



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

SPRING 2021 CONTENTS



Enjoying Retirement
3

Elmwood Heights Gets New Medical Equipment
4

Visitation Sheds
5

Staying Active and Having Fun
6

MILESTONE Needs
7

Adopt A Camper
8

COVID-19 UPDATE



VACCINATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN

Both Individuals served by MILESTONE and staff were in group 1A of the state of Illinois COVID vaccination program. Everyone eligible for the vaccination who wanted one has received it.

MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

A schedule has been developed that allows for both a limited return to MILESTONE Industries and social distancing. Fourteen homes have returned in 2 groups on alternate days. Day Training is taking place in the homes that have not been cleared to return.



REMOTE LEARNING CONTINUES

The children at RocVale are using a hybrid of online and in person learning at the direction of each child's school.



FAMILY VISITS

Once the area returned to Tier One restrictions, limited visitations were once again allowed. Modifications have been made at Adult Group Homes that include dedicated areas, and the installation of portable heaters. Two cabins were added to the Elmwood



Heights/Elmwood East campus for visits, all changes meet the requirements set by the Illinois Department of Public Health.





FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Friends of MILESTONE:

Spring, 2021.

I'm not a winter guy. I love spring, summer and fall. I'm not a 20/20 guy. I wear bifocals and have little interest in re-living the year 2020.

So looking forward, spring is in the air and 2021 is well underway. Hundreds of the individuals we serve and the staff that care for them have received the COVID vaccine. Are we completely out of the woods? No, we continue wearing masks, social distance and continue to employ enhanced hygiene protocols which have become second nature. Infection rates here at MILESTONE have dissipated. It's been a year since the war with COVID began, but there is a feeling of joy among the individuals and staff, as we are finally able to visit one another, to have parents and guardians back visiting their loved ones. Hope springs eternal.

The Direct Service Providers and Nurses are heroes here at MILESTONE. And speaking of heroes....



After 32 years of dedication to the staff and individuals we serve here at MILESTONE, Senior Vice President and Human Resources Director Terese McKnight is retiring May 4. There really are no words to describe the work Terese has done for

over 3 decades. She has shown a commitment to staff, to the individuals we serve, always striking a balance to ensure the best outcome possible. Terese is a wealth of knowledge and her expertise will be missed. For many, retirement is heading off to a beach; for Terese retirement is helping to care



for her 7 grandchildren under the age of 6 (The Magnificent 7) and spend some more time with her mom. There's no rest for the weary.

Last year a common phrase, "Brighter Day's Ahead" was used to guide us through the dark; to motivate us to fight the good fight. I just want to say thank you to our team 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...and go outside, it's spring!

Sincerely,

M. Shawn Way
President and CEO



ENJOYING RETIREMENT



For 41 years Doris has called MILESTONE home, and she considers the staff her family, and the staff will say the same. She was 5 years old when she was first placed in residential services and moved to MILESTONE's Elmwood Heights when changes at the Dixon Developmental Center resulted in the center

not being able to meet her needs. Over the years she has worked at The Barbara Olson Center of Hope, MILESTONE Industries and the MILESTONE Training Center.



Now, Doris is enjoying her well-deserved and well-earned retirement. Her group home does participate in at home day training which gives Doris the opportunity to participate in arts & crafts, cooking and other social activities which continue to keep her engaged and still learning. However, at the age of 86 Doris does occasionally enjoy a good afternoon nap.

She not only enjoys people watching, but also sitting on

the second floor porch of her home so she can watch all the traffic and activity on the street below. Often found in her favorite rocking chair or recliner looking at magazines, listening to classical music tops off her day of relaxing things to do. And if you want to find your way to Doris heart, anything chocolate is the key.

MILESTONE has helped her adapt to the different changes and stages of her life. Her guardian, Thema

Robinson, says "Her current group home has been the best situation for Doris. She seems to love her house mates and especially her staff! Doris has her favorite spot to sit where she can watch people or interact if she chooses. She seems so happy and comfortable and I pray she will be able to live out the rest of her days here with this sweet family unit they have going on."

Doris has adapted to the COVID lifestyle and restrictions, and is just happy and content to be home with her friends. She also knows wearing a mask is a must when she goes to the Doctor.



Both her guardian and Doris know as needs arise she will be taken care of by her MILESTONE family.



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.



WOODWARD WOODWARD GRANT MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

A grant from the Woodward Governor Charitable Foundation funded the purchase of new package heat sealers for MILESTONE Industries. The heat sealers will allow the Individuals who attend day training at MILESTONE Industries to continue to do work for companies in the area.

WOODWARD HELPS WITH REMOTE LEARNING NEEDS

A donation from Woodward Governor also helped the Children at RocVale with their remote learning needs. The funds were used to purchase the Chromebooks the children use daily for class.

MILESTONE PART OF ROCK VALLEY CREDIT UNION'S 12 DAYS OF GIVING



In December, RVCU embarked on a 12 Days of Giving campaign to give 8 area organizations \$2,500 each, and MILESTONE was one of the recipients. President and CEO, Darlyne Keller said, “Regardless of the challenges in participating in its typical philanthropic activities, RVCU still managed to contribute to numerous organizations and individuals needing assistance and support during this turbulent and uncertain time.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

ELMWOOD HEIGHTS GET NEW MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

A grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois provided the needed funding for new High-Low beds and wheelchairs for MILESTONE’s Elmwood Heights facility. The wheelchairs will be used by the Physical Therapy department for Individuals recovering from illness or injuries. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois serves as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, preserve, and grow an endowment for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois. Since its founding in 1953 CFNIL has granted more than \$75 million for charitable purposes.

TRY BETA CLUB HELPS MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

There are new larger television sets in the classrooms at MILESTONE Industries thanks to a grant from Rockford’s Try Beta Club. Individuals watch educational DVDs in the classrooms that help teach both job skills and life skills.

MILESTONE GETS HIGH MARKS IN PARENT/GUARDIAN AND INDIVIDUALS SURVEY

Each year the Social Services department sends a survey to our Parents and Guardians and individuals served about the care and services provided. This year’s scores were extremely positive with 99% of the Individuals served giving extremely positive ratings when asked about the way they are treated by staff and if they thought MILESTONE was a good place to live.

Over 90% of the parents/guardians gave an excellent or good rating when asked if MILESTONE was meeting the needs of their loved one and if they were satisfied with the care, the level of communication and overall services provided.



BLAZER FOUNDATION HELPS FUND CHANGES NEEDED FOR FAMILY VISITS



A grant from the Blazer Foundation in memory of Cedric Blazer, provided the funding needed for 2 outdoor sheds, tables, chairs and the heaters needed to get facilities ready for family visits during the COVID Pandemic. Garages in many group homes were modified and had heaters installed in order to comply with the IDPH order for outside visits. The 2 sheds on the Elmwood Heights and Elmwood east campus were designed to meet the same requirements.

VOLUNTEERS HELP GET THE VISITATION CABINS READY

They started as sheds, but both were turned into a cozy cabins thanks to the work of 3 volunteers. Larry McGee, Dr. Paul Christensen and Joe Love installed windows, insulation, paneling, ceiling tiles, wheelchair ramps and mounted a heater to create a homelike atmosphere in each cabin.



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS:

The Marilyn Fulton Foundation for the grant

Uncle Charlie's Slots and Mollie's Deli for the Secret Santa donation

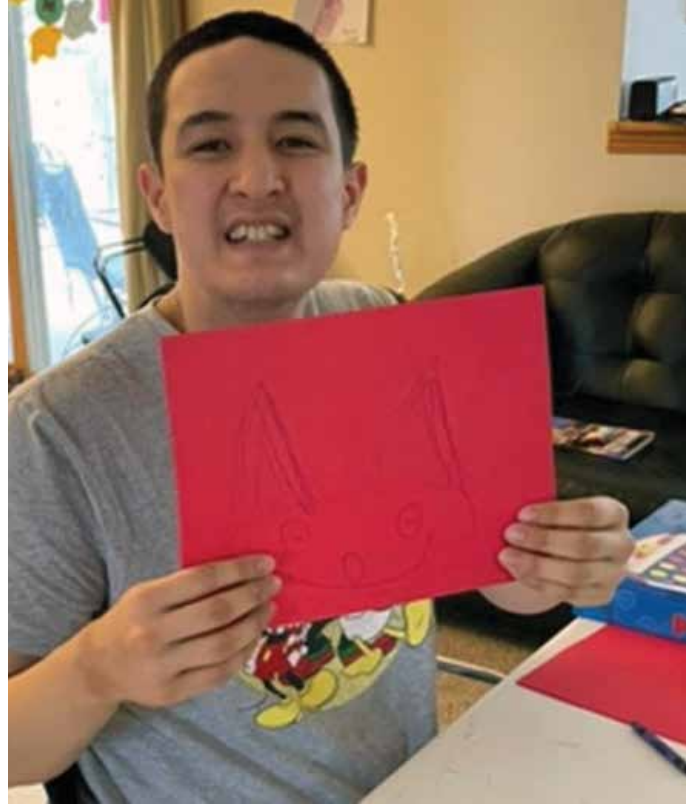
The Bauduin Foundation for the grant

Thank you to Beef A Roo for including us in their giving day program

Thank you to the Harding Foundation for the grant



EVEN IN THE WINTER MONTHS EVERYONE STAYS ACTIVE AND HAS FUN





MILESTONE NEEDS



ROCVALE CHILDREN'S HOME

New Furniture - 3 homes @ \$5,000.....	\$15,000
Therapeutic Recreational Opportunities.....	\$5,000
WiFi Upgrade.....	\$10,000



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

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



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

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

MILESTONE INC.



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



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



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

ELMWOOD EAST

Replacement Windows for Home.....	\$20,000
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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

Victoria Martinez	January
Artasia Leonard	January
Brandie Hutton	February
Jacqueline Robertson	February
Tiara Bowman	March

15 years

Lakeia Knight	February
Tamisha McLin	February
Doug Wallbank	March
Tabitha Jindrich	March

20 years

Tiseka Curry	March
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25 years

Brian Scantlin	March
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30 years

Beth Gilmore	January
Lori Neuschwander	January
Judy Totten	February

4060 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61111

Address Service Requested



MILESTONE MATTERS

SPRING 2021



**HELP US PUT SMILES ON THE
FACES OF THE INDIVIDUALS
MILESTONE SERVES**



Summer camp is a yearly highlight for the Individuals at MILESTONE, but, due to COVID-19 restrictions they will not be traveling to summer camp again this year.

So, instead we will bring Summer Camp to them. We are having a Summer Camp Staycation. All the fun of summer camp will be brought to them, through a combination of activities, virtual events, and a special “Camp MILESTONE” area at MILESTONE industries.

Please help us make it a reality by
Adopting a Camper or an Activity box
For \$50 you can adopt an activity box
delivered to the Group Home

Or

For \$100 you can Adopt a Milestone Camper for their Staycation.

For more information please call the
Development Office at 815-639-2965



SAVE THE DATE!
**MILESTONE'S
MONSTER CUP
GOLF PLAY DAY
JUNE 14TH, 2021
AT
THE MAUH NAH TEE SEE CLUB**