoy the outdoors and the sunshine.



iPads allow our Individuals to learn new skills and communicate with family. We have an ongoing need iPads at all facilities.

Sensory Equipment can change an Individuals life by reducing both behaviors and the need for medication.





FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friends of MILESTONE:

Fatigue.

When last we spoke summer was in full bloom, we were able to venture outdoors. COVID infection had slowed here at MILESTONE, as staff and supervisors did a wonderful job following protocols all the while helping the individuals we serve live their best life. Parents, guardians and families were able to spend some time visiting their loved ones in more personalized settings. The good old days.

Now we've passed through summer and optimism wanes. Infection rates have significantly increased, we've already had a handful of cases of COVID since Labor Day, both individuals served and staff. It feels like it's all starting over again.

Fatigue has set in.

Staying indoors, hearing and reading about COVID rates exploding is exhausting and for many frightening. I just hung up the phone with a staff member that is suffering from severe anxiety over what feels like the never-ending fear of COVID-19 infection both here at MILESTONE and at home. The concerns our staff face dealing with this insidious disease here, in the public, with their school children and often with their parents is relentless.

We are hopeful a COVID-19 vaccine will be available in the not too distant future. Until then we will continue to be unwavering in our efforts to keep our family of over 800 safe. We will continue to develop means by which to allow the individuals we serve to visit and interact with their families, as the emotional toll of this pandemic is every bit as impactful as the disease itself.

I'll repeat what I've stated before; Direct Service Providers and Nurses are heroes here at MILESTONE. Are they fearless? No, absolutely not. Regardless they continue to care for the individuals they serve. They don't turn their back on family.

In closing I just want to say thank you to our team and thank you to our supporters. The outpouring of support, both financially and spiritually has been incredible. It's become cliché, but we are truly all in this together.

Stay Safe. Stay Strong.

Sincerely,

M. Shawn Way
President and CEO



MOVING IN DURING A PANDEMIC



COVID-19 has forced all of us to rethink the way we do many things. For families looking at placing a loved one during a Pandemic the situation almost seems insurmountable. Matt had lived his whole life at home with his parents, attending High School and Community College. But, his families' world changed forever when Matt's father passed away.

Matt's mother works full time and his brother lives out of state, he also wanted more independence. So the family started looking at options. COVID-19 made the process more complex. In person meetings were replaced with ZOOM conferences or Facetime, and first look tours at possible homes were done on-line instead of in-person. Nancy Cummings, Matt's mother explained, "The process of finding the right residential placement was frustrating. Many of the homes were not really handicap accessible or appeared to be understaffed. MILESTONE appealed to both Matt and me." Matt was excited about working at MILESTONE Industries and I felt that the



staff was professional and the house was set up to accommodate Matt and his wheelchair." So, the decision was made, but strict COVID protocols, including testing and quarantine had to be followed to insure the safety of everyone involved. That process was completed towards the end of summer and Matt has settled into his new home. But, many COVID related restrictions are still in place, Facetime and phone calls take the place of in-person visit from his mom. But, it has given him time to get to know his new housemates. His Mother says, "Our experience with everyone at MILESTONE has been wonderful. Matt made the transition smoothly and we are very happy with the care he has been receiving. Matt is looking forward to the time when the COVID restrictions are lifted and he can get the "full" experience at MILESTONE."



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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.



MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT FOR COVID-19 CHANGES

Many changes to the air purification and HVAC system at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic needed to be made due to COVID-19 before the clinic could reopen. A grant from the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation and Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation helped pay for these modifications and upgrades.

Projects funded by this grant needed to demonstrate successful strategies for addressing the challenges resulting from the pandemic designed to improve oral health outcomes for children in Illinois.



STAFF HONORED IN SPECIAL WAY

The Black family wanted to thank the staff at Elmwood Heights in a special way because of the care Jean received during the COVID crisis. They had a tree planted near the sensory walkway. The dedication plaque conveys their feelings.

Planted with Gratitude and Love
to honor the caring team of Angels
who dedicated their lives
to the Ladies of Home 66
Jean and Lloyd Black
Spring 2020

MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP CHILDREN

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 uninsured. 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.



REMEMBERING FRIENDS

When the COVID-19 restrictions started Keanu could no longer do Therapy Dog visits to Elwood Heights, so we had to find other ways for her to put a smile on people’s faces. She has done ZOOM and Facetime visits, sent weekly pictures to her friends, visited through windows and gave 6 posters to Nina Etchin, VP and Elmwood Heights Administrator, one for each home on campus with a special message, and a reminder to wear a mask.



MICHAEL BURJA MEMORIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

MILESTONE employee Tiffany King is the recipient of this year’s Michael Burja Memorial Education Scholarship. Tiffany is studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

The scholarship was established by the Burja family in memory of their son, Michael, who was part of the Elmwood Heights family for over 8 years.

Tiffany was selected from a field of several worthy applicants.

DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC



DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation provided the funding needed for an enhanced air purification system and additional suctioning equipment because of COVID-19. Both systems will insure patient safety during appointments.



ANSWERING THE CALL TO HELP

Over the past several months, several people and organizations have stepped forwards and helped us by providing masks and other Personal Protective Equipment. The St. Rita’s Sewing Club and Debbie McMullin have been busy making masks for the people at MILESTONE. By Halloween McMullin had surpassed the 1200 mark, and the St. Rita sewing group is not far behind, and they both are still making them. Thank you to everyone who has made masks, donated materials for masks or helped in other ways so we can keep everyone safe.

MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY A SUCCESS



The sixth 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.

THANK YOU MONSTER CUP GOLF PLAY DAY SPONSORS

EVENT SPONSORS
Anderson Automotive
Illinois Bank and Trust
Gallagher Williams Manny
LaMonica Beverage
GrahamSpencer
WIPFLI

MONSTER SPONSORS

HMC Products
Mechanical, Inc.
Viking Chemical
TREKK Media
Agnew Law Offices
Oates Dental

HOLE SPONSORS

Sturm Family
Meridian Printing
Rockford Police
Department





LIFE AT MILESTONE





MILESTONE NEEDS



ROCVALE CHILDREN'S HOME

Outdoor Sensory Equipment.....	\$10,000
New Furniture - 3 homes@ \$5,000.....	\$15,000
Therapeutic Recreational Opportunities.....	\$5,000
WIFI Upgrade.....	\$10,000
Air Purifiers.....	\$5,000



ADULT GROUP HOMES

Slings for EZ-stand - 3 @ \$350.....	\$1,050
Patio.....	\$1,500
iPads - 4 @ \$400.....	\$1,600
Exercise Equipment.....	\$2,550
Support Railings.....	\$3,000
Washers and Dryers - 6 @ \$1,000.....	\$6,000
Screened Porch or 3 Season Room at 1 Group Home.....	\$7,000
Carports at 2 Group Homes.....	\$11,000
New Furniture - 10 Homes @ \$4,000.....	\$40,000
Bathroom Renovations - 2 @ \$30,000.....	\$60,000



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

Outside Recreation Area Upgrades.....	\$2,000
Sensory Equipment - 12 Classrooms @ \$3000.....	\$36,000



ELMWOOD HEIGHTS
SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

Adaptive Swing Set with Wheel Chair Swing.....	\$8,000
Medical Equipment.....	\$10,000
Positioning Slings 40@ \$275.....	\$11,000
Replacement Entrance Doors - 6 @ \$3,500.....	\$21,500
Sensory Equipment - 6 Homes @ \$5,000.....	\$30,000
Patio Door Replacements For Homes.....	\$40,000
Bedroom/Bathroom Remodels & Upgrades - 6 Homes@ \$10,000.....	\$60,000
Replacement Carpet - 2 Homes.....	\$20,000
EZ Lifts - 5 @ \$8,000.....	\$40,000
EZ Lift Replacement Batteries - 10 @ \$100.....	\$1,000
Replacement Windows - 6 Homes @ \$15,000.....	\$80,000



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

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



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
Standing Cooler for Main Kitchen.....	\$32,000
12 and 15 Passenger Vans - 4 @ \$30,000.....	\$120,000
Training Room Tables and Chairs.....	\$10,000
Training Simulation Rooms.....	\$10,000
1 Wheelchair Van.....	\$50,000

ELMWOOD EAST

Enclosed Patio.....	\$10,500
Replacement Windows for Home.....	\$20,000



MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

Parking Lot Repair and Repaving.....	\$40,000
Replace Carpeting/Flooring.....	\$9,000
Ultrasonic Surgical Equipment.....	\$7,000

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

Chanelle Baker	October
Tammie Crampton	October
Loren Young	December

15 years

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

20 years

Sonia Brown	October
Annette Dunlap	November
Naomi Nyangaya	December

25 years

Pamela Gitchel	December
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30 years

Winnie Mack	November
Donna Jones	November

**4060 McFarland Road
 Rockford, IL 61111**

Address Service Requested



MILESTONE MATTERS WINTER 2020 

**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.



**United Way
 of Rock River Valley**



**DONATION
 HELPS IN
 THE FIGHT
 AGAINST
 COVID-19**

A partnership between the United Way of Rock River Valley and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA)

helped MILESTONE's fight against COVID-19 with a donation of face masks. The face masks from FCA will be used by both the individuals we serve and staff.