



# MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

## MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

### FALL 2015 CONTENTS



Early Planning Made  
the Difference  
3

Under the Sea at  
RocVale  
4

Adopt A Camper  
Program a Success  
5

Special Olympics  
Update  
6

Summer Fun at  
RocVale  
6

How Your  
Donation Helps  
7

Holiday Cards  
8

### SCHOOL BELLS RINGING AT ROCVALE



The start of a new school year is a busy time for everyone at RocVale Children's Home. Staff is busy completing registrations, coordinating school schedules, meeting with teachers, and making sure transportation is in place. The children are busy picking out school supplies, filling backpacks and enjoying the last days of their summer break. All the children attended summer school this year, but they had several weeks off between summer school and the start of the fall semester, and they filled those days with many activities. While this may sound like the back to school routine most families go through, the staff at RocVale needs to factor in a few more things. First the staff needs to make sure teachers are familiar with each Child's Individual Care Plan and

what is needed so the student will have the best educational experience possible. Staff also keeps parents and guardians informed about what is ahead for their children during the upcoming school year. And while many of the students attend Rockford Public Schools, some attend Harlem, and others go to Easter Seal's Therapeutic School. Some students travel every day to Camelot in DeKalb or Willow Glen in Freeport. It all depends on the needs of the student and which program will help each student reach their full potential. This makes RocVale a very active place every morning and afternoon as school buses arrive and depart with the children. After the first week, all the activity settles into a daily routine and the students are happy to be back at the class and the staff know that by working closely with each children's teacher they are making sure the child is getting the best education possible.





## FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends of Milestone,

### **Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) week was celebrated beginning September 13, 2015.**

At Milestone, we wish to publicly recognize and thank our Direct Support Professionals for all they do to care for the individuals we serve. We employ 430 individuals as DSP's here at Milestone, with staff ranging in experience from newly hired all the way to 35 years. Imagine, 35 years of selflessly caring for the needs of others.

The patience and compassion we witness each and every day while our DSP's provide for the needs of the individuals we serve is to be commended. For many, the opportunity to work at Milestone started as a "job". For hundreds, it has become a career, a "calling". The relationships that have been established by our DSP's and the individuals we serve is beyond description.

We often refer to Milestone as a great, big family. Over 600 employees serving the needs of 355 individuals, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We have staff that has been with the "family" almost from our inception; we also have individuals we serve that have called Milestone "home", almost from our inception.

This is a very special place to call "home", with an extended "family" of nearly 1,000. The Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of the organization, and we proudly recognize the folks that do the "heavy lifting" every single day.

We've said it before, and we'll say it again, to all those DSP's that serve, **"thanks for all you do!"**

### **State of the state**

At the time of this writing the state of Illinois is more than two months beyond its deadline to establish a budget for fiscal year 2016. The new fiscal year began July 1, 2015, and to date we are operating in the hopes that funding will not be reduced for the programs we provide for the 355 intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals we serve at Milestone, Inc., plus another four thousand we serve at the Milestone Dental Clinic. Actual funding (cash flow) was on hold until late August when the courts ruled that pass-through Federal dollars must be distributed to agencies like Milestone. Prior to that court order we've been meeting payroll for nearly 600 employees through borrowings; a pretty sad state of affairs. But payrolls have been met, our employees continue to do wonderful work and the individuals we serve will never know the gridlock that threatens their care in Springfield.

### **Thank you**

Finally, a word of "thanks" for all who support the work we do at Milestone. In the past six months we've been blessed to have anonymous donors provide new Special Olympic uniforms and new physical therapy equipment, among so many other donations (too many to mention)! To all that support Milestone and our mission, we thank you!

Sincerely,



## EARLY PLANNING MADE THE DIFFERENCE



When Adam was in High School his Mom says he had some amazing teachers, who helped her make sure his long term needs would be taken care of. Lauren Jaffke says she still remembers the day one of Adam's teachers asked her what her long term plans were for her son. It was the year he turned 16, and I just assumed

he would live at home with me for as long as I could take care of him. But, the teacher explained there were alternatives and they might be what would be best for Adam in the long run. She also suggested looking at



what MILESTONE had to offer. So, his mother contacted Access Services and started the process of looking at possible placement at a MILESTONE Facility. She said the process

went quickly and smoothly, and 2 months before he graduated from High School, Adam moved into Elmwood East. Soon after he moved to another Group Home, and settled in, in fact his mother says he never wants to move again. Jeffke says while she hates to admit it, MILESTONE's staff was able to do things for her son that she could have never done. She says she has watched him blossom and grow and turn into the person she always hoped he would become. Adam enjoys telling his mom about his job at MILESTONE Industries and is proud of the fact he does his assigned chores at his home and loves showing off his room. His Mom is thankful his teacher took the time to talk to her about his future, because as she says sometimes it takes someone else asking what do you really want for your child to make a parent start to think and plan. Her



advice for other parents, start planning early because there are many options and even if you are not sure, remember you can always change your mind,



and always keep in mind the long term needs of your child. She says the staff at MILESTONE made the process extremely easy, and they have always treated Adam with respect and done what is in his best interest. Adam likes to come home for visits but she says he knows his own home is with MILESTONE.



## 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.



## KIWANIS CLUB OF ROCKFORD HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC



# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup>

*Kiwanis Club of Rockford*

A multi-year grant from the Kiwanis Club of Rockford will provide the needed funds for 3 new dental exam chairs at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. Over 4000 children and adults with developmental disabilities from 40 counties in Illinois are patients at the clinic.

## ROCK VALLEY CREDIT UNION HELPS ADOPT A CAMPER



A check for Adopt a Camper for \$1500 was presented to MILESTONE CEO Shawn Way by RVCU president Michael Rosek. Staff and members of Rock Valley Credit Union helped raise money for MILESTONE's Adopt A Camper program by doing various activities. Their efforts sponsored 15 campers this year.

## THANK YOU KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

All of the children at RocVale were smiling when the Knights of Columbus arrived with all of the items needed for a picnic lunch. The Knights provided, cooked and served all the food, and did all of the clean-up. It was a day that everyone enjoyed.

## UNDER THE SEA AT ROCVALE



The children at RocVale feel as if they are looking out the windows of a submarine when they enter the main recreation room at RocVale. An underwater mural illustrating what they would see through 3 submarine portholes was completed this summer, thanks to a Rockford Area Arts Council access grant for the art program at RocVale Children's Home and the work of local artist Lisa Normoyle. The Rockford Area Arts Council received support from the City of Rockford, The Illinois Arts Council and its members.





## 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 Camp Albrecht Acres in Iowa for a week or Camp Winnebago for 4 days. Staff from the YMCA and a Rec Connection grant from the Rockford Park District helped 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

Rockford Park District  
 Watch City Ladies Auxiliary, Post 1307  
 Knights of Columbus # 14284  
 Mr. and Mrs. Vidyut Pandya  
 Mr. James Griffin, in memory of Richard Griffin  
 Mr. Michael Nilles  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Langejans  
 Mr. William Hoelting  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ellison  
 Mr. Rick Beale  
 Mrs. Marian Bonavia  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Groeninger  
 Mr. and Mr. Tom Humphris  
 Mr. and Mrs. Duane Hackbarth, in honor of Howard Sigman  
 Ms. Barbara Erickson  
 Mr. Edward Cwyner  
 Ms. JoAnn Johnson, in honor of Mike Bryan  
 Mr. Robert Pellman  
 Mr. Taylor Carlin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trepanier, in memory of Rick Trepanier  
 Rockford Charter Coach, LLC, in honor of Louis Watkins  
 Mr. William Rieker, in honor of Grace Reiker  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Arbisi  
 St. Ambrogio Society  
 Ms. Sherri Hayes  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burja, in memory of Michael Burja  
 Mrs. Shirley Ann Tudor, in memory of Warren D. Tudor and in honor of Shawn Way  
 Mr. and Mrs. Scot Roche  
 Dickey Staffing Solutions  
 Mr. Lester Wherry, in honor of Doug Wherry  
 Mrs. Carmella Herman, in honor of Ken Kigar  
 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Sahlstrom  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Wierman Sr., in honor of Doug Colombi  
 Ms. Doris Latham  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Davis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Casey  
 Mr. Richard Waldsmith, in honor of Linda Waldsmith

Dr. Susan DeGuide  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Patrick  
 Rockford Association of Clubs and Illinois Licensed Beverage Association  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Adolph, in honor of Peggy Silvius and in honor of Doris and Dwight Silvius  
 Mr. and Mrs. Clint Gray, in memory of Dr. Charles and Mary Lou Gray  
 Mr. and Mrs. Pat Agnew  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Schumacher  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mastrangeli  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Glenny  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Ralph III  
 Audrey Wilson and Tom Benson  
 Ms. Beverly Bengston, in honor of Jim Kuelper  
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sharp  
 Mrs. Mary Beth Wehrle, in memory of Danny Wickstrand  
 Ms. Susan Whitcher  
 Beef A Roo, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Doerr, in memory of John M. Gregg  
 Mr. and Mrs. Miroballi, in memory of Larry Sterud  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kieckhefer  
 Ms. Deborah Koehn  
 Dr. and Mrs. Marko LeKovic, in honor of Vladimir "Vlado" LeKovic  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Altenhoff  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Provi  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Custer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cox  
 Mr. Paul Stenzel, in memory of Brian Thompson  
 Mr. Judd Gastel  
 Kuhls and Company  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bartscher  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rudnicki  
 Ms. Marcia Beckwith, in honor of Thomas Lane  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Mulford  
 Mrs. Miriam Warmer, in memory of Dr. Richard Warmer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Coffer  
 Ms. June Elfstrom  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dahlgren, in honor of Margie Gross  
 Mr. Fred Speer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Way  
 Rockford Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., in memory of Mary J. Cunningham

Ms. Mary Smital, in honor of Heidi Blackhawk Athletic Club  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Fitzgerald  
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Crull  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Olson  
 Ms. Samantha Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bone  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pierce  
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Groeninger  
 Ms. Helen Tucker  
 Ms. Jean Black, in honor of Janet Black  
 Ms. Vickie Klang  
 Mr. Gary Kaatz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gard  
 Ms. Gail Coffer, in honor of Janna Coffer  
 Ms. Jill Becker  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Way  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexander  
 Ms. Shirlee Faminghette, in memory of Jay Rodgers  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Graceffa  
 Mr. Charles Cocoma, in memory of George and Elizabeth Cocoma  
 Ms. Diane Lutovsky, in memory of Jerry and Peggy Lutovsky  
 Dr. Muktesh Jain, in honor of Jim Belden  
 Mr. Jim Belden  
 Lilia and Volodymyr Lugovskoy, in honor of Jim Belden  
 Mr. and Mrs. Louis Belden, in honor of Jim Belden  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Belden, in honor of Jim Belden  
 Mr. Dan Seaman, in honor of Jim Belden  
 Mr. Matt Rada, in honor of Jim Belden  
 Ms. Alice Belden, in honor of Jim Belden  
 American Legion Aux. 332  
 Ms. Sally Dixon, in honor of Roxane Shipma  
 Mrs. Joyce Frank, in honor of Roxane Shipma  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Glenny  
 Ms. Monica Nolan, in memory of Francis X. Nolan  
 Ms. Marie Beck, in memory of Randy Beck  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sean Kelly  
 Ms. June Patterson, in honor of Chuck Patterson  
 Mrs. Barbara Ann More, in memory of Angus S. More Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kent Heise, in honor of Shawn and Kathy Way  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Stenberg, in honor of

Brad Franz  
 Mrs. Carol Bernick  
 Mr. Peter Larson  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Thiede  
 Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Hanesberry  
 Mr. Pat Bachrodt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Swanson  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Licari, in honor of Bud and Marilyn Doyle and Joe and Joan Licari  
 Arles Hendershott and Joe Love  
 Ms. Laura A. Seitz-Marzano  
 Ms. RoseMary Hendershott, in honor of my former Page Park School students  
 Mr. Michael Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roop  
 Two Eagle Dental Lab Inc.  
 Information Controls  
 Mr. and Mrs. Rand Moore  
 Washburn Machinery Inc.  
 Mr. Karl Biggs  
 Ms. Patricia Upshaw  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bakul Patel  
 Ms. Carol Cascio  
 Ms. Joanne Orput  
 Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Gumbrell, in memory of Charles Dee  
 Rock Valley Credit Union  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Akerlund  
 Women's Evening Circle, First Congregational Church  
 Ms. Rose Marie Thomas  
 Ms. Jeanette Jess, The Piano Doctor  
 Ms. Edna Johnson, in honor of Walter Manson  
 Byron Assembly of God Church  
 The Zanocco Family, in memory of Jonie Zanocco  
 St. Rita's Church  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Totten  
 Pilgrim Baptist Church



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

### ATHLETES HAVE FUN AT ILLINOIS STATE GAMES

Thirty four athletes traveled to the Bloomington/Normal games for the state Special Olympics game. Everyone enjoyed the games and the fact they could stay in a dorm room at Illinois State University. They are also looking forward to qualifying again next spring and making the return trip in 2016.



#### STATE GAME MEDALS

**5**

gold medals

**8**

silver medals

**7**

bronze medals

**10**

4th place ribbons

### REGIONAL BASEBALL SKILLS AND GOLF COMPETITION

Eight MILESTONE athletes competed in the regional golf skills competition, earning 2 gold medals, 2 silver medals, and one bronze. Sixteen athletes competed in Baseball skills and 7 earned gold medals, and 4 silver, medals.



### SUMMER FUN AT ROCVALE

The children at RocVale were all smiles when they heard the bells of the Kroozin Kooler ice cream truck. Everyone enjoyed the ice cream and popsicle treats.



### COUNTY FAIR TIME AT ELMWOOD HEIGHTS

Summer and county fairs go hand in hand. Individuals at Elmwood Heights were busy their summer working on their county fair projects and getting ready for the big day. Thank you to Mike Garrigan and Whitney Martin from 23 WIFR for being this year's Fair Judges.





# HOW DOES MY DONATION TO MILESTONE HELP?

Every donation can and does make a difference. Here are just a few examples

### Donation of \$100



Your Gift of \$100 could be used at MILESTONE Industries to teach valuable life skills.

### Donation of \$250



Your donation of \$250 could be used toward the purchase of supplies and equipment for needed physical therapy sessions.

### Donation of \$500



Your Gift of \$500 could be used to buy iPads and apps for both children and adults.

No matter the size of your gift, you will be making a difference in the lives of the Individuals MILESTONE serves. Please use the enclosed envelope and help us help each Individual reach their fullest potential in life.

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 ©2015 by MILESTONE, inc.

## EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

### 10 years

Ashlie Judd	July
Tameka Porter	July
Christina McCullough	August
Carol Jackson	August
Melissa Harrison	September
Michelle Hall	September

### 25 years

Sheila Myers	July
--------------	------

### 15 years

Becky Olthoff	August
Rosanna Collins	September
Susan Al-Saiyani	September

### 35 years

Hugh Lippitt	August
Martin Taylor	August



**4060 McFarland Road  
Rockford, IL 61111**

**Address Service Requested**

---

---



## MILESTONE MATTERS FALL 2015



### THERE IS STILL TIME TO ORDER HOLIDAY CARDS.

Artists at MILESTONE Industries are busy making cards for the 2015 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

