

touchstone

spring 2013

Stone Belt presents news & information for individuals with disabilities, families, friends and our community

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upcoming changes to the Group Home system are discussed
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each region's Client council is highlighted
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Pathway to Employment
one Stone Belt client's pathway to employment.
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2013 Hoosier



PRESENTED BY:

 **INDIANA**
RUNNING
COMPANY

The Hoosier Half Marathon will support **Stone Belt**, along with two other community philanthropies, this year! Registrants can sign up at <http://www.hoosierhalf.com> to be a part of the "**Team Stone Belt**," and a portion of the registration fee will be donated to us!

The Hoosier Half Marathon & 5k are looking for runners, walkers, volunteers and sponsors - and we hope you'll consider it all!



Stone Belt clients Betsy Higgins, Amanda Wilson and client Board Member Jacqueline Hall (center) pose with Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann during a Self Advocates legislative visit in February.

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 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.

find us on...



Group Home Conversion



The residents of Blackstone Home, a Stone Belt Group Home in the Bloomington that is currently funded by the ICF licensure program

On **January 24, 2013** the State of Indiana announced its plan to change the funding structure for group homes. This change eliminates the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) licensure program in which Stone Belt operates group homes. However, this change does not eliminate the ability to continue providing services within the homes. Stone Belt is being given the opportunity to convert all current group homes to **Medicaid Waiver funded programs**. Stone Belt intends to continue to provide group home living for 5-7 residents, using a supported living model, for as many current clients as wish to receive it.

When Stone Belt goes through this conversion, all clients in the group home program will be given a Medicaid Waiver to fund their services. This individualized waiver can be used to stay in a group home or to choose another living arrangement. Those who stay in the group homes will generally have **four to six house mates** (as they do now) or if they move to another type of residence in the community they will have two or three house mates in a smaller home or apartment that they rent in the community. Stone Belt will work with all individuals very carefully to minimize the impact this change has on them and facilitate any transitions that may be necessary.

When Stone Belt goes through this conversion, all clients in the group home program will be given a Medicaid Waiver to fund their services.

The supported group homes will have much the same look and feel that as they do now, but will allow for more **individual choice**. The regulations for waiver funding provide for health, safety, and quality outcomes without some of the “institutional” regulations under which group homes were operated in the past.

for more information on the group home conversion please contact Matt Minderman, Director of Supported Group Living at 812.332.2168 ext 227 or email mminderman@stonebelt.org

	ICF Group Homes	Supported Living Group Homes
Transportation	Transportation van provided by Stone Belt as part of all-inclusive rate	Transportation becomes individualized including the use of public transit, staff vehicles and agency owned vehicles
Meals	Provided by Stone Belt as part of all-inclusive rate Meals planned by a dietician	Purchased with food stamps and client funds Meals may be shared or individualized, based on how clients arrange their mealtimes
Housing	Provided by Stone Belt as part of all-inclusive rate	Client can remain in Stone Belt group home and pay a housing fee that covers rent, utilities and maintenance; or clients can choose to live in an apartment or smaller house with 2-3 housemates
Staffing	Determined by licensure category for each home	Determined by budget allocation Shared staffing will be required for most hours of the day with some one-on-one supports allowable within individualized budgets

for concerns related to State policies regarding this change please contact the State DDRS department at 1-800-545-7763 or visit www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs

from the CEO

Imagine that I have a translucent spherical object on my desk. I can look into its somewhat opalescence mist swirling within it and a picture of the future emerges.... here is what I see:

- a world where people with disabilities live meaningful and productive lives surrounding by family, friends and a community that includes them
- a society that values and supports quality services, offered by a well-trained and fairly compensated workforce, that helps people with disabilities to grow, excel and be fully contributing members of society

But wait a minute, this isn't a crystal ball -- it is a snow globe and its all shaken up. There is all this white particle matter now swirling around in the sphere, obscuring what I am envisioning. Paradigms are shifting and systems are changing. While we are not totally opposed to changes, the way ahead is fuzzy and fraught with challenges. In the past five years, we have experienced diminishing resources and increased demands, both in terms of the service needs of clients and the administrative red tape required to provide the services.



It is not hopeless, but we are greatly challenged. These past few years of "the great recession" have stressed our ability to deliver services. While we know everyone has had to economize through these tough times, we are not willing to let our assurance of quality erode. This has put the greatest strain on our amazing and dedicated workforce. They have continued to not only provide great services, but also to improve them wherever possible. We believe this has lessened,

though not eliminated, the negative impact that all the budget cuts have had on clients. We feel positively about what we have been able to accomplish in the current day environment, but we may not be able to maintain this positive momentum forever.

We strive to maintain the focus on our vision. Building on our success at moving people from institutions to community-based services, we know we have a lot more work ahead. So much remains to be done to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities and to support families with children and loved ones living at home. To do this, however, we need additional resources to professionally train and compensate our workforce and to meet ever-rising costs of doing business.

Your voices are important. When discussions occur in Indianapolis and Washington about funding for services, we need legislators to understand that additional harmful cuts will put people with disabilities more at risk. Telling them your story of a loved that depends upon supports or who is waiting for his/her name to come up on the waiting list for services is powerful. It's important for others of you to voice your feelings as well, demonstrating to lawmakers a broad base of support for community-based services.

We so greatly appreciate the financial support of our generous donors. Your gifts enable us to sustain essential programs and to offer a degree of quality that we couldn't attain on our service revenues alone. Your impact is meaningful in the lives of so many and we are ever grateful to you.

I will never have a crystal ball, but with everyone's help and a lot of perseverance toward meeting our mission, we can realize a more positive future, despite the challenges. Thank you to all for your ongoing partnership in achieving our vision.

With an ever hopeful and grateful heart,

Leslie Green, Chief Executive Officer

upcoming events

- **April Artist Showcase at the Stone Belt Art Gallery : Justin Phillips**
Friday, April 5th, 5 - 7:30 pm (Gallery Walk Friday)
Reception will be at the Stone Belt Art Gallery in the lobby of the Bloomington Playwright's Project (107 West 9th Street, Bloomington)
- **Columbus Open House**
Thursday, April 4th, 5 - 7 pm
The Doug Otto United Way Center , 1531 13th Street, Columbus
Come learn about all of the programs offered by Stone Belt and how you can get involved. Prizes, light refreshments, client led tours and an art exhibit will highlight this fun evening.
- **2013 Hoosier Half Marathon & 5k**
Saturday, April 6th , 6:30 am - 11:45 am
packet pick-up & late registration can also be done on Friday April 5, 4 pm - 8 pm
Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center (17th Street, IU Campus, Bloomington)
- **Stone Belt and Ivy Tech Present: The Columbus Learning Series**
Thursday, April 25th , 10 am - noon, Hands in Autism Workshop
1 - 3 pm, DSM-V Seminar
Columbus Learning Center (4555 Central Ave, Columbus)
See page 3 for more details

a fond farewell!



Linda Merriman, after 34 years with Stone Belt and most recently a Direct Support Specialist in the Manufacturing Services Workshop pictured here with clients at work, retired on March 15. Linda is our longest tenured employee and has touched the lives of countless clients and staff. Linda will be greatly missed!

touchstone

Spring 2013, Issue 37

Touchstone is published quarterly by:

Stone Belt
2815 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
812.332.2168 • 888.332.2168
www.stonebelt.org
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What is this?
This is a QR Code.
If scanned with an
iPhone or Android device it
will direct you to Stone Belt's
Facebook page where you can "like"
us and share our great work with
your friends!



Touchstone is distributed free of charge to families, friends, businesses and community partners of Stone Belt.
If you would like to receive our newsletter or request it in an accessible format contact Andrew Ashton | aashton@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext. 261

in brief

expanded columbus offerings for Milestones services

Stone Belt and Ivy Tech Present: The Columbus Learning Series
Thursday, April 25th, 10 am - 3 pm
The Columbus Learning Center, 4555 Central Ave, Columbus, IN 47203
Registration is \$5 (to cover the cost of lunch), please register early to ensure catering accuracy.
CEUs are available!

10 am - noon, Ann Fletcher, from Hands in Autism, will provide hands on behavior management resources workshop.
1 - 3 pm, DSM-V Seminar will be provided by Bob Siegmann, Sr. Vice President for Healthcare Integration and Collaboration at Centerstone.

for more information about this event, contact Pamela Vincent by email at pvincent@ivytech.edu

Increased Mental Health Therapy Availability:
Claudia Dominik, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor, leads a team of therapists providing quality counseling to children and families. Siobhan Nelson, LMFT, and Abby May, LCSW, have joined Claudia in the past year. They provide individual, family and group therapy.

for more information about Counseling Services, email Claudia Dominik at cdominik@istonebelt.org

Telemedicine Increases Connection and Availability:
Our telemedicine equipment will enable us to increase the available hours of Dr. Lia Kettenis, our psychiatrist. Besides Wednesdays, she will start having some additional scheduled time to meet the needs of the Columbus area, via telemedicine. This service will begin by May. An additional benefit to telemedicine is the increased ability of staff to participate in a variety of training and supervision activities not as easily available to them before.

Play Therapy Hours Increased:
With the increase in therapists, we are now able to provide play therapy to more children. This is a specialist mode of therapy known to be excellent in working with young children who use toys as their words to express themselves.

Workshops beginning this Summer:
For parents that need additional tips and strategies for assisting their children, we will begin providing workshops this summer such as: Strategies for Working with Your Child with ADHD and Homework Strategies.

Behavior Specialist Support Increased in Columbus Area:
Stevi Huguenard-Davis, M.A., MFT, has been hired to increase the Behavior Specialist hours needed in the Columbus Area, due to increased referrals of people receiving the Family Supports Services Waiver. Stevi earned her bachelor's degree in Long-Term Health-Care Administration from Indiana State University. She graduated with honors from Capella University with a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT). Stevi holds a systemic world-view and is passionate about working with individuals, families and support systems. Stevi is based in the Columbus Milestones' Office and serves both Columbus and the surrounding communities

for more information about Milestones please contact Milestones Director, Maureen Gahan, at mgahan@stonebelt.org or 812.333.6324

legislative update



The Indiana General Assembly convened on January 7 to begin a new legislative session. Even though there are several freshmen members and fairly new second-term legislators coming from the districts in which Stone Belt operates, most of them have already visited with and learned more about people with disabilities. Prior to and since the election we have reached out to establish regular contact with the new legislators, by providing tours of our programs, communicating by email, and participating in community events at which legislators are present. The response from them has been very positive and supportive. Since they will be deciding on many issues important to individuals with disabilities in the upcoming months, we must continue to remain engaged. You can be a part of this essential effort, as well. If you have not already, please go to www.arcind.org and sign up for The Arc of Indiana's legislative action alerts. You will then get weekly updates from now until the end of the session in April that will inform you on important issues and how to take action so legislators will know how their votes will impact people with disabilities. Funding for public transportation, healthcare reform and state budget allocations for services are among the more critical issues being considered in this session. More voices, including yours, mean more education for the legislators.

Self-advocates from all of Stone Belt's locations, along with Stone Belt board members, visited the State House in Indianapolis on Valentines Day to deliver home-made Valentines to all of our local legislators. This was a great opportunity for us to thank them for the support they provide and to help them understand the importance of continuing that support.

for more information on participating, please contact lgreen@stonebelt.org or call 812.332.2168, ext 249

seeking employment

Employment is a fundamental part of adult life in our society. Holding a job not only provides the ability to purchase life essentials; it also improves self image, self-esteem and the perception of one's worth in the community.

In 2012 Stone Belt's Community Employment Program helped 47 people find jobs, and supported 113 additional working individuals, as well as another 61 seeking employment. The clients we support earn an average of \$7.81 per hour, work an average of 18 hours per week and remain with employers for an average of 4.5 years!

We invite the community to partner with us to build upon this success! Help us make connections between Stone Belt and the business community, and inspire more people to join us in successfully employing individuals with disabilities. Together we can change lives, one job at a time!

Kimmi Bignell



Kimberly (Kimmi) Bignell is currently looking for part-time employment in Bloomington. She has been looking for a job since November 2011. Kimmi enjoys working with her hands. Her preferred job would be cleaning tables in a cafeteria, restaurant or hotel. Kimmi has many transferable job skills that she has gained from past employment, such as her work for Fairfield Inn in Terre Haute as a custodian for over a year. Also, she worked for Vigo County Federal Credit Union in Terre Haute assisting administration with shredding confidential documents. In 2008, Kimmi moved to Bloomington. Since that time, she has worked for the Stone Belt Life Sciences Workshop as an assembler. Kimmi enjoys working and being around people of all ages. She is looking for a job that is 10 to 15 hours per week.

Krista Heard



Krista Heard has worked for Stone Belt's Life Sciences Workshop since 1997. She is currently looking for part-time employment in Bloomington. Krista's preferred job would be working in either a retail or grounds keeping setting. Through past employment, Krista has learned jobs skills that vary from janitorial to customer service. Her outgoing personality would be an asset to any workplace. Krista would like to work for an employer where her organizational skills are an utilized. Krista would like to work 2 - 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday.

to find out more about Community Employment Services please contact Bitta DeWees, Director of Employment, at bdeweess@stonebelt.org or call 812.335.3507 ext. 273

{the client council}

People have the right to self-determination. They must have opportunities and experiences that enable them to exert control in their lives and to advocate on their own behalf. In addition, we emphasize that rights and responsibilities are connected. We teach and provide information for people to make choices as well as take responsibility for their own decisions.



Left to right: Melissa Abbitt, Annie Diskowski, Brandon Kerfoot, Jeff Stillions, Denise Hillenberg and Shirley Freeman.

Bloomington Client Council

The Stone Belt Central Region (Bloomington) Client Council was established - as stated in the founding decree - as a way to "provide Lifelong Learning clients with an opportunity to have their say and help make decisions about activities and programs... with an additional goal to work on projects that help the community."

As the inaugural election was taking place it was clear that social gatherings were at the top of everybody's list. Campaign speech after campaign speech mentioned different ways to increase social events, friendship building, and awareness.

A month into their term, council members were diving in and providing valuable feedback about the new Lifelong Learning classes that had started, and introduced some ideas of their own for the future. Their first community initiative was a two week food drive in which items were donated to Community Kitchen.

With the desire to increase social activities it is perhaps no surprise that the Client Council became very interested in sponsoring screenings of various musicals. Grease was the first event of this type and was co-sponsored by the Monroe County Self Advocates!

Now after their second election and an entirely new governing body, the group is revisiting its roots and creating a schedule of events that, no doubt, embodies its original desire to be involved in making decisions that affects not only themselves, but their peers and the community in which they live. Their next big event (also co-sponsored by Self Advocates) will be held on March 30th at the Stone Belt gym in Bloomington. It will be a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for a formal dance later in the year.



Standing: Ann Maple, Zoe Ginnings, Seated: Samantha Hall, Nicolas Lyford-Pike, Tonya Adams, Zech Reichmann and Kimberly Craig (Jamie Turner not pictured.)

Columbus Client Council

Stone Belt Lifelong Learning in Columbus supports client's desire to be involved and have input in the programs through the Client Council. Consensus building and communication between the clients, Stone Belt and the staff is a very important component that we are developing within the council. Staff also disseminates information and gathers feedback from the clients during council meetings. The area that is appealing and appreciated by the wide range of clients is making recommendations for the improvement of client services provided by Stone Belt Lifelong Learning day program.

Council meetings are scheduled monthly, per the choice of the clients. The date and time and location of the meetings are noted on the monthly activity calendar. We encourage the council to elect a President or Chair to act as a liaison and facilitate communication between the council and Stone Belt. Currently our President is Zech Reichmann.



Left to right: Beth Myers, Mike Collins, Audrey Goins, Mike McCleery, Kelly Draus, Haley Franklin, Justin Brown, Burton Franklin, Tim McCullough and Nancy Pugh.

Bedford Client Council

The Client Council was recently started in Bedford with participants from both the Lifelong Learning Program and the Workshop. The purpose of the Council is to give clients opportunities for input into the programming and environment in which they spend their day. A recent election resulted in the following clients becoming the first officers of the council:

Justin Brown - President
Haley Franklin - Vice President
Kelly Draus - Secretary
Jeff Foddrill - Treasurer

The Council has met once per week for the last three weeks, and so far has focused mainly on some physical changes they would like to see in the environment both inside and outside the building (i.e., water dispensers, changes in vending machine choices, flower gardens, etc.).

Q&A With Client Council Members

a Touchstone Reporter sat down with members of the client council to discuss their participation

Q: What is your favorite thing about the Client Council?

A: We love the event planning. It's nice to plan things like dances, movies and parties because it makes other people happy.

Q: How does being a part of the Client Council make you feel?

A: It makes me feel safe and important. It feels good to have a voice and make an impact.

Q: Has the Client Council helped you make friends?

A: Yes, we have made many friends. We are friends with each other and get to meet other friends through our events.

Q: Has the Client Council helped you feel like you have more of a voice?

A: Yes, we are able to influence program scheduling and present ideas for future programs. We came up with the film series that many clients really liked.

► for more information about Stone Belt's Lifelong Learning Program, contact Lifelong Learning Director Susan Russ at sruss@stonebelt.org or call 812.332.2168 ext. 223

PATHWAY_{to}EMPLOYMENT

Stone Belt Board President talks about her sister's pathway to employment and inclusion in a documentary by The Arc of Indiana



Cheryl Thompson, Stone Belt client, on the job at IUPD. Photo courtesy of Kendall Reeves of Spectrum Studio and United Way

what an **amazing** time we are having!

by Stone Belt Board President, Trish Ierino

My sister, Cheryl Thompson, has been a Stone Belt client since 2007. As each year passes, incredible new and exciting experiences come our way with the support of Stone Belt.

In the spring of 2012, I was reading an email from The Arc of Indiana about a documentary that was to be made about employment success stories. What a great idea to share positive and successful job outcomes! They were asking for stories to be submitted for consideration. I immediately submitted Cheryl's success story.

Cheryl had never had a job in the community. When she relocated to Bloomington in 2006, I knew it was the right time to help her gain new experiences in small steps. She began attending Stone Belt Lifelong Learning classes for a few hours each week. Then she began to work in Stone Belt Life Sciences Manufacturing. During one of her quarterly team meetings, I was asked what I thought about Cheryl having a part time job in the community. We talked with Cheryl and she was very excited about having a job similar to her Stone Belt friends. Stone Belt Employment Services began to search for a good job match. Cheryl began working part time at the Indiana University Police Department (IUPD) in February 2011. It was the perfect match. The IUPD team is wonderful. They quickly made Cheryl feel as though she is part of their team.

In August 2012, we were contacted by Kenneth Oguss from The Arc of Indiana. Cheryl's story would be in the documentary! We were so excited for Cheryl and the Stone Belt Community. Kenneth spent three days in Bloomington filming Cheryl at work, at Stone Belt and in the community. The Arc of Indiana hosted a gala film premier in Indianapolis on January 15th. Approximately 150 were in attendance; Stone Belt team members, state legislators, friends and family. It was very exciting!

▶ Cheryl's documentary segment can be found by visiting the multi-media section of the Stone Belt Website at www.stonebelt.org

about the **documentary**

from The Arc of Indiana

The Arc of Indiana has produced a documentary film series, Pathways to Employment, which celebrates six unique Hoosiers, including Bloomington, Indiana resident Cheryl Thompson, who have not let their developmental disabilities stand in their way of becoming employed. The six short films are designed to share the message that hiring people with developmental disabilities is "Good for Business, Good for People and Good for the Economy."

Cheryl Thompson's story is told in the short film, "Networks of Support." Cheryl, who has a developmental disability, grew up in a protective family environment. After her family moved to Bloomington, staff at Stone Belt Arc and her sister helped Cheryl begin to take little steps out into the world of community and employment. Today Cheryl works for the IU Police Department, does assembly work for Cook Incorporated, and enjoys her many friends and social activities. Her willingness to try new things and her positive outlook on life inspire all who come to know Cheryl.

The documentary is available on The Arc of Indiana's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/arcadvocate, in the playlist, "Pathways to Employment;" and will be available on DVD, along with a study guide for use by schools, civic organizations, businesses and providers of services to people with disabilities. The DVD and study guide can be ordered by contacting The Arc of Indiana at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100.

▶ for more information about The Arc of Indiana, visit www.arcind.org

engaging with the community

Giving to Stone Belt is an investment in the future of our entire community – we all benefit when every individual is acknowledged as making contributions and is supported in a self-determined life. Stone Belt is truly honored to be recognized by our visionary donors, who help insure that Stone Belt remains at the forefront of the field, implementing substantive programs that change lives.

Recent Grants of Note

Stone Belt has recently received four wonderful grants, to support on-going programs of excellence in the agency.

We received \$10,000 from the Davee Foundation of Chicago to fund curriculum development in our Lifelong Learning Program (to date, we have received more than \$50,000 from this outstanding foundation!); we received \$4300 from the Monroe County Council to purchase new training room/groups room furniture in our Milestones Clinic in Bloomington; we received \$4000 from the Lawrence County Arc (LARC) to fund Work Experiences through our Bedford Community Employment Program; and we received \$28,000 from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County to fund implementation of our Electronic Health Record (EHR) to be utilized throughout the agency in our Milestones Clinics.

We are very grateful for the support of these generous organizations at such a significant level.

NAP Tax Credit Program

Each year for the past 7 years, Stone Belt has been awarded a grant of tax credits from the State of Indiana. These credits are passed along each year as savings to our generous donors, who receive 50% of their donation back as a tax refund when they file their state tax return (with Stone Belt keeping the entirety of their gift!). This fiscal year, Stone Belt received \$18,000 in tax credits, establishing a fundraising goal of \$36,000. We are pleased to report that we distributed all of the tax credits to donors in the first half of the fiscal year, raising \$36,000 to support pro-bono counseling hours in our Milestones Clinics. Hundreds of lives will be touched by this visionary giving.

Our deep appreciation to all of the donors who participated in this year’s NAP giving program. Stone Belt will once again be applying for NAP tax credits to make available to donors beginning July 1, 2013.

Run (or Walk!) to Support Stone Belt!

Looking for a fun way to get healthy, connect with friends, and support Stone Belt’s Programs of Excellence? Join us for the 2013 Hoosier Half Marathon! We are extremely pleased that the organizers of the athletic gathering (Indiana Running

Company and its friends) have selected Stone Belt as one of the philanthropic recipients of proceeds from this year’s upcoming event. For the April 6 run, which will draw more than 2000 participants, registrants will be able to sign up for “Team Stone Belt,” with a portion of their registration fee then directed to our agency. Stone Belt is currently partnering with the organizers to recruit runners and volunteers, and to coordinate opportunities for our clients to get involved in myriad fun ways. Information on the event can be found by visiting both the Stone Belt and Hoosier Half Marathon websites (address on the back of your Touchstone). We invite you to get involved as a runner/walker, a volunteer, or a corporate sponsor. We love when community businesses support our clients in such meaningful and grand-scale ways!

2013 Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Stone Belt’s friends in the business community impact the agency not only through their philanthropic gifts, but also by lending their voices as advocates for the extraordinary accomplishments made when positive supports are provided to individuals with disabilities.

Stone Belt’s 2013 event calendar provides a visible opportunity for area businesses to be connected to significant community celebrations. Information on corporate sponsorship marketing benefits can be found on page 7. It’s not too late to become a Stone Belt 2013 Corporate Sponsor. We look forward to partnering with our business community once again this year!

The Jewel Society – Stone Belt’s Planned Giving Program

Stone Belt’s Jewel Society is an honorary society that recognizes those who have named Stone Belt as a beneficiary in their estate plans. The Jewel Society provides visionary donors with the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in support of individuals with disabilities. Jewel Society members are listed in Stone Belt publications, according to the wishes of the donor.

You can join the Jewel Society through several planned giving options, including: bequests, certificates of deposit, charitable gift annuities, private retirement plans, gifts of insurance, charitable lead trusts, and charitable remainder trusts. Stone Belt encourages donors to speak with a professional estate advisor when making decisions about planned gifts.

➤ *for more information on giving opportunities to Stone Belt, contact Leslie Green, CEO, at 812-332-2168 ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org.*

art gallery update

event recap

Holiday Market

Special thanks to everyone who joined us for our annual Holiday Market, held this year in partnership with Global Gifts of Bloomington. The market featured beautiful handmade works of art created by individuals with disabilities from both our community and from around the globe. It was our most successful holiday sale yet, with almost \$3000 in sales from Stone Belt items alone. Most of this income goes to the talented client artists who produce the pieces. Great job everybody!

Wonderlab Art of Science Night

Wonderlab hosts an Art of Science night featuring an artist and an art project for children and their families to enjoy on the first Fridays of each month. Wonderlab invited Stone Belt to provide the featured artists for the Art of Science night in December. Three of our talented clients, Nikki Coffey, Carolyn Abbitt, and Polly Scroggin, were chosen and each received an honorarium for their participation. Nikki demonstrated her unique approach to painting, Carolyn answered questions about her mosaic building process and Polly worked on a larger group mosaic alongside staff and visitors. Everyone involved had a blast exploring art and engaging with the Bloomington community.

The February Art Exhibit

The February exhibition featured an exciting array of brand new mixed media mosaics. We had a tremendous turnout, despite the frigid temperatures. Five pieces from the show have sold to date, including works by artists from all three of Stone Belt’s studio locations. Congratulations to all of our participating artists who made this exhibition such a success!

upcoming events

March Art Exhibit

Please join us at the Stone Belt Art Gallery for our first Friday open house on March 1st, from 5 - 7:30 pm. These exhibits will fall on the first Fridays of the months in between Gallery Walks and give Stone Belt art lovers a chance to explore the works on display. Though there will not be a new exhibition, new pieces get hung frequently as work sells, so stop by and see what is new in the gallery!

Featured Artist Exhibit

Be sure to also make your way over during the next Gallery Walk - Friday, April 5th, 5 - 7:30 pm - for our very first Featured Artist Showcase. Brand new works by Columbus artist, Justin Phillips, will be on display, as well as other never before seen works from your favorite Stone Belt artists. You will not want to miss it!

Columbus Open House

Looking to purchase a piece outside of Bloomington? Stone Belt’s Columbus location (1531 13th, the United Way Building) is having an Open House on Thursday, April 4th, from 5 to 7pm. There will be artwork by Columbus artists on display as well as some for sale. Come learn about our Columbus programs and take a client-lead tour of the facility!

➤ *The Stone Belt Art Gallery can be visited Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm, and “Gallery Walk” first Fridays, 5:30-8 pm. The gallery is located at 107 West 9th Street in the lobby of the Bloomington Playwright’s Project. For more information contact Jana Lashbrook, Community Engagement Associate, at artgallery@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext. 269.*

corporate sponsor **benefits**

2013 provides a unique opportunity for your company to be a part of something truly special, as the community of Bloomington and south central Indiana celebrates the extraordinary achievements made in the lives of thousands of people we support. To find out how you can be a part of Stone Belt’s 2013 events, contact Community Engagement Associate **Jana Lashbrook** at 812-332-2168, ext. 269 / sponsorship@stonebelt.org. As a sponsor, depending on your level of sponsorship, you gain access to significant marketing opportunities including recognition, tickets and participation at **the following events:**

Art Exhibit Openings

Located in the heart of Bloomington’s Entertainment and Arts District, the Stone Belt Art Gallery is home to exquisite one-of-a-kind art works created by individuals with disabilities. Featuring seasonal exhibits, plus bi-monthly evening “gallery walk” receptions. Two times each calendar year, the Gallery hosts an extended reception and exhibit opening. The Stone Belt Art Gallery has quickly become a destination for community art lovers, and provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to work as professional artists.

Excellence Awards

Celebrated in March as part of Disabilities Awareness Month, Stone Belt’s Excellence Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of five staff members who have truly excelled in their work supporting individuals with disabilities. Now in its sixth year, this event is attended by Stone Belt and Community Leaders. The Excellence Awards includes a catered luncheon and awards ceremony followed by media recognition of all winners and select corporate sponsors.

Milestones Open House

The Milestones Clinic - Stone Belt’s premiere program of psychological and clinical supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as children and adolescents - is now celebrating its 7th year in operation. Milestones supports more than 2,500 individuals and their families throughout south central Indiana. The clinic is considered one of the most cutting-edge mental health facilities in the region. This open house will draw many individuals of notoriety.

The Empowered Learning Series

The Empowered Learning Series is an on-going educational program in which experts in the field provide comprehensive information to the whole of the community. Held in a state-of-the-art meeting space at the IU Innovation Center - with video conferencing to additional locations in South Central Indiana - the series reaches a considerable audience. In 2013, Stone Belt will host three Empowered Learning Series events, including topics in: Autism; Financial Planning for Families with Special Needs; and Community Employment Opportunities.

Annual Awards Celebration

Held at the Bloomington Convention Center, this annual event is attended by 500+ community members. This celebration recognizes the extraordinary achievements and contributions of Stone Belt clients, staff, community partners and volunteers. Features include the awards ceremony, a catered dinner and wonderful entertainment, as well as media recognition of all winners and select corporate sponsors.

Holiday Art Market

Each winter, Stone Belt hosts a holiday art market to share extraordinary artistic abilities of our clients. The event takes place at the Stone Belt Art Gallery, located in the Downtown Entertainment and Arts District, and draws an attendance of hundreds of regional community members. Shoppers have the opportunity to purchase art calendars and note cards, holiday ornaments and decorations, as well as framed and unframed original works. Now in its sixth year, Stone Belt’s Holiday Art Market has become an anticipated art event each winter season.

donor appreciation

Stone Belt extends appreciation to all our generous donors from **October 1, 2012 - January 31, 2013**. We are grateful for their continued support.

Foundation Society

\$25,000-\$49,999

Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County

Cornerstone Society

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