

touchstone

A quarterly publication providing the latest news & information for individuals with disabilities, families, friends and our community.

EMPLOYMENT IS FUNDAMENTAL



Kate Turner works on soft skills to be the best employee she can be.



John Smith is a college student Pre-ETS continues to support.

Students embrace summer learning

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) has had a busy summer. While three students received assistance in preparing for their first semester in college, five others participated in work experiences, gaining valuable skills and self-awareness.

Pre-ETS is a program that will help students prepare for the workforce. Students can participate in workplace-readiness training, career counseling and job exploration, counseling on post-secondary education, instruction in self-advocacy, and community work experiences.

"We are excited to have our first three college students in Pre-ETS," says employment coordinator MaryEllen Jones,

who oversees the program. "They will continue to receive supports to be successful in their college life."

Employment consultant and instructor Madeline Webster says students attended different classes this summer, including Volunteer Crew, which gives opportunities to gain employment skills while giving back in a valuable and tangible way.

"Volunteering for agencies such as Sycamore Land Trust and Community Kitchen has enriched the lives of these young people who are developing into fully actualized and self-directed adults," Webster says.

Students also attended "Cof-

fee with a Boss," which gives students the chance to meet employers. "They engage their developing social skills by participating in a reverse interview, asking the employer about anything from the employer's own career to what they expect of employees," Webster says.

By continuing summer opportunities, "Students have been able to meet with peers and make friends while working on employability skills," Jones says. "Pre-ETS has been able to allow students to continue to volunteer in school work study sites that otherwise would have been put on hold for the summer. This allows students to maintain and grow work skills."

Smith marks 25 years at dream job

An avid IU sports fan, Philip Smith always dreamed of someday working at IU. His dream came true 25 years ago when he was hired at Indiana Memorial Union Hotel, and he has maintained employment that entire time. His goal is to reach 30 years before he retires.

"This is quite an accomplishment and proof that goals can be met," says Joyce Resler, adding that Smith was her first placement as an employment consultant 25 years ago. "I have been his only job coach through his longevity with Indiana Memorial Union Hotel."



PHILIP SMITH

Smith has had four different supervisors over the years, but his job duties have remained the same. He does housekeeping and janitorial duties in the common areas of the hotel in the mornings and after lunch he reports to the laundry area and sorts linens for the remainder of his shift.

"Philip has had some ups and downs through the years, but has worked through the difficult times," Resler says. "He is a true success for the Community Employment Program."

A sampling of Stone Belt successes

Anytime I give a tour of our main facility in Bloomington, I can only show visitors about 10 percent of all Stone Belt does, because much is not within the walls of this building. It is out in the communities of Bedford, Columbus and Bloomington. It's in businesses, apartments, homes, recreational sites and more. Similarly, this newsletter cannot possibly give you all the news that happens on a daily basis for the individuals we support. So, I want to share just a few good news stories to add to all the other news you'll get in this issue.



LESLIE GREEN

Jason Barger, who moved into Simpson House in Bedford last December, has gotten an electric wheelchair and is in the process of getting an eye-controlled communication device. This will open a world of new opportunities for Jason.

Evan Turner moved into a supported living arrangement in Columbus, which is closer to his family. With excellent support from his home staff, he has adjusted to new surrounding and new routines. Previously preferring to be alone in his room, Eric is now getting out in the community, shopping and eating out. He also participates in the Lifelong Learning program, smiles more and relaxes in his new lifestyle. With supports, he recently had a Mother's Day dinner for his mom and other family members at his house.

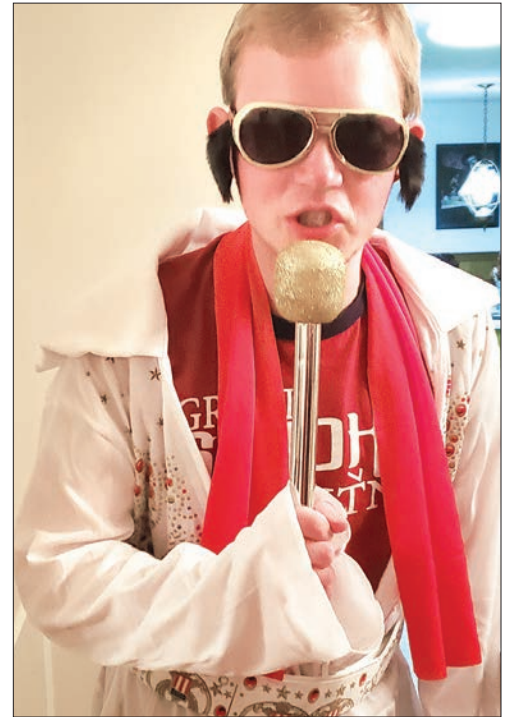
Too bad there wasn't a camera when Edna

Nichols got her first paycheck in the Manufacturing program in Bloomington. She was so excited. Edna joined the Lifelong Learning program in April and quickly made friends in the Moving Forward class. She showed great work ethic in the Growing Opportunities greenhouse, which prompted her coordinator to encourage her to try the Manufacturing program, where she is excelling. All this activity is quite a change for Edna, who didn't have these opportunities when she was living in Arkansas. She definitely is thriving in Bloomington, Indiana.

In Bedford, Mark Atchison recently moved in with a new roommate and is very happy. He has been advocating for his wants and needs and is excited about his future. Nearby, Betty Jo Terrell, who transitioned from a Stone Belt group home, and Stacey Williams, who moved from a nursing home, are enjoying their new home together. Stacey is now walking with assistance and is increasing her independence in eating.

Thomas Phillips, Terry Simpson, Jim Burhans, and Sheila Boyles recently vacationed in Memphis and toured Graceland, walked through Elvis's plane, watched the ducks walk at the Peabody, and toured the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The Elvis dress-up night was a tour highlight not to be forgotten.

Through our Employment program, Caity Duffin has gained experience and confidence to realize her dream of working in childcare. She starts work as a teacher's assistant at the Gan Shalom Preschool in August and is incredibly excited to be doing what she has always wanted to do. We are excited to see her succeed and to witness



Thomas Phillips dressed up as Elvis during a trip with his friends to Graceland.

her positive experience.

These are but a few of many, many milestone events in the lives of those supported by Stone Belt. Now that I've scooped these stories, perhaps you will see more information about them in future Stone Belt news media. You will have to check our Facebook page, future newsletters, and our newly designed website to find out.

A lot of good happens every day and you help to make that possible. Thanks for your ongoing support.

In appreciation,

Contact Your Legislators

In Washington: To express concerns about the changes in the Medicaid program or other federal issues, contact these legislators.

- Senator Todd Young
202-224-5623 in Washington or 317-226-6700 in Indianapolis
www.young.senate.gov/content/contact-senator
- Senator Joe Donnelly
202-224-4814 in Washington or 317-226-5555 in Indianapolis
www.donnelly.senate.gov/contact/email-joe

- Representative Trey Hollingsworth
202-225-5315 in Washington or 812-288-3999 in Jeffersonville
<http://hollingsworth.house.gov/contact/email>
- Representative Luke Messer
202-225-3021 or <http://messenger.house.gov/contact>

In Indiana: Every Indiana citizen has a state representative and a state senator. To find your legislators go to: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>.

Learn more about advocacy at stonebelt.org.



A closer look at Positive Support

Jim Wiltz

Director of Milestones

One of Stone Belt's **Principles of Service** is that "Positive Supports provide the best long-term results." But what does that mean, and why do we think it is important? Let's take a closer look. For some perspective, here is the full text of our guiding principle of Positive Supports:

"When people exhibit behaviors that are challenging, they should have access to supports that are individually designed, are positive, help them learn new skills and responsibilities, provide alternatives to challenging behaviors, offer opportunities for choice and social integration, and allow for environmental modifications. Stone Belt policies and staff training are aimed at these positive outcomes."

All staff members at Stone Belt strive to provide positive supports. At Milestones, our Behavior Support staff members specialize in it. That's because our behavior clinicians (BCs) operate under a related philosophy called Positive Behavior Support or "PBS."

PBS became prominent in

the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the 1990s. One reason it was developed was as a reaction to the perception that traditional behavior analysis seemed to rely too heavily on rewards and punishment with a focus on "fixing" the person.

In contrast, Positive Behavior Support was a model based on improving a person's overall quality of life. PBS still has a foundation of sound behavioral principles, but instead of only pursuing the outcome of reducing problem behavior, a person's overall goal is to become more integrated into the community and to engage in activities that are meaningful.

When people are involved in meaningful activities, it makes life more interesting and fun. It is not hard to see why this fits so well with the overall mission of Stone Belt.

This is also one of the reasons that our Behavior Support staff members become such integral parts of each individual's support team. If you or someone you sup-



JIM WILTZ

port has a behavior clinician from Stone Belt, you probably already know that this talented clinician works directly with individuals and their support providers to make life better.

The BC may work on building important coping skills. He or she may train staff or families how to avoid some issues by teaching more effective strategies that prevent problems before they arise.

BCs also work directly with clients to find out what they want out of life. Then, they design and implement plans to make that become a reality. That is positive support in action.

Utilizing positive supports is consistent with the Stone Belt mission that says we work to "prepare, empower, and support people with developmental disabilities" as they try to live more independently in the community. These underlying goals are meaningful to people, regardless of who we are.

When Stone Belt and Milestones staff proudly provide positive supports to our clients, we know we are meeting them where they are in their lives and helping them look forward to a brighter future.

Columbus office moves

A little over two years ago, the Milestones clinic in Columbus moved to a rented space with the hope of expanding services, especially the Behavior Support and Skills Development programs.

Thanks to the coordinators of those programs, Mari Shawcroft and Jennifer Hammond, the growth plan is being realized. Both departments have more than doubled in size and have three clinicians each. That is great news for community members in Bartholomew County who have benefited from these expanded supports.

Unfortunately, both programs—and the rest of the Milestones clinic—were forced to move recently because of a leaky basement.

"All that is water under the bridge now, though, because we have already moved into the United Way Building on 13th Street," says Jim Wiltz, Milestones director. "This is our former Columbus location, and we are back with our sibling Stone Belt programs."

Wiltz adds that clients and their families have been notified and marketing materials are being updated to reflect the new—and dry—address.

For more information or answers to questions, contact Milestones practice manager Deb Lane at 812-333-6324.

Bedford staff attends leadership event

Three Bedford staff—Bev Arthur, Brandy Quillen and Lisa Dumond—attended the 6th Annual Becky Skillman Leadership Institute sessions on June 15.

Dumond says she was impacted most by a speech from Lawrence County's Youth of the Year, Hadley Hawkins, who discussed struggling with autism and

using art to channel her energy in a positive way.

"I was touched by Hadley's speech, which reinforces what we do here at Stone Belt," says Dumond. "We believe clients have value and they are important. Hadley didn't allow her disability to stop her from reaching her goals."

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



Through a community partnership, Bloom Magazine has hired participants in Stone Belt's Lifelong Learning program in Bloomington to deliver the bimonthly magazine and *Distinctively Bloomington*, an annual advertising book. "We distribute about 11,000 copies of the magazine in Monroe and Brown counties," says Malcolm Abrams, editor and publisher of Bloom. "We're pleased we can support Stone Belt in this way and that we can offer this opportunity to its clients." Above, Stone Belt's delivery crew watches as boxes of magazines are transferred into a Stone Belt truck.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Stone Belt welcomes its four newest Board of Directors members who participated in orientation in early July. The new members include, from left, Jason McAuley, Mary Green-Higgins, Nancy Owen and Amy Cornell. Their terms end June 30, 2021.

GIVING MATTERS

Why I Give: Dan Lodge-Rigal

Dan Lodge-Rigal is a physician, a professor at the IU School of Medicine and a musician. He has been on the Stone Belt Board of Directors for three years.

It is Father's Day morning as I sit to write this. Before I sat down to write, I texted my dad to tell him I loved him and express how grateful I am for the love and support he has shown me throughout my life. Last week, we bid farewell to my "other father," my father-in-law and friend, Dick Lodge. Dick's generous spirit, deep compassion and support extended beyond his own children to everyone he met. I am so lucky to have had two wonderful men in my life.



DAN LODGE-RIGAL

Dick was also the father of Mary, a now 50-year-old independent woman with Down syndrome. Mary's life changed the lives of Dick, his wife, and their other children profoundly and forever.

Mary received boundless love and support as she grew up, and she continues to give it back in innumerable ways. However, the multi-faceted services provided by organizations like Stone Belt became increasingly important as she grew older. With a variety of support systems in place, Mary has been able to thrive in a supported living arrangement, have an active social life, close friendships, and meaningful work.

There are many reasons I give to Stone Belt, but this is the most personal. I believe in the right for all people with developmental disabilities, like Mary, to be able to live out the fullest expression of their lives in a supportive and caring environment. This is at the core of Stone Belt's mission, and I am fortunate to be in the position to contribute my money, time, and energy to helping ensure its success.

While there are other agencies that provide services to people with developmental disabilities, Stone Belt is unique in its scope of services, which also includes mental health, advocacy, employment, community leadership and supporting creative expression through visual arts, performance and writing. I also admire the organization's intelligent, progressive and compassionate leadership team and staff.

Giving to Stone Belt is not a one-way process—I get so much back. Even now, finishing my first three-year term on the Board of Directors, I continue to learn and be inspired and humbled by the clients, staff, fellow board members and family members I have come to know. I am grateful—for generous fathers, for my sister-in-law Mary and for Stone Belt.

Drop the enclosed giving envelope in the mail with your donation, or visit stonebelt.org to donate online.

THANK YOU DONORS

Stone Belt appreciates our generous donors (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018) and their continued support. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of this listing. If there is an omission, please accept our apology and contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Cornerstone Society (\$10,000 - \$24,000)

Don, Carol-Anne & Jonathan Hossler, Smithville Charitable Foundation

Pillar Society (\$5,000 - \$9,900)

CFC Properties, Inc., IU Credit Union, Jim & Mary Kenny, Old National Bank, Donald, Carolyn & Claudia Snyder

Limestone Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Malcolm Brown, Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County, Jim & Joyce Grandorf, Hylant Group, Randall, Rae & Toni Kirk, Michael Melby, Dick Sanders, Hal Turner

Builder Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Diana Baker, Bill & Michelle Bartley, Big Red Liquors, Alexander & Ginny Buchwald, Clendening Johnson & Bohrer, P.C., Crowder's Healthcare Pharmacy, Kay Dahlgren, Michael & Betty Davis, David & Jane Dunatchik, First United Church, Lori & Preston Garraghty, Genoa Healthcare Pharmacy, Leslie Green & Ed Maxedon, Cynthia Higgins, Anne Higley, Trish & Louie Ierino, Ivy Tech Community College, Kappa Kappa Sigma, Iota Chapter, Dan & Beth Lodge-Rigal, D. J. Masson, Michael's Uptown Café, Stuart & Cookie Mufson, Jerry & Jean Olson, Diane Pelrine, Mary Phillips, Winston & Sue Shindell, St. John Associates, Trish Sterling, The Ability Experience, Henry & Celicia Upper, Kurt & Lisa Zorn

Advocate Society (\$500 - \$999)

Venus Abbitt, Victoria Borrelli, Charlotte Daniel, Betty & Larry Davidson, Catherine Gray & John Turner, David Hamilton, Victor Harnack, Justin & Emily Harrison, ISU/The May Agency, Edwin Marshall, Donald & Regina Moore, Charlie Nelms, New Unionville Baptist Church, Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Sharon Robbins, T.I.S., Inc., Sandra Taylor, Taylor, Reginald, Wendy Bowler Travis, UnitedHealthcare, Charlotte Zietlow

Steward Society \$100 - \$499)

James & Terry Abbitt, Melanie Adams, Erna Alant, Teresa Miller & Dan Allen, Ann Armstrong, Cheryl Baumgart, Sarah Baumgart, James & Margery Belisle, Basil & Jane Bennett, Carol Bentley, John & Kathleen Bethell, Bill C. Brown Associates, Leslie Bishop Carol & Michael Bodnar, James Bohrer, Stephen Bonowski, Summer & Josh Boyd, Marsha Bradford, Brad & Karen Braun, Michael, Natalie & Carrick Brewington, Ward Brown & Amanda Denton, Bucceto's Pizza, Tyler Bunch, Dallas Burch, Doris Burton, James & Carol Campbell, John Clower, Susan Cote, Jean & Doris Creek, Richard Davis, Betty Deckard, David & Kim Deckard, Rosemary & Dick Dever, Doreen Devitt, Gregory Dinkins, Joe & Gloria Emerson, Elaine Finneg-

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Friend Society (\$1 - \$99)

Ben & Jane Ackerman, Cameron Adamson, Amal and Salih Altoma, Kathryn Anderson, Ron & Sheryl Barnes, Hannah Baute, Catherine Beeker, Edward & Wendy Bernstein, Mark & Charlene Braun, Dan & Patricia Butler, Deanna Carrington, John & Susan Cronkhite, Paul & Lana Eisenberg, James & Jacqueline Faris, Steven Floyd, Douglas & Pamela Hausmann, Charles Hines, David Hossler, Lavern Hudson, David & Anne Johnson, Josh & Stephanie Johnson, Nancy & Darryl Jones, John Kaser, Marianne Kielian-Gilbert, Iris Kiesling, Mary & Scott Mapes, Nancy Martin, Ron & Diana McGovern, Myla Jean Meadows, Nancy Metcalf, P.E.A.C.E. Meyer, Jane & Clyde Mills, Bridget & Robert Morgan, Robert & Suellen, Moynihan, Virginia & Jerrold Myerson, Needmore Coffee Roasters, Leonard & Lou Newman, Francis & Phyllis Newton, Bobbie & Channing Partenheimer, Terry & Dixie Patterson, Joseph & Virginia Pech, Bob & Elaine Pryor, Catherine Racek, Catherine & Kenneth Ratcliff, Linda Rushton, Catherine Simmons, David & Sarah Smith, Keegan, Brent & Hunter Smith, Keith Solberg, Bobbi Jean Stewart, Sally Sturgeon, Jane & Mark Summitt, The Irish Lion Restaurant & Pub, Hugh & Lita Truelock, Steve Tucker, Lee VanBuskirk, Rita Wacker, Randolph & Diane West, Todd & Rebecca Willis, Steve & Ann Worland, Christiana Yablonowski, Neil & Betty Yoder, Martha Young

In-Kind Donors

Bloom Magazine, Cook Medical, Joan Curts, Alicia Dickens, Donny & Sharon Disque, Matthew Elliott, Robert & Sally Ellison, Anne-Marie & Christopher Farrow, Tyler Hamacher, Robert Houle, Jeff Huffman, James & Lara Keith, Joe & Meridee Lamantia, Carmen Levasseur & Chris Feeny, Markey's Rental & Staging, Mays Greenhouse, Menards, Monroe Convention Center, Sheila Paul, Larry & Debra Sherer, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Corporate Giving

Becoming a corporate donor is a premiere way to show your support for people with disabilities. Be part of something meaningful and gain increased community awareness for your company. For information on how to make a

positive impact on individuals with disabilities and the many amazing benefits that come with being a corporate donor, contact Adam Hamel at ahamel@stonebelt.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 29, 6:30 p.m.

Location: TBA, check website for update

Candidates Forum

Disability & mental health issues;
Indiana General Assembly candidates.

AUG. 3, SEP. 7, OCT. 5, 12 p.m.

Stone Belt Central

Advocacy Committee

SEPTEMBER 9-15

All Regions

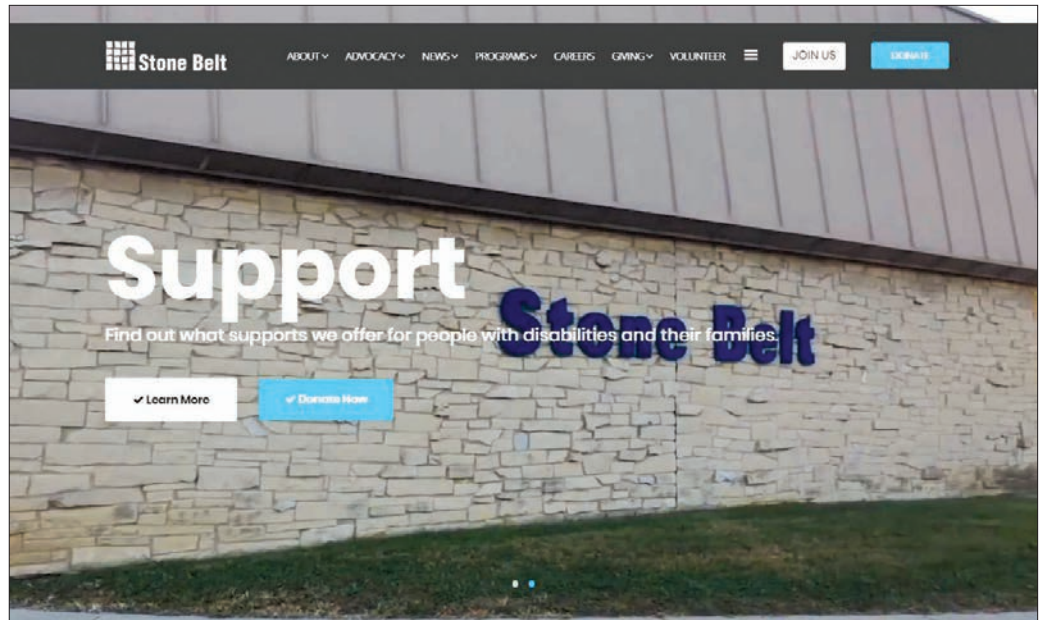
DSP Week

SEPTEMBER 17, 6 p.m.

Monroe Convention Center

Annual Awards Celebration

NEW WEBSITE DESIGN



Have you seen our new website? Go to www.stonebelt.org to read the latest news, see upcoming events, learn about our programs, support Stone Belt, and download our advocacy guide.



If you would like to receive our publications, please
contact Linda Margison at lmargison@stonebelt.org.

www.stonebelt.org

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