



# MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

## MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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### DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The mission of MILESTONE is to help each Individual in our care to reach their fullest potential. Thanks to our donors and supporters we are able to fulfill that mission. Many of the children at RocVale Children's Home have autism and as a result have sensory needs. Thanks to grants and private donations, the most recent being from the William S. Howard Charitable Trust, we now have sensory walls and items in each of the 5 homes on campus and in the main building. The new equipment is making a huge difference in the lives of the children. Staff say they have seen a reduction in the number of incidents of physical aggression and self-injurious behaviors. When the children begin to become upset the staff will often prompt the child to use the sensory items. This has worked to distract the child from what made them upset in the first place. The multi-activity walls also give

the children more items to engage with, and decreases the amount of time they would have to display maladaptive behaviors. Having the walls and



equipment on site and readily available allows the children to fill their sensory needs often and with consistency. While it is difficult to measure the difference the equipment has made in the lives of the children since the introduction of the various sensory items the staff has seen an increase in some of the children's communication skills and improvement in their interaction with peers and staff. The long term goal of sensory therapy is to normalize behavior, reduce reliance on medication bringing the children closer to reaching their full potential.



### IT IS NOW EVEN EASIER TO HELP MILESTONE

Donations can now be made with credit cards. You can click on the link on MILESTONE's website, [www.milestone-inc.org](http://www.milestone-inc.org) or use the form on the enclosed envelope. You will receive a letter acknowledging the donation from MILESTONE's Development Office.



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

Dear Friends of MILESTONE,

Good news first!

In 2015 we raised more money from the community than ever before, through hundreds of generous private donations, gifts from Foundations, two unique golf play days and our annual “Adopt-A-Camper” direct mail campaign. The community has stepped up to help the individuals we serve, and for that, we are most appreciative. Thank you!

Now back to reality. It appears a grant from the state of Illinois for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic is going the way of so many other human service programs in the state. Unfunded for fiscal year 2016 with little hope or promise going forward.

This grant helps support the children and adults that drew a “bad hand” in life, born with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your tax dollars help support those less fortunate, that’s the America we live in. But in FY16 there is no state budget, and thus, no dental grant. Having listened to Governor Rauner’s FY2017 state budget address, the reality is setting in that over \$461,000 will once again be cut from MILESTONE’s budget, and once it’s gone, I fear it’s gone for good.

So what does that really mean? Imagine for a moment raising a child with autism or cerebral palsy. It’s time for an annual dental check-up. Your family dentist, try as they might, isn’t equipped to deal with the behavioral or physical challenges involved with this intellectually and developmentally disabled child, especially in a clinical setting. And the economic reality is that most of the patients at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic are covered by Illinois Public Aid, and

reimbursement for Dental care is pennies on the dollar for the work performed.

In 1999 the MILESTONE Dental Clinic opened as one of the only free-standing dental clinics in the country that exclusively serves intellectually and developmentally disabled children and adults. Not only did the 350 or so children and adults MILESTONE serves every hour of every day now have their own dedicated dentist and dental team to serve their unique needs, but so did thousands of others from the northern one-third of the state.

But it appears changes are coming. The state grant for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic helped cover the cost of hygienists and dental assistants, dental professionals who have dedicated their lives to serving this fragile community. Despite the lack of the dental grant this year, we have continued to serve all of our patients in the hope (and prayers) the state would find a way to continue funding this most basic service to the most vulnerable of human being. But the Governor and the legislature have failed to come together, there is no dental grant.

The clinic itself will survive, but the elimination of the grant leaves us with no choice but to make some difficult decisions. If you are so inclined, you can help by contacting your state senator and local house representative and ask them why the MILESTONE Dental Clinic isn’t being funded.

Sincerely,

Shawn Way



## LOVE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER



There are times the term family cannot be defined by bloodlines, it can only be defined through special relationships. That is the case with Danny and his guardian Erica. Danny moved into RocVale Children’s Home when he was 12 years old. When he turned 18 a guardian hadn’t been appointed and eventually he became a ward of the state. For a number of years Erica had been his special friend, and made sure that he joined her family for holidays, that his birthday was celebrated in a special way, and that he was happy and well cared for. The bond between Danny and Erica was special, and strong, which is why Erica was approached about becoming Danny’s guardian. Erica agreed and the process was started. She worked with the staff at the ARC and says she will never forget the day the court ruled that she was Danny’s guardian. Danny now lives in a MILESTONE Group Home, moving there after he turned 21. Erica attends all of his staffing meetings, goes to all of his doctor’s appointments and makes sure all of his needs are met. She considers Danny a part of her, and she wants to see him excel in every

way he can. She says at first the transition from RocVale to a Group Home was tough because he missed his friends, but soon he felt at home. Erica says the staff at the home is very good about communicating with her, and if problems do arise they include her in the process and they are handled quickly. Danny loves having his own room, and loves to listen to music, go bowling and train for the Special Olympics Track and Field meet. Danny also enjoys helping others



which is why he can be found delivering Meals on Wheels for Lifescape Community Services to area seniors. He always greets the person with a huge smile and a “Hello”. Danny loves Erica’s children, and they love him. To them there is no question that he is one more brother and a member of the family. He also enjoys spending weekends with them and staying overnight, but he also is ready to return to his house so he can go to work at MILESTONE Industries the next day. Both Danny and Erica are glad they found each other and there is no question they are part of each other’s 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.





## YOU CAN PURCHASE BEAUTIFUL HANDCRAFTED PILLOWS

The Individuals at MILESTONE Industries make handmade tie pillows that you can purchase for \$15 each. We currently offer pillows with sports teams, children's themes, sports interests and other patterns. To purchase one please call Vanessa Scudder at 815-639-2820 or email her at [vscedder@milestone-inc.org](mailto:vscedder@milestone-inc.org). The pillows can be purchased and picked up at MILESTONE Industries, 4060 McFarland Rd, Loves Park, IL. Each sale helps raise money so our individuals are able to go on a large out of town outing of their choice.

**Currently these pillows are available:**

### Sports Teams:

St. Louis Cardinals, Milwaukee Brewers, Chicago White Sox, Cubs, Illini, University of Wisconsin, Miami Heat, L.A. Lakers, Chicago Bulls, Bears, Packers, Steelers, Patriots, Bengals, Chargers, Colts, Broncos, Chicago Blackhawks, and Harlem Huskies.

### Sports Themes:

Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Ballet, Volley Ball, Soccer, Basketball, Football, Baseball, Golf, and All Sports.



### Children's themes:

M & M's, Characters from the Pixar Movies, Paw Patrol, My Little Pony, Minnie Mouse, Disney Princess's, Doc McStuffins, Hello Kitty, Penguins, Jake and the Neverland Pirates, Angry Bird, Robots, Bat Man, Girly Frogs, Princess and the Frog, Squirt from Finding Nemo, Star Wars, Mickey Mouse, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and Winnie the Pooh.



### Miscellaneous patterns:

Animals (dog/cat/paw prints), Camouflage, Army, Autism, Breast Cancer, Christmas Designs, Christmas Minions, baby monkeys, baby boy (green & blue), baby girl (pink & white), baby girl (dinosaurs).



## HELPING THE ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION

When Sean heard the Rockford Rescue Mission did not have enough peanut butter to meet their needs, he knew he had to do something. So, Sean started a peanut butter drive, and made sure collection boxes were placed at various MILESTONE locations. Both Staff and Individuals purchased jars of peanut butter for the project, and Sean was able to help the mission fill their need.





## **TEDDY BEARS FOR ROCVALE**

Winnebago County Corrections Officers put a smile on the faces of the children at RocVale when they delivered beautifully wrapped teddy bears for each child. The bears were part of a collection drive sponsored by the Corrections Officers, AT&T, and WTVO.

## **DENTAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT**

The Maximus Foundation awarded the MILESTONE Dental clinic a grant for the un and underinsured patient fund. Many adult patients received needed dental care as a result of this grant. The MAXIMUS Foundation provides financial support to non-profit organizations and charities that share the commitment of helping disadvantaged populations and underserved communities. The MAXIMUS Foundation is funded by charitable gifts from the employees of MAXIMUS and supplemented by grants from the Company.

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC**



A grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation provided the funding for a new Dental Laser for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. Patients from over 40 counties receive services at the MILESTONE Dental Clinic, including DeKalb County.

## **THANK YOU TO THE WOODWARD GOVERNOR COMPANY CHARITABLE TRUST**

A grant from the Woodward Governor Company Charitable Trust provided the funding for needed equipment for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic. The grant paid for a new sterilizer, and a new surgical hand piece. These pieces of equipment are used every day and allow the staff to continue to provide the highest level of care possible.

## **ROCK VALLEY CREDIT UNION WAS THE FIRST DONOR FOR THIS YEAR'S ADOPT A CAMPER CAMPAIGN**

Employees at Rock Valley Credit Union kicked off this year's "Adopt a Camper" campaign with the first donation. Employees were allowed to wear blue jeans for a day in exchange for a donation.



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

## **EXPANDING OUR IPAD PROGRAM**

The iPad program at MILESTONE can be expanded thanks to a grant for from the United Cerebral Palsy of Blackhawk Region Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The iPads are used to teach the Individuals valuable life skills and they help train Individuals to do the various jobs at MILESTONE Industries. As the area's leading provider of philanthropic services, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois stewards over \$62 million. Each year the Foundation awards grants and scholarships of over \$3 million on behalf of caring donors who want to give something back to their community.

## **THANK YOU TO THE VENETIAN CLUB**

A new sensory garden will be built at the MILESTONE Training Center, thanks to a donation from the Venetian Club. The garden will allow the Individuals at MTC to enjoy the outdoors while benefitting from sensory therapy.





## SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

### WINNING GOLD AT SNOWSHOEING COMPETITION

Five MILESTONE Athletes took part in the regional snowshoeing event In LaSalle, IL. Three Athletes won a gold medal and qualified for the state meet. Two others earned silver medals and 3 athletes earned bronze. The State snowshoeing competition was held in Galena, and MILESTONE athletes received a 2nd place medal, along with a 3rd place, and a 6th place.



### BASKETBALL SKILLS

23 Athletes participated in the basketball skills regional competition in Byron. Six people won gold medals and will advance to the State competition, 5 won silver medals, 1 person won a bronze medal and 4 people were awarded 4th place.

### BASKETBALL TEAM DOES WELL

The 10 members of the MILESTONE basketball team played at the regional completion in Byron. There were several new members on the team, and they did well, earning 4th place.

### HELPING THE HOMELESS THIS WINTER

The staff and Individuals at Elmwood Heights were worried about the homeless during a cold snap this winter and they wanted to help. A collection drive for hats, gloves, scarves and coats was started, which were distributed to the people who needed them in various ways throughout the community.





## THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUT

The holidays were a bit brighter at all MILESTONE facilities, thanks to the efforts of 3 groups. When the administrators and employees at the Rock River Health Care Centers learned about MILESTONE they knew they wanted to help. They organized donation drives and people were asked to bring an item from our wish list. The result, several hundred items were delivered to MILESTONE right before the holidays. The Nursing Students at Rock Valley College did the same thing for the children at RocVale as part of their graduation project. The staff and management at Flamingo Slots also wanted to help and conducted a Secret Santa campaign and delivered 100 gifts for the children at RocVale and the Individuals at Elmwood Heights, and a TV for one of the classrooms.



Rock Valley College Nursing Students



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- Thank you to the **Winnebago County Dental Society** for the grant for specialized toothbrushes.
- Thank you to the **Guy Reno Foundation** for the grant.
- Thank you to the **Knitters at Roscoe United Methodist Church** for the hats and scarves.
- Thank you to the **Rockton American Legion Auxiliary** for McDonald's gift cards for the children at RocVale.
- Thank you to the **Laird Family Foundation** for the grant.
- Thank you to the **Marilyn Fulton Foundation** for the grant.
- Thank you to the **Ben Harding Foundation** for the grant.

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

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Tamisha McLin    | February |
| Sabrina Ellis    | February |
| Lakeia Knight    | February |
| Douglas Wallbank | March    |
| Tabitha Jindrich | March    |

### 15 years

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Ed Haring      | January  |
| Thalesea Jones | February |
| Tiseka Curry   | March    |

### 20 years

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Brian Scantlin | March |
|----------------|-------|

### 25 years

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Beth Gilmore      | January  |
| Lori Neuschwander | January  |
| Judy Totten       | February |



**MILESTONE**  
**INC.**

Building Lives • Building Futures



Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage

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Rockford, IL 61111

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**MILESTONE MATTERS**

SPRING 2016



**Save The Date:  
MILESTONE, INC.  
Second Annual  
Monster Cup  
Golf Play Day**

**Monday, June 13th, 2016**

**Mauh Nah Tee See**

**Golf Course**

**Call the development office at  
815-639-2965 for information about  
Sponsorship opportunities or for  
more information.**

**HELP SEND SOMEONE TO  
CAMP THIS SUMMER**

Remember the fun you had at summer camp? Help us make summer camp a reality for everyone at MILESTONE by adopting a camper.

For \$100 you can sponsor a camper for a week at Camp Albrecht in Iowa

**Or**

For \$65 you can sponsor a camper at Camp Winnebago, a program designed for our medically fragile individuals who need specialized attention and care.

Call the Resource Development department at 815-639-2965 for more information.