

MILESTANE



Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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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,

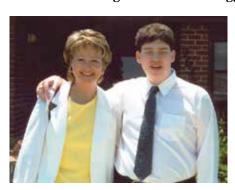


EARLY PLANNING MADE THE DIFFERENCE



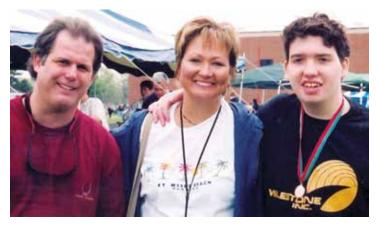
When Adam was in High School his Mom says he had some amazing teachers, who helped her make sure his long term needs would be taken care of. Lauren Jaffke says she still remembers the day one of Adam's teachers asked her what her long term plans were for her son. It was the year he turned 16, and I just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

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KIWANIS CLUB OF ROCKFORD HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

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.

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.

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.

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 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 Mr. Róbert 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

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burja, in memory of Michael Burja

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Mr. and Mrs. Scot Roche Dickey Staffing Solutions

Mr. Lester Wherry, in honor of Doug Wherry

Mrs. Carmella Herman, in honor of Ken

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

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Dr. Susan DeGuide Mr. and Mrs. James Patrick Rockford Association of Clubs and Illinois Licensed Beverage Association

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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 Warrner, in memory of Dr. Richard Warrner

Margie Gross

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Way

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Coffler Ms. June Elfstrom Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dahlgren, in honor of Mr. Fred Speer Rockford Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., in memory of Mary J. Cunningham Mr. and Mrs. James Stenberg, in honor of

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

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Ms. Vickie Klang Mr.Gary Kaatz

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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. lim 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

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

St. Rita's Church

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Totten

Pilgram 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

gold medals

8

silver medals

7

bronze medals

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









HOW DOES MY DONATION TO MILESTONE HELP?

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

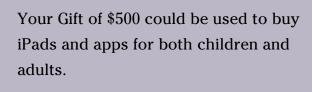




Your Gift of \$100 could be used at MILESTONE Industries to teach valuable life skills.

Donation of \$250

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



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.

Donation of \$500

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

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

15 years Becky Olthoff Rosanna Collins Susan Al-Saiyani

August September September

August

August

a Harrison September **35 years** lle Hall September Hugh Lippitt Martin Taylor

25 years

Sheila Myers July



Non-Profit Organization US Postage **PAID** Permit #640 Rockford, IL

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







