



MILESTONE INC.



Building Lives • Building Futures

MATTERS

Newsletter For The Friends & Supporters of MILESTONE, Inc.

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PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS WISHES REALITY

Just like many people this time of year, the staff at MILESTONE makes a "Wish List", which includes items that are needed to insure the Individuals in our care continue to receive the highest level of care possible while working towards reaching their highest potential. Many items on the list each year become reality thanks to the continued support of the entire community. A vast majority of MILESTONE's revenue comes from

contracts with the State of Illinois to provide both care and services to our Individuals. Those funds are restricted and cannot be used for the items on this list. Support from the community is what has made the difference and allowed us to maintain our levels of care.

This is only a look at some of the items we hope will be in Santa's bag for MILESTONE.



ROCVALE CHILDREN'S HOME

Outdoor Sensory Equipment \$10,000
New Furniture \$15,000
1 month of Art Class and Music Therapy \$1,000
Therapeutic Recreational Opportunities \$5,000



MILESTONE TRAINING CENTER

Outside Recreation Area Upgrades \$2,000
Sensory Therapy Equipment \$36,000



MILESTONE INDUSTRIES

iPads \$1,600
Various Educational Materials \$3,000

ELMWOOD EAST

Enclosed Patio \$10,500
Replacement Windows for Home \$20,000

AGENCY WIDE

Automated External Defibrillators (AED) \$2,000
Robo-Coupe Commercial Food Processor \$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
9 passenger vans for 12 or 15 people \$270,000



ADULT GROUP HOMES

Slings for EZ-stand \$1,050
Patio \$1,500
Exercise Equipment \$2,550
Support Railings \$3,000
Washers and Dryers \$6,000
Screened Porch or 3 Season Room at 1 Group Home \$7,000
Carports at 2 Group Homes \$11,000
New Furniture \$40,000
Bathroom Renovations \$60,000



ELMWOOD HEIGHTS SPECIALIZED CARE FACILITY

Adaptive Swing Set with Wheel Chair Swing \$8,000
Medical Equipment \$10,000
Positioning Slings \$11,000
Replacement Entrance Doors \$21,500
Patio Door Replacements for Homes \$40,000
Bedroom/Bathroom Remodels and Upgrades in Each Home \$60,000
Replacement Carpet for Two Homes \$20,000
EZ lifts \$40,000
EZ Lift Replacement Batteries \$1,000
Replacement Windows \$80,000



MILESTONE DENTAL CLINIC

Parking Lot Repair and Repaving \$40,000
Replace Carpeting/Flooring \$9,000
Ultrasonic Surgical Equipment \$7,000



FROM THE DESK OF SHAWN WAY, MILESTONE PRESIDENT AND CEO

December 2019

Friends of MILESTONE:

The Milestone, Inc. mission statement reads *“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.”*

Our mission doesn't waiver. Our commitment to the 330 individuals we serve doesn't change. We exist to provide education, comfort and the best quality of life possible given the limitations placed upon the individuals we serve, 24 hours a day, 365 days every year. Life's not always fair, but we try to even the playing field for the girls and boys, the ladies and gentlemen we serve.

Milestone, Inc. provides housing, nourishment, life skills and day training to some of the sweetest, most warm-hearted people in our community. Our dental clinic, has served over 2,000 patients for the past 10 years, many of which could not find dental care elsewhere. Our residential programs currently serve over 320 Individuals, many of whom could not receive the care they need elsewhere.

Our 550 employees live and work here in and around the Rockford community, raising their own families, while nurturing Milestone families in each and every group home we operate. When an individual we serve passes away, the entire household mourns and people throughout Milestone mourns. When a major achievement is attained, everyone celebrates!

The community has been generous to Milestone for over 46 years. I realize there are many worthy causes in and around our community, many of which are also held hostage by the lack of local and state funding. On behalf of Milestone and the other agencies supporting those less fortunate in our community, we thank you for your past support and ask for your help this holiday season. Please look over our wish list and consider helping, so that we can continue to provide the highest level of care possible.

My best to you and your family this holiday season, and may you have a safe and blessed 2019!

Sincerely,

M. Shawn Way
President and CEO

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS FOR A YEAR END GIFT

Our Donors make a huge difference and allow us to continue to provide a high level of care to the Individuals we serve. One way to help us make a difference is through a gift of appreciated securities/stock, or through an IRA Charitable Rollover. Your IRA administrator or broker could assist you in facilitating these types of gifts.



MILESTONE WAS FAMILY'S FIRST CHOICE

Jonah lived in foster homes on and off until he was 2 years old, before he was adopted by Carm Herman. Jonah loved his new family and attending Public School. He graduated from Harlem High School, and that is when his mother knew she needed to start thinking about his future. Professionally Carm had worked in the disabilities field for many years, and she knew she needed to start the planning process early. She also knew that long term living with his peers in a residential program was in Jonah's best interest.

MILESTONE was her first choice because of the quality of care she saw consistently while working with us over the years. Carm says she was amazed at how accommodating the staff were when Jonah went through some issues and he needed more support than when he first moved in.



She added the staff worked until they found Jonah the right home, and through the process they gave both myself and Jonah the support we needed.

Jonah attends one of the 3 Barbara Olson Center of Hope Community Sites every weekday. Each week the group makes plans to explore a new part of the community. This way he gets to spend the day doing different things in the area. This group also does volunteer work at GiGi's Playhouse and HighView in Woodlands. When he comes home Jonah enjoys doing things with his housemates, and is also



very active with various Community activities. He is very involved in the MILESTONE Special Olympics program and competes in

many sports throughout the year. He loves attending camp each year and fishing is one of his favorite activities. He also is a member of the Kiwanis AKtion Club and attends church each week. He also loves visiting his family on the weekend.



His mother says she has always been impressed with MILESTONEs professional staff, quality of care and compassion to those they serve so for me there was only one choice and it was 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.



SCOUTS ENJOY CAMP

Fourteen member of MILESTONE's Boy Scout Varsity Troop 360 spent a week at Camp Lowden, cooking, hiking and having fun with each other. The troop participates in several activities during the year including a winter camp in.



GRANT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR ROCVALE'S BOY SCOUT TROOP

A generous grant from the William S. Howard Charitable Trust will continue to provide funding for the Boy Scout program at RocVale Children's Home. The program provides many educational and social opportunities for the boys who enjoy the many activities. The William S. Howard Charitable Trust was established in 1982 as the charitable component of the companies of William Charles, Ltd.



ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES ROCVALE BOY SCOUTS

A FALL TRADITION CONTINUES

The Artists at MILESTONE Industries enjoyed the fall weather while showing off their creations at Edgebrook's annual Cider and Cinnamon Art Show. The blankets, pillows and cards and other items were a huge hit with the shoppers.



Members of Rocvale's Boy Scout Troop learned about firefighting past and present when they visited Rockford Fire Station #3 and saw a 100 year old fire engine parked next to the equipment used today. The Scouts also learned about the dive team and the equipment they use. Thank you to the Rockford Fire department for their hospitality.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING SOPHIE'S PLACE

Thank you for supporting Sophie's place at RocVale. The home of MILESTONE's Art and Music Therapy programs that are offered several days a week. MILESTONE's mission is to help each individual in our care reach their fullest potential and live as independent a life as possible. This is especially important for the children at RocVale. These programs are designed to teach the skills needed so the children can grow to be successful adults. Focusing on creating a painting can help a child with autism learn the critical skills needed to handle a stressful situation, while listening to music can help another child stop aggressive behavior.

The key is finding what will unlock the power of art and music for each child.



THANK YOU

SOPHIE'S PLACE DONORS:

- Ms. Pamela Appino Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Victor Backeberg
- Mr. Steven Beard
- Mr. Franklin Berg
- Ms. Margaret Berkheimer
- Ms. Marian Bonavia
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bunkers
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Carlson
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carter
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Casey
- Mr. and Mrs. John Cocoma
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Coffey
- Mr. William Coughlin
- Mr. John Anthony Dotzel
- Mr. Guy DuMont
- Ms. Barbara Erickson
- Mr. Brice Evans
- Ms. Hazel Fulbright
- Mr. Timothy Groening
- Arles Hendershott and Joe Love in memory of Kent Flodin
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Holmbeck
- Ms. Debra Holt
- Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hoover
- Mr. and Mrs. John Hovis
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Humphris
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- Mr. Dave Kreissler HMC Products
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael LaMonica Sr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven Marzorati
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCanse
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- R. Nelson Landscaping
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- Rockford Concrete Paving Construction Co.
- Ms. Rebecca Sheehan
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trepanier
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- Mrs. Shirley Ann Tudor in memory of Warren D. Tudor
- Ms. Miriam Warner
- Mr. David Whitacre
- Rockford Heating and Air Conditioning
- Blackhawk Athletic Club
- Gibbons Electric, Inc.
- Riverside Dental
- United Methodist Women Court
- St. United Methodist Church

GENERAL MILLS GRANT MAKES EVENT POSSIBLE

The children at RocVale greeted fall with a Sensory Field Day and Carnival made possible in part by a Hometown grant from General Mills. The children enjoyed games, a petting zoo and even took turns in a dunk tank.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

VOLLEYBALL

MILESTONE's two volleyball teams participated in the Special Olympics Volleyball Qualifier and the Modified team earned a bronze medal. They played very hard, and when they played the 1st place team they only lost the match set by 3 points. The Unified team earned the silver medal and they played their hearts out.



BOWLING

Fifty four athletes bowled during the competition at Cherrybowl. The gold medal winners advanced to the sectional competition.



BOWLING MEDALS & RIBBONS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 Gold medals | 5 Fifth place ribbons |
| 6 Silver medals | 7 Sixth place ribbons |
| 7 Bronze medals | 5 Seventh place ribbons |
| 11 Fourth place ribbons | 6 Eighth place ribbons |

RAMP BOWLING

16 MILESTONE athletes made their mark during Ramp Bowling at the Cherrybowl bowling alley. All gold medal winners advanced to the sectional competition.



RAMP BOWLING MEDALS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 2 Gold medals | 3 Fourth place ribbons |
| 3 Silver medals | 3 Fifth place ribbons |
| 3 Bronze medals | 2 Sixth place ribbons |

RSM GOLF EXPERIENCE

Fourteen Golfers attended a golf skills clinic where

professional golfers put on a golf demonstration of all the shots needed for golf skills. Each athlete learned how to perfect their skills at various stations around the course. Everyone was given a certificate and a participation ribbon and enjoyed lunch. Thank you from everyone at MILESTONE to the local office of RSM for the sponsorship of this event.





THE BATCHELOR PAD

MILESTONE, Inc. has been blessed to employ many long-time team members that pour their heart and soul into the work they do with the individuals we serve. Day after day, week after week and year after year, it's not just a job, it's a way of life.



One such team member, Phil Batchelor, recently retired after 31 years of service. Phil came on board and immediately brought a commitment to going above and beyond the standard call of duty. Phil's experience as an Emergency Medical Technician and a Lifeguard, involvement in Scouting and general commitment to serving others fit perfectly with the MILESTONE culture. Over the years Phil has served as a Group Leader, working hands on with the individuals we serve every day.

According to Bill Grahn, Senior Vice President of Adult Services, what makes Phil different is the amount of time he spends developing and enhancing the lives of the men and women he served. Phil has been involved in camping, scouting, taking the young (and not so young) men MILESTONE serves on expeditions they could have never dreamed about. He has also assisted one of the men attain Eagle Scout status, the highest achievement a Boy Scout can earn. The fact of the matter is Phil Batchelor has given his all to our organization, and more importantly, the individuals we serve.

In preparation of Phil's retirement, we anointed his corner of the Industries workshop as "The Batchelor Pad". When Phil arrived to work one morning, a hundred or so of our staff and individuals greeted Phil with a round of applause, smiles and screams, thanking him for all he's done. In typical Phil fashion, he wasn't thrilled; he doesn't do what he does for praise or accolades. He simply cares for our men and women and has made a significant difference in the lives of so many.

IN MEMORY OF PEG HANSON



One of MILESTONE's founders, Peg Hanson passed away in October. Peg was on the Board of Directors from day one and served in many capacities during her tenure. This past fall the MILESTONE Industries and Corporate center were renamed the Peg Hanson Campus in honor of her years of devotion. Peg is survived by her husband, son and 2 daughters and their families.



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			
Melisa Macki	October	Theresa Keller	November
Amanda Eberly	October	Lizzita Coleman	December
Debra Bauer	October	Catherine Driussi	December
Jessie Barnes-Harris	October	25 years	
Shawn Way	November	Ellen Renton	November
Theresa Chism	November	30 years	
15 years		Cynthia Miller	October
Leah Blake	November	Theresa Risser	December
20 years		Linda Thornbloom	December
Sharon Whitley	October	35 years	
		Dori Bonifacio	November

MILESTONE

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MILESTONE MATTERS

WINTER 2019



MICHAEL BURJA MEMORIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

MILESTONE employee Jasmine Baeza is the recipient of this year's Michael Burja Memorial Education Scholarship. Jasmine is studying Surgical Technology.

The scholarship was established by the Burja family in memory of their son, Michael, who was part of the Elmwood Heights family for over 7 years.

Jasmine was selected from a field of several worthy applicants.

THANK YOU FOR CARD ORDERS



Our 2019 Holiday card production is winding down, but we made over 5,000 cards to fill the orders placed by individuals and businesses. All of the revenue from card sales goes directly to the individuals who make the cards at MILESTONE Industries. The smiles are large and bright on payday when they get their

paychecks. 2020 designs will be unveiled this spring.



**SAVE THE DATE
MILESTONE, INC.**

**Sixth Annual
Monster Cup Golf Play Day
June 8, 2020
Mauh Nah Tee See Golf Club**