

spring 2005 touchstone

Stone Belt presents news and information for persons with disabilities, families and friends



Clients Brenda Ikerd (R) and Beth McGrayel play along with the band Andes Manta. Andes Manta visited Stone Belt's 10th Street facility in March to play an afternoon show as part of the Lotus Blossoms program. Read more about the performance on Page 3.

BONDING THROUGH BABIES

Two mothers develop friendship in Healthy Families. **page 4**

EMPLOYERS HONORED

Local businesses recognized during awards ceremony. **page 6**

MEMBERS WANTED

Membership drive kicks off with Leather Works gifts. **page 7**

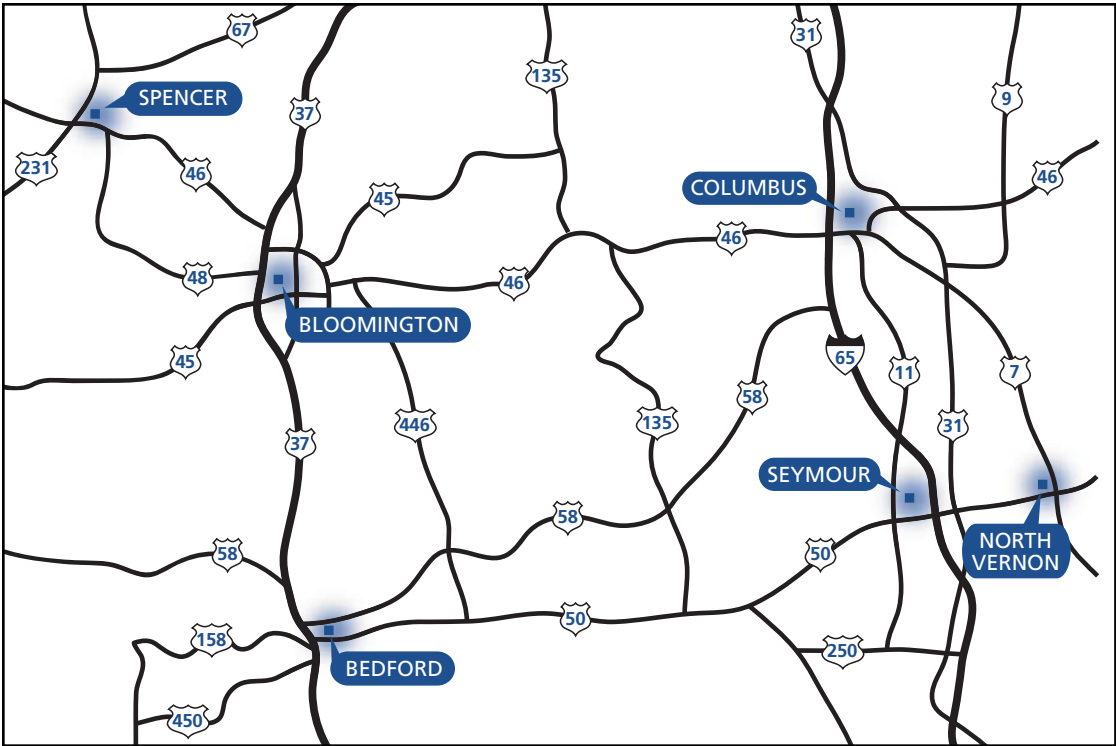
OUR MISSION

We believe in the uniqueness, worth and right to self-determination of every individual. Therefore, it is our mission, in partnership with the community, to prepare, empower and support persons with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.

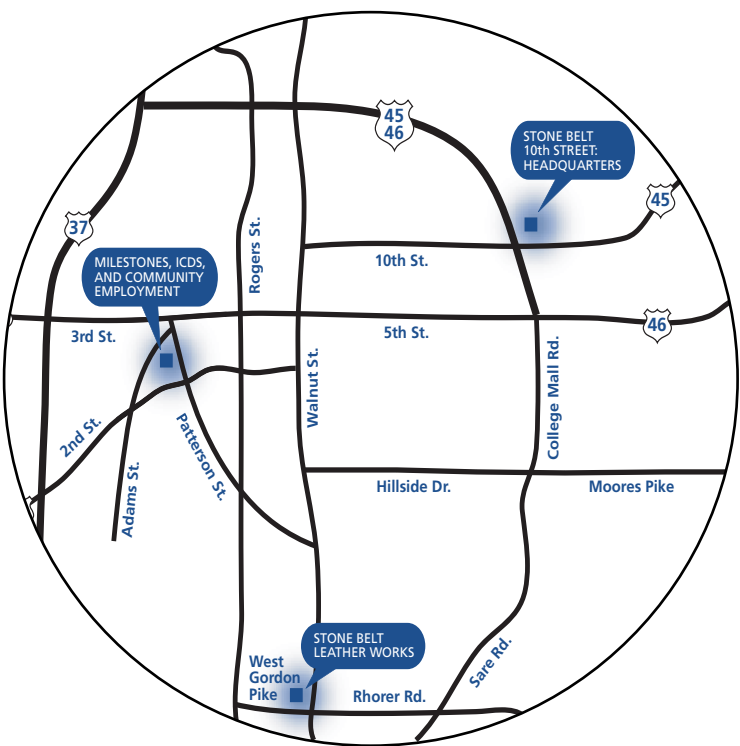
our locations

Stone Belt has service locations across six county area

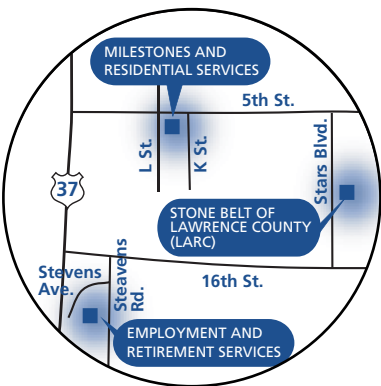
SIX COUNTY OVERVIEW



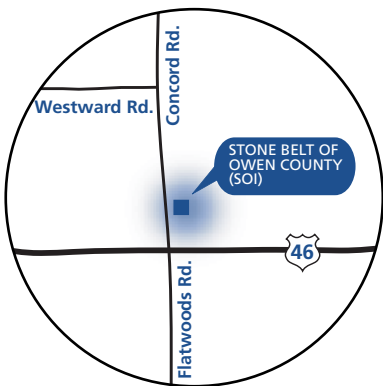
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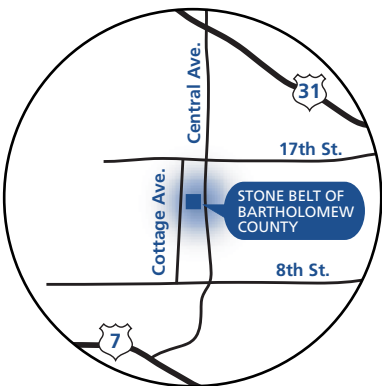
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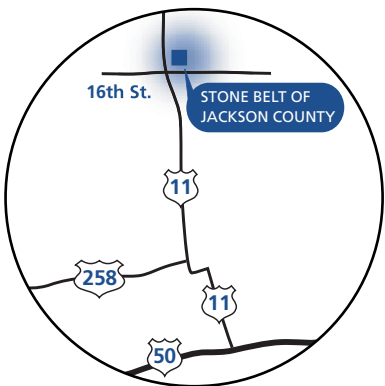
SPENCER



COLUMBUS



SEYMOUR



contact information

MONROE COUNTY

Stone Belt 10th Street
2815 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
812.332.2168
888.332.2168 (toll free)

Milestones, Clinical and Health Resources
550 South Adams Street
Bloomington, IN 47403
812.333.6324 (Clinical Services)
812.333.6322 (Health Services)
812.569.9127 (toll free)

Infant and Child Developmental Services (ICDS)
550 South Adams Street
Bloomington, IN 47403
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888.323.4631 (toll free)

Stone Belt Community Employment
550 South Adams Street
Bloomington, IN 47403
812.335.3507

Stone Belt Leather Works
203 West Gordon Pike
Bloomington, IN 47403
812.336.5309

Blackstone Group Home
4417 Blackstone Court
Bloomington, IN 47408

Deckard Group Home
4100 Deckard Drive
Bloomington, IN 47408

Bridgwaters Group Home
1006 West 11th Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

Festive Group Home
3502 Festive Drive
Bloomington, IN 47403

Hite Group Home
4700 Hite Drive
Bloomington, IN 47408

Maxwell Group Home
1835 South Maxwell Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Miller Group Home
713 East Miller Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401

Southern Group Home
214 Southern Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Stone Belt of Lawrence County (LARC)
712 Stars Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421
812.279.3229

Employment and Retirement Services
Lawrence County offices
1835 Steven Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421
812.275.1045

Milestones and Residential Services
Lawrence County offices
1108 5th Street
Bedford, IN 47421
812.278.7115

Elliot Group Home
1118 22nd Street
Bedford, IN 47421

Simpson Group Home
2606 H Street
Bedford, IN 47421

Wedgewood Group Home
2228 35th Street
Bedford, IN 47421

OWEN COUNTY

Stone Belt of Owen County
Sweet Owen Industries (SOI)
36 Concord Road
Spencer, IN 47460
812.829.3978

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

Stone Belt of Bartholomew County
1503 B Cottage Avenue
Columbus, IN 47201
812.376.7149

JACKSON COUNTY

Stone Belt of Jackson County
321 E. 16th Street
Seymour, IN 47274
812.524.8125

JENNINGS COUNTY

Stone Belt has a number of consumers who participate in the supported living program that live in the North Vernon area of this county.

from the CEO

The Arc helps individuals live wonderful lives

In the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” George Bailey gets the chance to see what life would have been like if he had never been born. Through this experience, it was revealed to him what an amazing and significant impact he had had on the little town of Bedford Falls and its citizens.

Now let’s imagine that it is 1950 and the Arc of the United States (then known as the Association for Retarded Citizens) had never been formed, and that the many state and community Arcs, such as Stone Belt, also never came into existence. Imagine if there were no special education programs, no supported employment initiatives, no community living and no early childhood intervention. Where would people with disabilities be today?

We don’t have to look back too far into history to know the answer to this. They would be secluded, institutionalized and mistreated. Instead, they are learning alongside typical students; they are making significant contributions to



their employers; they are buying and renting homes and they are forming meaningful relationships with friends, family and colleagues. In short, they are leading wonderful lives. Not perfect lives, but none-the-less wonderful because of the choices and opportunities for self-determination that are available.

It has been the voices of families of persons with disabilities, people in their communities and, of course, the people with disabilities themselves that have

made tremendous impacts into improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. The Arc, including Stone Belt Arc, has been a strong collection of many voices advocating for and making the changes that have come about since 1950.

As we conduct our Arc membership drive this spring, I hope you will consider becoming a member or renewing your membership to the Stone Belt Arc. Your membership not only helps us encourage personal growth of the individuals we serve, it also provides Stone Belt, the Arc of Indiana and the Arc of the United States with funding to:

- Develop and promote effective programs and services.
- Make the public aware of the rights, needs and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.
- Educate the public on precautions that can be taken to prevent developmental disabilities, including fetal-alcohol syndrome and alcohol-related birth defects.

- Monitor the progress made in the area of inclusion on a local, state and national level in education, employment, community living and recreation.

Most important during this time of Indiana’s financial crisis, your Arc membership helps make it possible for Stone Belt and the Arc of Indiana to lobby our legislators for the continuation (not the reduction) of the financial support of much-needed programs for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

Be a part of helping to create wonderful lives. A special membership envelope is included in this issue of *Touchstone*. We hope to receive yours.

In Appreciation,

Leslie Green
Chief Executive Officer

upcoming events

May 19
Job Club Meeting

4 to 5 p.m.
Stone Belt 10th Street
Main Conference Room
■ Trisha Betthausen, IU Women’s Basketball Associate Coach will be talking about being a good team player on the job.
■ For more information contact Joyce Resler at 812-335-3507, ext. 229 or email jresler@stonebelt.org.

May 28
Stone Belt of Owen County Carnival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Owen County Fairgrounds
Activities will include a paint ball booth, basketball toss, duck pond and nickel toss. Proceeds will go to the Owen County Consumer Council.
■ For more information contact Kim Hodges at 812-829-3978 or email khodges@stonebelt.org.

May 30
Memorial Day

Day program facilities and offices will be closed.

June 7
Self-Advocates Monthly Meeting

6 to 7:30 p.m.
Stone Belt 10th Street
Main Conference Room
The Self-Advocates of Monroe County are meeting the first Tuesday of each month. Self-Advocates Indiana, Inc., a statewide organization based in Indianapolis is comprised of individuals with disabilities active in raising awareness regarding the positive contributions of persons with disabilities in the workplace and community.
■ For more information contact Nancy Smith at 812-332-9959 or email nsmith@stonebelt.org.

June 14
Aktion Club Meeting

4 to 5 p.m.
Stone Belt 10th Street
Main Conference Room
■ Aktion Club is a client-based club that offers members an opportunity to give back to the community. The group is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.
■ For more information contact Ann Dininger at 812-332-2168, ext.247 or email adininge@stonebelt.org.

June 16
Job Club Picnic

4 to 6 p.m.
Lions Den Shelter House
Members are encouraged to invite their families or bring a friend. Attendees should bring \$5 for refreshments.
■ For more information contact Joyce Resler at 812-335-3507, ext. 229 or email jresler@stonebelt.org.

July 4
Independence Day

Day program facilities and offices will be closed.

August 22
Stone Belt Annual Meeting

6 to 9 p.m.
Bloomington Convention Center
Keep watching and reading for more information on this fun event. Details to come.
■ For more information contact Leslie Green at 812-332-2168, ext.269 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org.

touchstone

SPRING 2005
Issue 12

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

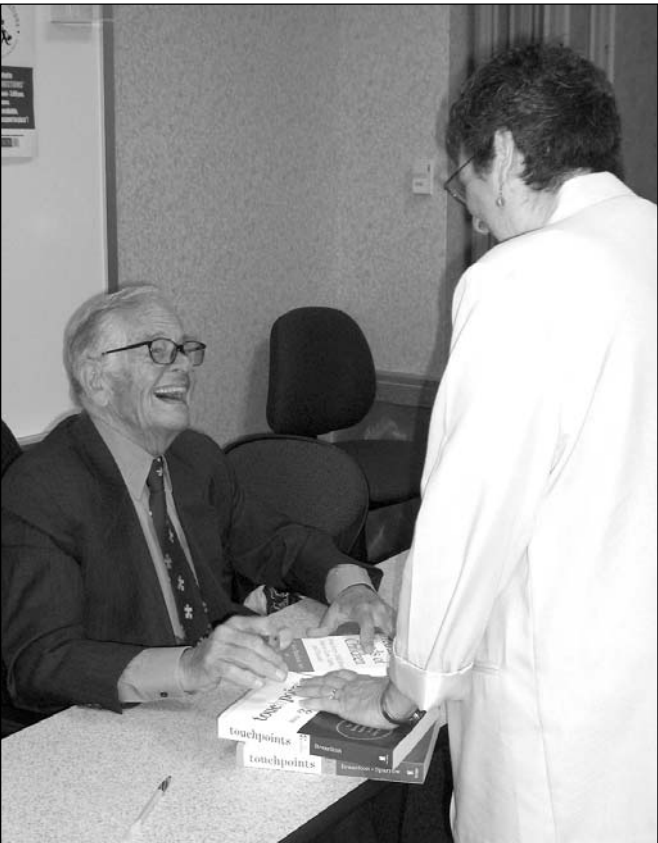
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**NOTED PEDIATRICIAN VISITS
BLOOMINGTON**

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton shared his wisdom on child rearing during a two-day visit to Bloomington.

The noted pediatrician spoke at two separate events. The first was a free parent and community evening on April 25 at Jackson Creek Middle School. During this talk to parents he discussed some major stresses parents struggle with in today’s society. He says the No. 1 stress on women in the United States is having to work all day; then come home and take care of their families.

“In America, 80 percent of women are in the full-time work force,” he said. If we don’t face that then what are we doing?”

Brazelton said when women first arrive home from work, they should make “connecting” with their children a top priority.

“When you get home, sit in a rocking chair with your child and get

close again,” he said. “You can ask about the child’s day, maybe even share that you had a terrible day. Then take the child into the kitchen and let them help you be part of the working family.”

Following his presentation, families were able to interact with the doctor during a question and answer session. He received some commonly asked questions about children’s sleep, feeding, toilet training and thumb sucking.

Brazelton’s second talk in Bloomington was the following day on April 26 at Ivy Tech State College. At this all-day event Brazelton and several colleagues conducted a seminar for professionals who work with parents and children. About 250 people attended the event.

Brazelton is one of the most widely recognized child development experts in the world. His Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale is used, both clinically and in research, to

assess the physical health and emotional well-being of newborns.

He’s also written 38 books on child-rearing. One of them, “Touchpoints: Your Child’s Emotional and Behavioral Development,” has sold more than a million copies and has been published in 18 languages.

In addition, for 12 years he also hosted a television show, “What Every Baby Knows,” which won two Emmy awards.

Even after all this Brazelton is still keeping busy. Two new books came out May 1.

Stone Belt was a sponsor of this two-day program along with The CAPE Family Resource Centers, Ivy Tech, Bloomington Hospital, Southern Indiana Pediatrics, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Community School Corp., Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corp., the Asset Building Coalition and Step Ahead.

**STONE BELT PARTICIPATES IN
MONROE COUNTY BUSINESS EXPO**

Area businesses loosened up their ties and had a little fun at the annual Bloomington Business Expo on April 21.

In hopes of promoting its business ventures, Stone Belt participated in the all day event. With over 150 companies represented in one place, it was a great way to meet new contacts and strengthen business ties. This was Stone Belt’s second year attending the event. Larry Pejeau, Stone Belt Marketing Director, said last year’s

booth attracted a lot of local business.

The Expo was held in the Bloomington Convention Center and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Companies set-up booths hoping to promote their goods and services. The Expo is the largest trade show of its kind in southern Indiana and event organizers said almost 4000 people attended.

Pejeau and Paula Chambers, Stone Belt Leather Worker, manned the Stone Belt booth. Products featured were Stone Belt Leather Works items and Adirondack

furniture. Many attendees who stopped by the booth commented they didn’t know Stone Belt made such products.

Visitors to the booth could pick up leather coasters and bookmarks and enter to win a white cedar bird house by dropping their business card in a basket.

Pejeau feels this year’s booth was very successful in terms of business to business contacts, “We were able to let people know that Stone Belt has a lot of business initiatives in the works. It was good to be able to get our name and products out there.”

**ECUADORIAN BAND PERFORMS
AT 10TH STREET**

Ecuadorian band Andes Manta entertained and enchanted Stone Belt 10th Street clients and staff during a March 10 performance.

The performance was part of the Lotus Festival’s fifth annual educational program called Lotus Blossoms. Lotus Blossoms brings world music artists and educators to schools in Bloomington and surrounding areas to help nurture an understanding of cultural differences. This year’s program was sponsored by the Raymond Foundation with support from other sponsors.

Andes Manta is a group of brothers from Ecuador who perform the vibrant music of the Andes Mountains on more than 35 traditional instruments. The four Lopez brothers, Jorge, Bolivar, Fernando and Luis bring a unique sound. As natives of the Ecuadorian Andes, the brothers learned their traditional folk music as it has been learned for thousands of years, passed from father to son, brother to brother.

The Stone Belt audience was captivated by the array of instruments including the six-foot long panpipe, llama toenail rattles and four-foot long flutes known as moxentos all creating haunting sounds of the rain forest.

During the performance several clients and staff were invited to form an impromptu drum and rattle band accompanied by Andes Manta. Several others danced along.

“It was so cool playing that instrument,” said Beth McGrayal a Stone Belt client. “I’ve never done something like that before.”

In its first four seasons, Lotus Blossoms brought gifted artists to the doorsteps of more than 25,000 children and adults, through interactive performances at schools, free workshops, Indiana University classes and low-cost concerts for families.



**THE ARCLINK SEEKS
MEDICAID SUCCESS STORIES**

The ArcLink is looking for stories from people with cognitive disabilities and family members about how they have used Medicaid to increase their independence.

The ArcLink will collect written and recorded stories for use on www.thedesk.info, the only web site that explains Medicaid for people with cognitive disabilities. If they use your story, you will receive a free t-shirt and \$50.

If you have a story send an email message to stories@thedesk.info or call toll-free at 1-877-431-8532. If you know someone else who has a story tell them about this opportunity. The ArcLink is especially interested in stories from Hispanic families, for presentation in Spanish.

The Medicaid Reference Desk is an online resource at www.TheDesk.info that explains Medicaid in basic terms, state by state. It gives people with cognitive disabilities, family members and advocates information about what is available through their State Medicaid Plans and waivers. The site also gives information on where to apply for services.



CLIENTS ATTEND STATEHOUSE RALLY

Hundreds of people gathered in the Indiana Statehouse March 24 for a rally organized by The Arc of Indiana, an advocacy group for persons with developmental disabilities.

Stone Belt is an Arc member and supported the rally by sending almost 85 clients, staff and friends to the event.

“We felt it was important to travel as a group to remind legislators of the many people who depend on state programs such as Medicaid,” said Leslie Green, Stone Belt CEO. “The amount of money the state spends on Medicaid could be reduced as legislators try to balance the state budget.”

The rally started with a welcome and introduction of speakers by George Rawles, President of the Arc of Indiana. The speakers focused on issues like the Medicaid Waiver, aging families caring for adult children with disabilities and the importance of positive reform for Indiana’s First Steps program.

Following the presentations rally attendees could head upstairs and meet with their state senators and representatives. Several Stone Belt clients had the opportunity to speak with Representatives Peggy Welch and Matt Pierce who took the time to listen to their concerns.

The rally group hopes their voice made a difference and lawmakers will remember the critical needs of people with developmental disabilities when discussing future legislation.

client spotlight

Bonding through their babies

By Lyrna Siklóssy

Infant and Child Development Services (ICDS) is pleased to share a story of friendship between two young mothers who are enrolled in the Healthy Families program. Claudia Garcia (23) and Krista Tatangelo (21) met at one of Healthy Families’ monthly parent groups last September at the Monroe County Public Library.

Both mothers share the same Family Support Specialist, Lyrna Siklóssy, who makes weekly visits to their homes. “I remember introducing the mothers because they both have boys that are similar in age,” Siklóssy said. Krista’s son, Lukas Danger, and Claudia’s son, Santiago, were born two days apart last July at Bloomington Hospital.

Claudia is originally from Mexico, and she speaks almost no English. She has been in Bloomington a little over a year, and she knows very few people in town. Krista has been in Bloomington about the same amount of time. She understands a little Spanish, but communication between the two women is a challenge. “We use charades, body language and pointing,” says Krista.

The women have a lot of fun together. “I like to invite Claudia, her sister and Santiago over for dinner, and I

serve them foods that are new and different,” said Krista. With the help of their Family Support Specialist, the two also get together for play dates. Both mothers are without transportation of their own and they live across town from one another, making visits hard. Although the language barrier and lack of transportation have been difficult, the two mothers have such a strong bond that they manage to get together somehow, often relying on Krista’s fiancé for a ride. Krista has grown a lot with Healthy Families. Her confidence as a first-time mom has increased tremendously. She loves to use the computer where she is constantly reading information on child development.

Angie Wiles, a supervisor with Healthy Families, noticed the friendship at the first parent group which both moms attended, and has seen the friendship grow. “Krista has been a wonderful role model to Claudia,” said Wiles. “She has taught her how important it is to play with your baby.”

Krista has special ways of incorporating exercise and fun with playtime. She also uses books, CDs and videos from the library. The moms surprised their Family Support Specialist

with new words they had taught to one another. Claudia pointed to Santiago’s hands. “Hands,” she exclaimed. She followed with “feet,” “tummy” and “eyes.” Claudia truly values her friendship with Krista. She said that the two moms can learn from one another, laugh and have fun with their babies. Claudia feels very comfortable in Krista’s home. When Claudia’s family calls from Mexico, she shares stories about her friend and the two boys. When asked if Healthy Families could borrow one of Claudia’s pictures of the two boys and/or moms together, Claudia apologized stating that she had just sent all of her pictures of the



Claudia Garcia and her son Santiago (at left) have developed a close friendship with Krista Tatangelo and her son Lukas through Stone Belt’s Healthy Families program.

four of them to Mexico. “They all know about Krista and Lukas,” she said proudly.

Claudia and Krista have never missed a Parent Group since their first one. Their story shows the importance of friendship and the bond which is created between parents and their children, regardless of the barriers which may be present.

➤ For more information about Stone Belt’s Infant and Child Developmental Services (ICDS) department and the Healthy Families program please contact Director Shirley Stumpner at 812-323-4631, ext. 240 or email ssumpne@stonebelt.org.

staff spotlight

Kim Hodges named new LARC director

Despite a growing workload that comes with new responsibilities Kim Hodges always has a smile on her face and optimistic words to say about her job and Stone Belt. Hodges has been Director of Stone Belt of Owen County (Sweet Owen Industries, SOI) for three years. Recently she was also named Director of Stone Belt of Lawrence County (LARC) taking the position of recently departed director Karen Scherer.

“Kim seemed like a logical person to promote to this position,” said Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green. “She has over 20 years of experience and her knowledge of working at a satellite facility and with county boards are additional bonuses.”

Hodges grew up in the Owen County town of Gosport so she has an intimate knowledge of the area. She says getting to know everyone in Lawrence County is one of the biggest challenges of her new position.

“I started working at Owen a few months after it opened in May 1989. So from the beginning I knew everyone, all the consumers, their families and what they like and dislike,” she said. “I want to be able to do the same thing in Lawrence County.”

So far the additional work has been easy for Hodges. “I’ve found that going to two places has been a very good pick-me-up. I love working in a fast paced environment.”

Hodges says an adjustment she has had to make is getting organized. With two offices and two computers she often realizes that she’s left things at a different office or saved things to another computer’s hard drive. To overcome this she’s started carrying a briefcase.

Additionally, Hodges has adjusted her schedule to split time between both offices. She works two days a week at each location. The extra day she uses to go to meetings at Stone Belt’s various other offices. All this leads to a lot of driving.

“I add 105 miles to my car every day I drive to Lawrence County,” Hodges said. This is a big change from the five miles she used to drive everyday. Despite the mileage Hodges loves the drive, “I get a lot of phone work done,” she said.

Even with a full work-load Hodges still has time for fun. She’s involved in her church and loves to read, sew, watch racing and spend time with her children and grandchildren. She’s also working on a business degree from Saint Mary of the Woods College.



➤ To learn more about Stone Belt’s programs in Owen and Lawrence counties contact Kim Hodges at 812-829-3978, ext. 222 or email khodges@stonebelt.org.

program spotlight

CAS program debuts at two locations

Stone Belt is starting a new initiative with the goal of providing clients better employment opportunities and more choices in the face of a changing marketplace.

The new program is called Career Advancement Services (CAS). Clients who currently participate in Day Services will now be offered training and career development skills.

The program emphasizes six occupational skill areas including: grocery, retail, laundry, food and restaurant services, housekeeping and clerical. Developing these skills will result in more community employment opportunities for clients.

Paula Ringwald, CAS Coordinator (pictured), developed the curriculum areas. “I was a Special Education teacher for eight years and during that time I developed the curriculum that we are now using in CAS,” she said.

During the day clients in the program work on four of seven different skill areas. The other areas are rotated throughout the week. Those skills are writing, reading, math and career exploration.

“The goal is to have clients test out of the particular occupational skill they are working on, then their name will be forwarded to an Employment Services staff members who will actively start trying to find them a job in their skill area,” said Ringwald.

Stone Belt of Lawrence County was the first location to start implementing the CAS program in November 2004. Ringwald said that despite the many changes to clients and staff the program’s first months have gone well. “The most successful moments are when clients have gained certain academic skills, such as telling time on a face clock,” she said.

Stone Belt 10th Street was the second location to start the program in March 2005. CAS will eventually debut at other Stone Belt locations.

In the future, Stone Belt would like to expand all areas of the CAS curriculum, especially those in occupational skills and career exploration. A CAS advisory committee is being set up at each location to help with this. Feedback on necessary skills is also being compiled from vocational schools and secondary education institutions.

With CAS now in place, Stone Belt is hopeful that clients will be able to strengthen their work skills to give them the competitive edge they will need in today’s job market.



➤ To learn more about CAS contact Director of Employment and Personal Resources Bitta DeWees at 812-332-2168, ext. 261 or email bdeweas@stonebelt.org.

Many changes on the horizon for Stone Belt businesses

art & craft


This year a number of new items have been designed to include in the Art & Craft Adirondack Furniture line. These include a picnic table, love seat, swing, work table, window planter and a number of bird houses and feeders.

To feature these new products a catalog was developed. This catalog was mailed out to nurseries, outdoor furniture stores, parks and golf courses to test marketability in the midwest.

Perhaps one of the most exciting developments with the furniture this year is that Art & Craft has become an approved vendor to all 300 Wild Birds Unlimited stores. This means owners of these stores may buy Art & Craft products to stock their shelves.

“We are currently working in different markets to get a better idea which is the best to pursue,” said Larry Pejeau, Stone Belt Marketing Director.

Locally Art & Craft Adirondack furniture can be viewed Saturdays at the Bloomington Farmers market.



art&craft
by **Stone Belt**

leather works

This past year Stone Belt Leather Works has expanded its national customer base by joining the Advertising Specialty Institute (ASI), a trade organization. This membership has resulted in many new orders from companies like New Balance shoes, the TNT Network and Julia Knight America.

Another new development is that Leather Works is now officially licensed to sell leather items with the IU logo on it to all IU campuses across the state. Currently Leather Works is working with the IU Bookstore, IU Alumni Association and the IU Varsity Club to develop products.

Finally on an in-house level, Stone Belt is using Leather Works products in a new membership campaign that features premium gifts for each donation level (see story on Page 7). A web site for online sales and information is also in the process of being developed.

“Leather Works has successfully reacted to the normal ups and downs of customer demand this year,” said Mike Long, Leather Works Director.



Leather Stone Belt Works



Stone Belt’s Accents store closes its doors

After just over a year of business Stone Belt’s resale store, Accents, Home Essentials for Less closed its doors for the last time on April 16.

The decision to close the store followed weeks of discussions between Accents staff, Stone Belt management and Stone Belt and LARC board members, all of whom were integral parts of the decision.


While this business initiative was well intended and designed, the mission of the store, to provide revenue for Stone Belt programming and employment for clients, was no longer being met.

“Operating Accents has been a positive experience for the agency that we can be proud of. We aggressively launched and operated Accents for a full year and evaluated its possibilities. However, this business initiative cannot give us the results we expected; it is time to close this venture and focus our energy and resources in other directions,” said Dave Gootee, Stone Belt CFO. “We are in no way discouraged by this venture. We will continue to actively explore new business initiatives for Stone Belt in the future.”

Stone Belt appreciates and thanks the store’s loyal customers in Bedford and surrounding communities — all who shopped there and donated their household items.

Store Manager Melissa Graves, a key to the business, has accepted a position with another company. All other employees will be offered transfers to other positions within Stone Belt.

Accents, Home Essentials for Less, opened on 16th Street in Bedford in January 2004. The non-profit store featured housewares, furniture, small appliances and more. Revenue from the store was intended to support persons with developmental disabilities to live independently in the community and provide employment opportunities for our clients.



STEP UP TO THE PLATE

Support Healthy Families With a Kids First License Plate in 2005

Healthy Families, a program of Stone Belt’s Infant & Child Developmental Services, has received a grant from the Children’s Trust Fund. The Children’s Trust Fund is funded through the sales of Kids First license plates. The Children’s Trust Fund supports programs or initiatives that prevent child abuse.

You can put kids first by purchasing a Kids First License Plate at your local license branch for only \$37. Please Help Support the Prevention of Child Abuse!

Local businesses recognized during awards ceremony

Stone Belt recognized ten area employers at the 11th annual Employer Awards Ceremony sponsored by SIHO Insurance Services on March 8.

The awards were presented in conjunction with Disability Awareness Month to recognize outstanding contributions in promoting employment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities.

The event was held at the Bloomington Convention Center and attended by approximately 150 people. Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green welcomed employers, consumers and guests while Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan gave a proclamation announcing March 8, 2005 as Disabilities Awareness Day in Monroe County.

All of the employers at this year's event were honored for going above and beyond to provide an open and successful work environment to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Businesses were chosen after a selection process in which staff members nominated employers they felt went above and beyond in providing employment opportunities and support to employees. Nominations were then screened by a selection committee who narrowed down the field to choose the 10 recipients.

During the event Stone Belt staff presented the award to the business they nominated. Their speeches included reasons why the business was being honored. Client employees also were given the chance to thank their employers. Representatives from the individual businesses accepted the award. Read on to find out what businesses were honored.

STEAK 'N SHAKE EAST



Employer: Randy Groh
Employee: Victor Sarno
Staff: Kris Teegardin

IRON PIT GYM



Employers: Matt Andrews (L), Doug Ballard (R)
Employee: Shawn King
Staff: Steve Warren

HOSPITAL FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES



Employer: Randy Sparrow
Employee: Carolyn Wetzal
Staff: Pam Deckard

BLOOMINGTON HARDWARE



Employer: Vickie Davison
Employee: Lennon Beasley
Staff: Pam Deckard

ARBY'S EAST



Employer: Cat Dorney
Employee: Breanne Burris
Staff: Kim Brown

QUALITY SURFACES, INC.



Employer: Mike Job
Employee: Robert (Bucky) Buchanan
Staff: Marsha Greable

IVY TECH WORD PROCESSING CENTER



Employer: Diana Fessler
Employee: Misha Durham
Staff: Sarah Bullock

HOSPITAL LINENS DEPARTMENT



Employers: Bryon Blackwell (L), Philip Richey (second from R), Gordon Mouras (R)
Employee: Jerry Zumpe
Staff: Pam Deckard

FALAFEL'S RESTAURANT



Employer: Shai Sarfati
Employee: Donna Stevens
Staff: Kim Brown

IVY TECH FACILITIES DEPARTMENT



Employers: Doug Mattick (L), Don Skeens (R)
Employees: (L/R) Mike Murphy, Susie Deckard, Ray Weber
Staff: Joe Rayl

membership

Community members attend dedication

On April 13 Stone Belt held a dedication ceremony for its recently completed 10th Street building addition. Over 50 community members including local lawmakers, clients and families attended the gathering held in the addition’s new programming space. During the event Kathy Hudson, mother of Stone Belt client Kelly Tate spoke of Stone Belt’s impact on her daughter. Kelly is one of many consumers who participate in programming in the new addition daily. “Stone Belt has helped Kelly become an independent young woman. I’ve watched her change during her time at Stone Belt from being a little girl who didn’t want to leave her mom into a woman who can’t wait to start her day on her own and wants to move into her own apartment,” said Hudson. Kelly also designed a piece of artwork that will hang in the new addition as part of the dedication. She started the piece by drawing a picture of a girl with a guitar in crayon. Next, Stone Belt art teacher Karen Holtzclaw helped her make a mosaic of her drawing by breaking CDs into pieces and arranging them around the artwork. Finally, the piece was completed by spreading colored sand onto parts of the drawing to give it a unique texture. The artwork was then framed with a mat and a small plaque dedicating the building. The piece was reveled during the ceremony to rave reviews. Other speakers during the dedication included Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green; County Commissioners, Iris Kiesling and Joyce Poling; Susie Johnson from the City of Bloomington; and Don Hossler, president of Stone Belt’s board of directors.

Stone Belt received \$100,000 from the City as part of the Community Development Block Grant program. “It meant so much to Stone Belt to have the support of the City during this project,” said Green. “Without their financial and political support we couldn’t have done it. I’m grateful that representatives could attend to see what we’ve accomplished together.” In conjunction with the building dedication Stone Belt also launched a membership drive. This year new members will receive Stone Belt Leather Works items as a thank you gift for their donation. Items available for different donation levels are listed at right. There are several other benefits to becoming a Stone Belt Arc member, including insurance programs and the subscription to several newsletters. Please see the enclosed envelope for more information.

➤ If you would like to join the Arc and receive your complimentary leather gift please fill out the enclosed envelope with your donation. If you have any questions please contact Leslie Green at 812-332-2168, ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org.

planned giving

Create a legacy with planned giving

There are many ways to support Stone Belt’s mission to prepare, empower and support persons with disabilities. If you want to join others who are helping sustain a lasting future for Stone Belt while creating your own legacy, perhaps you should consider a planned gift. Planned giving is a flexible way to contribute. It allows an individual to make a donation of money, real estate, life insurance or retirement plans with giving up little to no assets right away. There are five ways to make a planned gift. A person may include the organization in a will or trust or make Stone Belt Arc, Incorporated a beneficiary to a life insurance policy. A donor also may give real estate, make life income arrangements, or name Stone Belt as a recipient to retirement plan assets. Regardless of how a person chooses to contribute, the donor may designate how Stone Belt is to use the funds. Donors have the option of putting their contribution to work for a particular program or project, or they may give to a general fund for the greatest current need of the organization. Many people make unrestricted gifts because they know that 20, 30, or even 50 years into the future, we’re not sure where the critical needs for people with disabilities will be. Either way, planned giving contributes to the long-term success of Stone Belt Arc and to great satisfaction for the donor. Just a reminder for those of you who have already made contributions to Stone Belt Planned Giving via your Will or Trust. Your estate planning, including the preparation of your Will and Trust documents should be periodically reviewed. Every five years is recommended. Not only do the specific Indiana state and federal laws governing Wills and Trusts change, but so do the income tax laws which directly affect the outcome of your decisions. We urge you to reflect on the estate plan you currently have in effect. If it has been five or more years since you executed those documents, we suggest that you contact an attorney to schedule a review of your specific plan in conjunction with the current status of the laws affecting your estate planning. Equally important for your attorney to know are the changes in your life and priorities, which may differ from the circumstances that prompted your existing estate plan. The process is simple: Just contact the attorney who originally worked with you in creating your current Estate and Will documents to update wherever needed. If you do not have a will get one today. ➤ For more information on how to make a planned gift, please contact Leslie Green at (812) 332-2168, ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org. For planning purposes our Federal tax ID number is EIN 35-1059827 and our corporate offices are located at 2815 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN, 47401.

thank you

Stone Belt would like to offer one of these premium leather items made at our Leather Works facility as a special thank you for your contribution. Please see the enclosed envelope to make your donation and select your gift.

double ring key fob
\$25 donation



advantage checkbook cover
\$75 donation



impressions photo frame
\$150 donation



designers zippered portfolio
\$250 donation



executive portfolio
\$500 donation

community spotlight

Stone Belt client impacts area leader

One of Stone Belt’s core values is to partner with the community to prepare, empower and support persons with developmental disabilities to participate fully in the life of the community. All of our consumers live full and active lives, participating in countless area activities. Many community members have spoken about how their lives have been touched through their friendship with a Stone Belt consumer. Recently Father Dan Atkins of St. Paul’s Catholic Church spoke in a Sunday sermon about how a memory of consumer Martha Hines will remain with him forever. Father Dan is preparing to leave Bloomington to embark on a new journey with a new parish. In one of his final sermons to his congregation he recounted a story of Martha that impacted his years of service. This story illustrates the wonderful relationship that exists between community members and Stone Belt consumers. Stone Belt thanks Father Dan for sharing his story with us.

By Father Dan Atkins, St. Paul’s Catholic Church

I will have many wonderful memories of St. Paul to take with me, but there’s one in particular that will stand out. It’s not a memory about one of our beautiful liturgies or retreats or weddings or baptisms. My fondest memory of St. Paul I think will always be a picture of many of us gathered under a tent across the field after one of our Masses in the Meadow. We had all celebrated together and then we sat down to eat. Afterwards there were games and prizes. The final one was a pair of tickets to a Cub’s game, I think. The winning ticket belonged to Martha Hines, one of the young ladies of our parish. Martha is a very special person. At the moment she realized she had won she jumped up and shouted with a look of surprise and supreme happiness on her face. That’s a wonderful picture, but I remember that we were all so happy for her that we all started cheering. For a moment it seemed to me that I was in the Kingdom. “This is what it’s like,” I thought, “to be cheering for one another and to be happy for one another.” It was a moment that, if the sun had stopped shining, I wouldn’t have noticed.

Stone Belt

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Client Angela Otting enjoys time with her mom Mary Lou during the event.



Stone Belt board president Don Hossler with Teresa Grossi, school board member.



Client Kelly Tate with her mom Kathy Hudson who spoke during the event.



Jo VanDerSnick (L) and Kim Campbell of Bank One with Stone Belt CFO Dave Gootee (R). Bank One handled financing for the addition.



County Commissioners Joyce Poling (L) and Iris Kiesling with County Council rep. Sophia Travis (R). Poling and Kiesling spoke at the event.

Celebration

In April Stone Belt hosted a building dedication and membership drive at its 10th Street facility. If you are interested in becoming a Stone Belt Arc member find out how on Page 7.



Stone Belt staff (L/R) Kathy Hunter, Kyong Ge Williams and Dale Zabel helped with catering and decorations for the event.



Bob Wolford and Susie Williams from the City of Bloomington were instrumental in planning the new addition.