



MILESTONE INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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NEWS DESIGNS UNVEILED FOR 2019 HOLIDAY CARDS

Orders are now being taken for the 6 designs created by the Artists at MILESTONE Industries for the 2019 Holiday cards.

A wide selection of greetings are also available. Cards are \$3.00 each, or \$2.75 for orders of 100 or more. There is a 10% discount if ordered before August 1st, and a 5% discount if ordered before September 1st.

An order form with complete pricing information is enclosed.

Last year was a record setting year with MILESTONE Industries filling orders for over 7,000 cards, so please order yours early.



*Warm
Winter
Wishes*

*Dapper
Snowman
Sam 2019*



Cardinal



*Christmas
Wishes*



*Joyous
Wreath*



*Merry &
Bright*



FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friend of MILESTONE,

The increase of minimum wage in the state of Illinois and putting the “cart before the horse”. What do they have in common?

One of Governor Pritzker’s first actions as Governor of Illinois was to enact an increase of minimum wage, increasing from \$8.25 to \$15.00/hour by January 1, 2025. The increase will certainly help individuals and families get by, as costs of food, shelter, healthcare and education (especially college) continue to climb, exponentially in some cases.

At the same time, our Governor is pushing for a “Fair Tax”, an increase on state income taxes on those that earn \$250,000 annually or more. Our legislators in Springfield passed the “Fair Tax” amendment which will appear on the ballot for citizens to vote upon in 2020.

So where does the “cart before the horse” come into play?

Many not for profit agencies, including MILESTONE are funded by the state of Illinois. In our case, we care for 330 intellectually and developmentally disabled men, women and children 24/7, 365 days each year and have been doing so for over 46 years. The funding for the work we do has not kept up with the rising costs of doing business.

So while the commitment to an increase in minimum wage will certainly help the folks that do the “heavy lifting” here at MILESTONE, our Direct Care staff, it would seem to have made more sense to do so if and when a *significant* increase of funding for agencies like MILESTONE had been enacted. At this point we are staring down an increase of wages over the next 6 years of more than \$30,000,000 with no sign of matched funding from the state. That represents an increase in annualized wages at MILESTONE of approximately 50% by 2025 without a firm commitment from Springfield on how those wages will be funded. Seems like the “cart is before the horse”.

While all the wage and tax discussion is taking place, I’d like to publicly thank **Senators Steve Stadelman and Dave Syverson** for their assistance in having our dental grant restored in the FY 2020 budget. Originally, it appeared as though another funding reduction was in place, but thanks to Steve and Dave, it appears additional funding for the MILESTONE Dental Clinic will be restored.

So what can you, as a supporter of MILESTONE do? I’d ask you to advocate to your state legislators for more funding for not for profits in the state and consider naming a not for profit in your estate plan. These are most challenging times to operate a not for profit in Illinois. No one likes higher taxes, I fully understand, having raised 6 children, but the work we do is important. Thank you for your past support, it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Shawn Way



BROTHERS ARE REUNITED



A home with 6 children is always full of activity, and that was the case with the Pellman house. As the children grew so

did Bob Pellman's job responsibilities, as a result he was traveling more and his wife took over more of the responsibilities at home. Their twin boys had been diagnosed with autism and as they grew so did their needs. When the boys turned 16 their parents decided the best thing for the family was to look for a place where the boys could get their needs met, but still be together. RocVale Children's Home offered the perfect solution so arrangements were made for the boys to move in. They could still attend Page Park School and see their brothers and sister often. When it was time for the boys to graduate and find new homes, MILESTONE was the first place the family looked. At the time only one of the twins could move into a MILESTONE Group Home, so other arrangements were made for his brother. The brothers were happy, one went to work at MILESTONE Industries and the other at Barbara Olson Center of Hope, but their parents still had a dream of both living in a MILESTONE Group Home.

That dream became reality in 2018 when Bob received the call he had been waiting for, MILESTONE had the perfect spot for his son. Without hesitation he accepted, and while the boys live in 2 different group homes, they can now see each other on a regular basis when one stops at MILESTONE industries after a day at The Center

of Hope. The family get together for Sunday dinner every other weekend which the boys enjoy. Both enjoy going shopping and out to eat with their housemates, as well as spending time on their own doing jigsaw puzzles.



Bob Pellman says he know the MILESTONE employees take good care of his sons and that they are happy. He also know the staff will let him know if any problems pop up or they have a special need. He says parents need to plan ahead and he is glad he and his wife made the decisions they did. He knows it would have been harder to place the boys and keep them together once they got older.



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.



HELEN BRACH FOUNDATION HELPS THE MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

A grant from the Helen Brach Foundation will provide the funding so uninsured and under insured patients can get the dental care they need. The MILESTONE Dental clinic provides care to children and adults with developmental disabilities from 40 counties in Illinois, including the Chicago area.

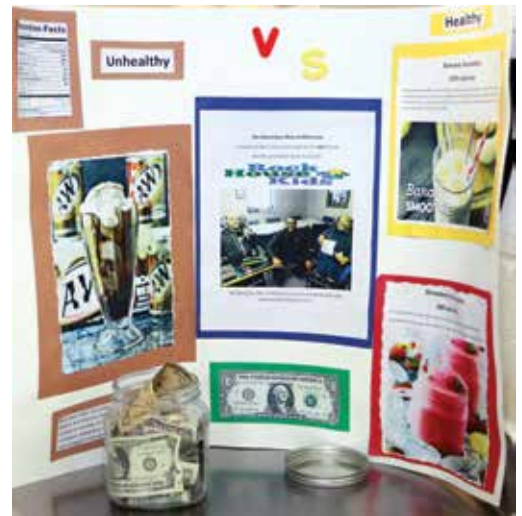
DISPLAYING BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK

The artists from RocVale's Sophie's Place showed off their creations during the Rockford Arts Council's Spring Artscene. Most of the pieces of art were purchased to the delight of the artists.



HELPING ROCK HOUSE KIDS

The Marvelous Men & Women of MILESTONE raised \$324 for Rock House Kids through the sale of root beer floats at a couple employee events at MILESTONE this spring. They presented a check to Barb Seaworth who told them the funds will be used at Rock House to directly benefit the children they serve.





A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Individuals from MILESTONE donned their formal wear and attended a special event in their honor at Heartland Community Church in May.” A Night To Remember “was a prom type event complete with limo service, boutonnieres and corsages and a red carpet entrance. Everyone enjoyed a meal by candlelight before heading to the dance floor. The individuals who attended each had their own unique experience but all agreed it truly was a night to remember.

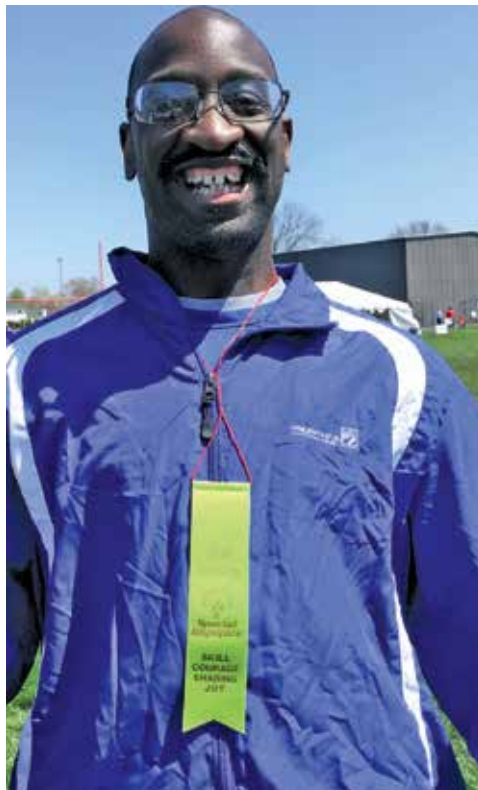




SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

TRACK AND FIELD MEET

It was a great day at Harlem High School and the 83 MILESTONE athletes did great. This was the biggest meet ever with many first time teams. Over 1000 athletes competed for a chance to go to the State games in Bloomington/Normal.



<u>Medals Won</u>	
17	first place gold medals
27	second place silver medals
25	third place bronze medals
11	4th place ribbons
13	5th place ribbons
9	6th place ribbons
5	7th place ribbons
5	8th place ribbons



SUPPORTING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

MILESTONE Athletes partnered with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department to raise money for the Special Olympics Torch Run. The damp weather did not dampen their smiles as they asked for donations.

These 5 Athletes train all year and compete in many different events.

They were happy to pitch in when asked to help the members of the Sheriff's Department both raise money and awareness.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to the Steve Dornick family for the memorial for their son Erik
Thank you to "The Office" staff and patrons for the donation

WAYS TO HELP Milestone

THERE ARE 2 WAYS YOU CAN HELP MILESTONE WHILE YOU SHOP

HELP MILESTONE EVERY TIME YOU SHOP AT AMAZON.COM



Amazon.com now has a new website that allows shoppers to choose a charity and when they shop a portion of every purchase is donated to that group. All you have to

do is visit the new site, www.smile.amazon.com, and select MILESTONE, Inc. as your charity of choice. After you register you will receive an e-mail verifying your choice. Then the next time you want to shop at Amazon simply use the www.smile.amazon.com site and a donation will be made to MILESTONE.

HELP MILESTONE EVERY TIME YOU GROCERY SHOP



Help MILESTONE every time you shop at Schnucks through the eScrip Community Card program. All you have to do is pick up a free card at Schnucks, register

the card and designate MILESTONE as the non profit organization you want to help. Then give the card to the cashier when you check out. Each time you shop Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your grocery bill to MILESTONE, at the same time you will earn a 10cent a gallon discount for every \$100 spent on gas purchased at Kelley Williamson.

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

Sean Cramer	May
Danielle Hall	May
Clarice Maddox	May
Michael Tadin	June

15 years

Javon Oden	April
Tennes Morris	May
Eric Davis	June

20 years

Teena Rogers-Walker	June
Joyce Posley	June
Kiana Gipson	June

25 years

Vicki Roberson	April
Stephanie Valentine	May

MILESTONE
INC.

Building Lives • Building Futures



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Rockford, IL 61111

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MILESTONE MATTERS

SUMMER 2019



ADOPT A CAMPER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Remember the fun you had at summer camp?

Help us make summer camp a reality for everyone at MILESTONE by adopting a camper.

This year we are expanding the program.

For \$100 you can sponsor a camper for a week at one of 4 camps in Wisconsin, Iowa or Illinois.

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