



Stone Belt

Lifelong Learning Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2012

This newsletter is produced and distributed by a committee of Stone Belt clients and staff. Please send comments, calendar events, story ideas, and requests to receive this newsletter electronically to LLnewsletter10@stonebelt.org.
January Newsletter Committee: Jeff B., Matt, Sarah, Brandon K., Julie, Richelle, Jeff S., Victor, Adrienne Propsom, and Shawna Arnesen. Contributing photographers: Adele Pizzi, Christy Roux

Client Council and Self Advocates team up to host benefit for family of Tina K.



Grease is the word this February 11th as the Lifelong Learning Client Council and Self-Advocates of Monroe County team up to host a Valentine's fundraising

event. The theme for this event is a 50's drive-in movie night and will include a screening of the film *Grease* starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John. Full of classic and beloved songs, like *Summer Nights*, *You're the One That I Want*, and *Greased Lightning*, the evening will also include a karaoke sing-along and dance.

There will also be a costume contest with prizes awarded for the best 50's costumes; so put on your petticoats ladies and gentlemen slick back your hair. And if you need help getting that perfect 50's look, volunteers will be on hand to assist with hairdos and makeup before the event gets underway from 5-6pm. While makeovers will be offered for free, be sure to tip your stylist, as they will also be contributed the benefit. Volunteering as carhops, members of IU's Pi Kap Fraternity will also be serving refreshments throughout the evening.

So whether you were born to hand jive or not, don't miss out on this fun event February 11th in the 10th Street gym from 6-9pm. Admission is a suggested \$5.00 donation, with all proceeds going to the family of Tina K.

Spotlight on volunteerism

Polly's volunteer work began over ten years ago when she started helping out at the Boys and Girls Club of Monroe County. Over the years, Polly has done a number of tasks at the Boys and Girls Club, including sweeping the gym and wiping down tables. Polly now stops in once a week to replenish copies of various registration forms and informational fliers.

Two years ago Polly expanded her volunteer work to include a regular route helping local non-profits with their recycling programs. Three days a week Polly picks up recycling at Girls Incorporated and Middle Way House and transports it to the Monroe County Recycling Center. While summer programs at Girls Inc. mean lots of brown paper lunch bags and plastic fruit cups to sort, Polly enjoys getting to see the girls hard at work and play when she stops in. In addition to helping her community, Polly also enjoys the chance to recycle her own items, swapping them out for something "new" at the sidewalk exchange.



Making copies at Boys and Girls Club



Polly boxes up paper at Girls Inc.



Picking up at Middle Way House



Steve T.

January 27, 2012, Stone Belt lost a dear member of its community.

Steve T., a resident of the Bridgewater group home, had participated in Stone Belt day services for over 20 years. Steve loved to work with his hands and

held a number of jobs over the years, including assembling door guides for Otis Elevator Company and putting parts together for Carlisle Industrial Brake and Friction. Steve also appreciated a good cup of joe, and upon his retirement from work services he joined the "Coffee Club" in Room 1, where he enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and company of friends. Steve also had a knack for creating designs with colored pencils, a pastime that earned him the nickname "El Doodler" among peers. We are all so fortunate to have known Steve. He will be greatly missed.

Client Council Report

January was a busy month for the Lifelong Learning Client Council. At the top of the agenda for the Friday morning council meetings last month was planning and organizing the drive-in movie night fundraiser benefit. To prepare for the event, the Council wrote up a proposal to present to the Self-Advocates to solicit their collaboration in hosting the event, voted on which movie to show, and assigned responsibilities for the night of the event. The Council also collaborated with art instructor Karen Holtzclaw to have the art class design and paint a series of cars to decorate the gym.

In addition to planning the fundraiser, the Council also served as a focus group, sharing their thoughts and opinions on the agency's recent decision to switch from the use of the term consumer to the word client. Overall, council members approved of the change in terminology. The Council also put together curriculum for the Chinese New Year and collaborated with cooking class instructor Chris Headdy to make homemade fortune cookies with handwritten fortunes. To help everyone get in the Super Bowl spirit, the Council also designated February 3rd as 'Sports Day' at 10th Street and encouraged everyone to wear their favorite sport attire.

For February, the Council is organizing a Mari Gras celebration for February 21st and an event in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8th.



Photo by Brandon K.

New art exhibit celebrates friendship

February 3rd marks the opening of the latest exhibit at the Stone Belt Art Gallery. Titled "I get by with a little help from my friends," the installation includes

pieces of mosaic art that celebrate friendship. An opening reception will be held from 5-8pm with refreshments, entertainment, and Stone Belt artists on hand to discuss their work. Lifelong Learning clients featured in the new exhibit include, Denise, Jeff S., Kimmi, and Matt F.

The exhibit opens in tandem with the debut of the Bloomington Playwrights Project's newest production, *Boy in the Bathroom*, a play about a young man with obsessive-compulsive disorder that also explores the theme of friendship.

The Stone Belt Art Gallery is located in the lobby of the Bloomington Playwrights Project (107 West 9th Street, Bloomington). The gallery is open Monday-Friday 10am-4 pm and the first Friday of each month, 5-8 pm.

Say Hello to...

Jana Lashbrook is the newest member to join the Community Engagement Department here at Stone Belt. She has been in her position for just under two months now. As an associate in the department, Jana helps out with numerous tasks including writing letters to donors, maintaining the Stone Belt store here at 10th Street, looking for grants, and assisting with coordinating special events, such as dances. Jana also has an interest in and knack for graphic design, which may lend a hand to fulfilling her duties.



Other fun facts about Jana...

Hometown: Portsmouth, Virginia

Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Food: Mac & Cheese

Favorite Sport: Soccer

Inspired By: Her parents

How she spent her last birthday: Getting engaged

On behalf of Monroe County Lifelong Learning clients and staff, the Newsletter Committee welcomes Ms. Lashbrook to the Stone Belt team.

Group strives to educate people about their rights

Newsletter committee member Jeff B. recently sat down with Nancy Smith to get the inside scoop on the Self-Advocates group of Monroe County. Nancy, an advisor to the group, was full of information about the group's activities and how to get involved. Nancy explained the mission of the group is to help individuals with disabilities learn about their rights, how to advocate for themselves, and to help others to do the same. Nancy reported there are roughly fifty current members of the Self-Advocates of Monroe County, with five officers and four advisors; and that the group elects new officers every four years.

Nancy also shared details about upcoming Self-Advocates events. On February 14th members will travel to Indianapolis to meet up with advocates from across the state to distribute Valentine's cards to state representatives in "appreciation for all they do for us," says Nancy. The Advocates have also been working with the Client Council to plan the Drive-in Movie Night fundraiser for the family of Tina K. who had recently joined the advocacy group. The group meets on the first Monday of every month at 10th Street at 6:30pm. Membership is open to anyone in the county who wants to get involved.

IU students hold Sports Night at 10th Street Gym

IU service learning students are looking for 25 energetic individuals to participate in a program of indoor sports focused on developing basic sports skills. Prior sports experience is not necessary and all levels of mobility are welcome. The program will be held in the 10th Street gym every Tuesday from 7-8pm. Participants are asked to make an 8 week commitment, as classes are scheduled to run Feb. 21st to April 10th. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable, non-restrictive clothing and tennis shoes and must be accompanied each week by a staff, guardian, or family member.

The program is limited to 25 participants so register now by sending your name, the name and contact number of your accompanying staff, guardian, or family member, and the name of your Stone Belt coordinator to Gwyn Vicars, Advocate for Community Engagement, at ace@stonebelt.org.



Nikki and Victor are members of Self-Advocates and Client council

Poll shows 'client' preferred

After years of using the word "consumer," Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green announced a change in policy. On January 18th, the agency officially began using the term "client" to refer to individuals supported by the agency. To find out what people thought about the change, the Newsletter Committee asked around. Though some clients were indifferent to the change, others were extremely pleased. "I think it is great! It means everything, being independent, being part of everything," said Brandon R. Staff Brad Ashba was also happy with the shift, "The term 'client' is better... because it shows a mutual relationship between staff and the people we serve. The term 'consumer' implies individuals take and never give, which is simply not the case."

Call for Submissions

The Newsletter Committee is currently accepting submissions to be included in the March issue of the Stone Belt Lifelong Learning Newsletter. Articles considered for publication should highlight one of the following:

- Unique client activities, contributions, and/or achievements in the areas of volunteer work, employment, or self-advocacy
- Community and/or program activities and events that may be of interest to clients in the Lifelong Learning program.
- Other topics related to the needs and interests of the readership.

Articles may be submitted by clients or staff. However, client participation in the writing of articles is especially encouraged.

Submissions may be emailed to the committee at LLnewsletter10@stonebelt.org or delivered in person to Adrienne Propsom in Room 16. To be considered for the February issue, submissions should be received no later than February 24nd.

In addition, the Newsletter Committee always welcomes comments, calendar events, and story ideas.

Letters to the Committee

"Wow! The newsletter gets better and better each month. So full of information, especially for those of us who don't work direct care. Thank you for the information about I Am YOU. I plan to be there! Hope to see the drumming program and dance class performing one day soon too. Keep up the good work. I can hardly wait to see what's in February's issue!" - Diana Costello, Human Resources

FEBRUARY

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3	2 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30	3 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3 SPORTS DAY ART OPENING 5-8	4
5	6 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	7 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 I AM YOU REHEARSAL 1-3	8 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3	9 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30	10 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3	11 DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT 6:00PM
12	13 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	14 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 I AM YOU REHEARSAL 1-3	15 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3	16 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30	17 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3	18
19	20 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	21 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 I AM YOU REHEARSAL 1-3 MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION	22 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3	23 GLOBAL SPEAKERS SERIES 10AM DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30	24 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-11 COOKING 1-3 SUBMISSION DEADLINE	25
26	27 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3	28 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 I AM YOU REHEARSAL 1-3	29 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3	2012 HOLIDAYS (DAY PROGRAM CLOSED) MAY 28 - MEMORIAL DAY JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY SEPTEMBER 3 - LABOR DAY NOVEMBER 22 & 23 - THANKSGIVING DECEMBER 24 & 25 - CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY		

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BOWLING Tuesday evenings at Classic Bowling Lanes 1421 Willis Drive 6:00pm Contact: info@soimc.org Phone: 812.325.1548	DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER Screening of the movie <i>Grease</i> with karaoke sing-a-long February 11 th 6pm-9pm 10 th street Gymnasium \$5.00 suggested donation
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