Faces of
Stone Belt
Clients went to the Indiana State House on Valentine’s Day to deliver valentines to legislators and staff.

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Clients went to the Indiana State House on Valentine’s Day to deliver valentines to legislators and staff.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CLIENTS

Through our experiences at Stone Belt, we express our own self-determination. Here is what we want you to know about us:

I am an avid recycler.
—Jessica Walker

I sing.
—Crystal Becker

I am all there! Plus, I have my associate degree.
—Michael Ely

I like puppy dogs and goldfish.
—Riley Hawn

I know a lot about Disney movies.
—Rob Hahn

I am nice and I love science.
—Julia Adams

I like to sing and dance.
—Anthony Whiteford Jr.

I can drive, I can work, and I am a great worker.
—Bryson Wrightman

Thank you for the support you’ve provided that gives us the opportunity to live our lives more fully in the community.
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Thank you for the support you've provided that gives us the opportunity to live our lives more fully in the community.
If the level of engagement of its constituents is a good measure of success within the organization, we think Fiscal Year 2017 was an exceptionally successful year. We have reached out to you in many ways and you have responded. Together we have accomplished much. This annual report will recount only a few of the many successes that have been realized in Fiscal Year 2017. Our engagement with each other has helped make these things possible.

For new clients we’ve begun serving, we are excited to see you having new experiences and growing in your skills so quickly. We are honored that you and all those we have been supporting over the years trust Stone Belt to help you meet your personal goals.

For our community partners – volunteers, collaborating non-profits, businesses, and schools – we have achieved greater impact through our work together, strengthening the community and building social capital.

For those that have engaged in our advocacy efforts, our voices have made a difference in the outcome of legislation, providing additional resources to better pay our direct support professionals and also educating our congressional delegation of the negative impacts of proposed Medicaid cuts on people with disabilities. Your continued engagement will be important as future legislation comes before Congress and needs our action.

For families, who have been engaged as advocates, both for your loved ones at the individual level and in political advocacy arenas, your voice is respected and appreciated. Families started our organization and continue to be important to our success.

For all of you that engage with our social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – and our website, we are happy that you pay attention when we share breaking news, highlight the daily lives of clients, and issue immediate calls to action where needed. Our outreach to you and your engagement with this media has grown exponentially over the past year.

For our employees, your engagement with clients you support has an immediate impact on them, empowering them to live self-determined and fulfilling lives. You are often unsung heroes, but your contributions are many and greatly appreciated.

Deepening and widening our engagement with all of you and with the broader community remains a top priority for the coming year. We face challenges as big as or perhaps bigger than we have in previous times. However, we remain optimistic and look to you to help us continue to achieve positive outcomes. Thank you for your commitment and continued support.

DJ Masson, Member
Jacqueline Hall, Member
Vicki Bonnilt, Member
Catherine Gray, President
Justin Harrison, Immediate Past President
Amy Molloy, Member
Dan Lodge-Rigal, Treasurer
Trish Jenos, Member
Anne Higley, Vice-President
Elizabeth Davidson, Secretary
Trish Sterling, Member
Hal Turner, Member
Michael Melby, Member
Mike Horvath, Member
Carol-Anne Hassler, Member
Carol Bodnar, Member
Alternative Members/Lawrence County
Cindy Elliott, Member
Charles Edwards, Member

Alternative Members/Lawrence County
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Charles Edwaerds, Member

Leslie Green
CEO
Catherine Gray
Board President FY 2017

The board signs holiday cards to donors to thank them for their support.

Board members actively advocate for Stone Belt clients and staff.

Alternative Members/Lawrence County
Cindy Elliott, Member
Charles Edwaerds, Member
Advocates inform and battle for DSP wages, health care

In order to make a difference in the supports and services that people with disabilities receive in Indiana and beyond, people need to become effective advocates. Their voices can make a change in the community, in the state, and throughout the country.

Each election season, community advocates, including Stone Belt, host the Aging and Disabilities Candidates Forum to give the Indiana General Assembly candidates information about living with aging and disability issues. In 2016, eight candidates attended – Bill Breeden (D-House District 48), Rep. Bob Houton (R-House District 46), Penny Githens (D-House District 60), Rep. Matt Pierce (D-House District 61), Rep. Jeff Ellington (R-House District 62), Steve Lindsey (D-House District 62), Rep. Erica Koch (R-House District 61), Sen. Mark Stoops (D-Senate District 46). Stone Belt continued its efforts throughout the fall and into the budget-making legislative session for increased funding to support higher wages for DSPs and other staff. Self-advocates and staff visited the Indiana State House and spoke with their state senators and representatives, voicing how direct support professionals are vital for them to live fully in the community.

In addition to the state legislative concerns, staff, self-advocates, and the community joined together to help federal legislators understand the importance of Medicaid for their quality of life. This included traveling to Washington, D.C., and participating in letter-writing, phone-calling, and emailing campaigns to share their stories.

In the end, the state passed a wage increase for DSPs and a devastating health care bill was defeated in Congress.

Self-Advocate Spotlight: Jacqueline Hall

Self-Advocate Jacqueline Babette Hall is retiring from the Stone Belt Board of Directors after nine years of service. Jacqueline says she thinks the time has come to turn over her board duties to another self-advocate. She says she originally signed onto the board, “So I would learn more about what’s going on at Stone Belt,” and along the way, she learned about a lot of issues she was interested in. She adds that it’s important for self-advocates to make sure their voices are heard and their interests are represented on the board.

“Jacqueline brought important issues affecting self-advocates to the board’s attention and encouraged their involvement with self-advocate activities,” says Catherine Gray, FY 2017 board president. “We appreciate her dedicated service to the board.”

Besides being involved at board meetings and events, Jacqueline has also been active in advocating to local government leaders and state legislators. One issue she’s most passionate about is extending transit services outside city limits.

“I know how to use BT Access and Rural Transit, but what I want to do is get downtown and ride some of the city buses and I’ve not been able to do that yet,” Jacqueline says, adding that she brought the topic up with Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton when he visited Stone Belt after the election. “Buses don’t run out to my house anymore. I talked to the mayor about it.”

This past year, Jacqueline joined other self-advocates on a trip to the Indiana State House to explain the importance of increasing wages for direct support professionals. That initiative passed in the budget bill. She says visits with legislators are important, “So they know what’s going on, because sometimes they don’t know.”

About her efforts, Jacqueline says it makes her feel “pretty good about myself” and that she can make a difference. “I am a supporter of other people,” she adds.

When Jacqueline isn’t working her job in the workshop, where she fulfills between 500 and 700 pieces a day, she enjoys watching television in the apartment she shares with two roommates or being out in the community. She likes to go to movies, bowling, and the mall, or anything else she decides to do. “Sometimes it just depends on where I want to go,” she says.

Her goal is to get a job in the community. “I believe anyone here can get a job out in the community. If they want a job and work hard to get it,” she says.
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CELEBRATING OUR EMPLOYEES

The Year of Kindness

This year, Human Resources has focused on The Year of Kindness. While employees give clients immeasurable kindness and support, sometimes sharing that same kindness and support with coworkers is forgotten. In February – Feel the Love Month – Human Resources held a competition to see who could share the most love throughout the halls of all our locations (see photo, top right). As part of this, people posted lots of anonymous positive comments about coworkers. Because the response was so great, everyone was a winner and got a “Feel the Love” pizza party!

In June, the focus was on diversity and embracing our differences. In celebration, employees highlighted ways in which they are diverse on banners lining the halls of our main facilities. The diversity celebration included a pitch-in lunch with an international theme.

DSP Week

Each year for a week in September, management honors direct support professionals with a weeklong celebration with prizes, food, and special recognition to pamper those who work directly with people with developmental disabilities. Supervisors wash cars, write thank you cards, give goody bags, and cook for staff to let them know how much they’re appreciated. Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is celebrated annually across the country with special events and ceremonies like these earmarked to honor the tens of thousands of workers who enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to live healthy lives in their communities.

Stone Belt honors top five at awards ceremony

On March 30, 2017, guests, clients, board members and staff honored the five 2017 Award of Excellence recipients, who are nominated by their peers, clients and/or family members.

According to their nominations, these five people – Tiba Walter, Jessica Sears, Linda Nelson, Majed Alomari and Sarah McKinney – demonstrated exceptional qualities of professionalism, ambition and reliability in each of their respective fields.

Here’s a closer look at the winners:

Tiba Walter is a Direct Support Specialist in the Lifelong Learning Moving Forward class. She structures the day and activities so all her clients succeed by creating an environment that encourages growth and independence. She spends extra time explaining job skills and work habits to clients and serves as their biggest cheerleader when they succeed.

Jessica Sears is currently the Hiring Coordinator and pushes to find and hire employees to join the Stone Belt team. Despite the high turnover rate, Jessica keeps the wheels moving by interviewing, hiring, conducting background checks, checking references and making sure employee files are complete and accurate.

Celebrating more than 17 years at Stone Belt, Linda Nelson is a Direct Support Specialist at Larc. She often sings and encourages a cheerful atmosphere as she leads activities and helps clients feel at ease and experience new things. A coworker says, “You will never catch Linda in a bad mood. She constantly lifts the spirits of those around her.

Majed Alomari worked at Stone Belt for two years as an Associate Manager of Bridgwater’s House, having overcome language and cultural barriers to develop strong relationships with staff and build positive rapport with clients. He embraced Stone Belt’s culture, mission and vision, and taught others the value of commitment.

Sarah McKinney is a Skills Development Clinician who demonstrates quality clinical insight and mindfulness of clients, strengths, abilities and areas where extra support is needed. Sarah is an active listener who coaches parents through problem-solving, supportive training, role-model positive behavior and coping skills.
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Employment Spotlight: Donnie McGinnis

Donnie McGinnis thrives in the Community Employment program with the support of his job coach, Madeline Webster. Madeline helped Donnie secure his job at AMC Theater, where he works about two days per week.

Donnie has experience working in the community. Previously, he scanned IDs for Indiana University and later worked for Stone Belt in Information Technology. However, he feels his new job suits him the best. When asked what his favorite part about his position at AMC was, Donnie said, “I enjoy meeting different people – all different types.”

When Donnie isn’t working, he enjoys spending time with his friends.

Pre-ETS services launched

Stone Belt and four other agencies received $660,000 for Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities in late-2016. These services include teaching workplace skills, career counseling, supporting self-advocacy, coordinating internships, and helping students explore post-secondary options. Stone Belt serves six schools through this program. The program supplements what students are already learning in school and helps them plan for the future after they graduate.

Project SEARCH graduates nine students

Project SEARCH had two graduating classes in FY 2017, one in July 2016 and one in May 2017, with a total of nine students officially completing the internship program and receiving certificates from Ivy Tech for one college course.

The program provides training and work opportunities leading to permanent employment for 18- to 24-year-old adults with disabilities. Participants are provided with quality, paid and unpaid internship experiences at local businesses that include Cook Inc. and Ivy Tech.

In this eight-month program, participants learn a variety of skills that enable them to succeed professionally, including specific job skills, workplace social skills, and interviewing skills. People with disabilities have the right and the ability to excel in their desired employment, and Project SEARCH enables them to do so.
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Manufacturing Spotlight: Therese Walker

Every year, Stone Belt clients provide significant manufacturing services to companies like Cook Medical, Cook Urological, Oliver Winery, and K & K Sales. Therese Walker is the perfect example of a client who has found great success in the Manufacturing Program, where she works daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Asked about creating products for Cook, Therese says, “I do enjoy it, because it’s a variety of things that we do. It’s a lot different than what I’ve done, but it’s just a different type of challenge – working in a factory setting,” adding that she enjoys this challenge.

In addition to her manufacturing job, Therese works at the Monroe County Public Library, is involved in the community, spends her free time crocheting and embroidering, and occasionally sells her artwork. She is a resident in the Supported Group Living program.

“I worked in health care for 30 years, so I’ve been out in the community, and I’m working on getting a community job. Right now we’re doing a work experience over at the library, but we’re definitely looking at a clerical-type job. Stone Belt tries to push you to where you can get out in the community.”

Stone Belt strives to provide clients with the opportunity for self-advancement, as well as meaningful contributions to the community. This year alone, Bloomington clients manufactured more than 5 million medical device supplies for Cook.

“Therese is a conscientious worker who comes in on time and is prepared to work,” says Karen Freeman, director of the program.

BLOOMINGTON PRODUCTION IN FY 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Inc.</td>
<td>3,421,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Uro</td>
<td>1,894,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DQE</td>
<td>1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>5,319,608</td>
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BEFORE PRODUCTION IN FY 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP Belts for DLA (Defense Logistics Agency) in Georgia</td>
<td>4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress belts for Laparoscopic Suite Hospital</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool Belts for North Central Sight Services in Pennsylvania</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belts for Browne Knife in Arizona</td>
<td>946</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cards for Cardinal Spirits</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shovel Caps for The Shovel Company</td>
<td>273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jars for Gold Casters</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxes for Shaw Winery</td>
<td>978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuffed Capsules for K &amp; K Sales</td>
<td>28,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coasters for Michael Mozartow in Illinois</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Pack Roto-Hinges® for Use Valley Tools in Canada</td>
<td>1,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Pack Roto-Hinges® for Contractors’ Woodworking Supplies in Florida</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roto-Hinges® for Custom Wood Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roto-Hinges® for Knudsen Woodworking &amp; Hardware in Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roto-Hinges® for Hardware Distributors in Minnesota</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Gloves for Cook Pharmacy</td>
<td>17,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>63,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Anxiety/OCD clinic opened at Milestones

Milestones opened the Center for Child Adolescent Anxiety and OCD Treatment to help children, adolescents, and families understand their diagnoses, and to provide scientifically supported treatment and recovery with strategies for lifelong management. The clinic offers a multidisciplinary treatment team that includes a psychiatrist and three therapists trained in evidence-based care.

What sets this program apart is the advanced training as master clinicians in anxiety-related disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The treatment team’s commitment to care will include a consistent staffing of cases to offer maximum benefit to clients. The clinic offers treatment flexibility and feasibility to meet the developmental needs of each individual.
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FACES AT MILESTONES

Jennifer Halloran
Jennifer Halloran gained licensure as a licensed clinical social worker. She worked in the residential program at Stone Belt before attending graduate school. She completed her internship at Milestones and then chose to return as a therapist after earning her master’s degree. This gives her the opportunity to help a more diverse set of clients.

Pam McCoy and Brian Kriebel
Behavior clinicians Pam McCoy and Brian Kriebel both completed requirements to become licensed mental health counselors, or LMHCC. Both were interns during their graduate studies at Indiana University. They were hired as behavior clinicians, and now have enhanced their credentials by becoming LMHCC.

Debra Mishler
Licensed therapist Debra Mishler was invited to teach an undergraduate course in psychology at IU last fall. She has 17 years of experience treating children, adolescents, and families with psychotherapy in outpatient clinics. Her primary specialty is psychotherapy with evidence-based programs. She, along with Cindi Winograd, was instrumental in starting the anxiety/OCD clinic at Milestones.

James Wiltz
Milestones Director James Wiltz finished requirements to obtain clinical certification from the National Association on Dual Diagnosis for co-occurring intellectual disability and mental health diagnoses.

FACES IN MANUFACTURING

BEDFORD PRODUCTION IN FY 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Units Manufactured</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Inc.</td>
<td>3,421,618</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cook Uro</td>
<td>1,894,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>DQE</td>
<td>3,377</td>
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<td><strong>5,319,608</strong></td>
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BEDFORD PRODUCTION IN FY 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dress belts for Luquet Hospital</td>
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<td>Tool Belts for South Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belts for Boxen Knife in Alaska</td>
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<td>Deer Caps for The Deer Game Company</td>
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<td>Jars for Gold Casters</td>
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<td>Boxes for Shoe Winery</td>
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<td>Roto-Hinge® for Custom Wood Products</td>
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<td>Roto-Hinge® for Eakins Woodworking &amp; Hardware in Minnesota</td>
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<td>Roto-Hinge® for Hardware Distributors in Minnesota</td>
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<td>Safety Glasses for Cook Pharma</td>
<td><em>July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017</em></td>
</tr>
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BLOOMINGTON PRODUCTION IN FY 2017*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Units Manufactured</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cook Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cook Uro</td>
<td>2,873</td>
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<td>DQE</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,473</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017
All of our clients have a story to tell. Here is just a sampling of some outstanding client stories and the impact our clients are having on their communities.

**Writers’ Circle**
The Moving Forward classroom and Women Writing for a Change have collaborated for a biweekly Writers’ Circle, during which clients focus on how they feel, hear a piece of literary art, and write their interpretations of that piece.

**Art Show**
This spring, client-artists took part in the “Art-able” Gallery Show at the Monroe Convention Center. Seventeen pieces of art were on display and, by the end of the show, 12 had sold. Three of those 12 were shipped to Amsterdam to be hung in the buyer’s home there.

**ANNA HARNER**
Anna Harnar was very nervous when she joined the Stone Belt Manufacturing team. She was not certain she could do the job and fit in with everyone else. Anna has gained tremendous confidence. She learned to solve problems when her skills are needed and ask for help when teamwork is needed.

**RENATA MIZE**
Renata Mize demonstrates excellent independence and leadership in the recycling program. She recycles with three other clients every Monday morning at the Doug Otto United Way Center of Bartholomew County. Renata has learned the routine very well. She knows where all the supplies and the recycling cart are and can teach staff just learning the routine. She understands the importance of checking all of the recycling bins throughout the building and making sure areas are cleaned up afterward. Renata is the first one to want to carry big items or push the recycling cart. Of course, she knows her limits in carrying things and pushing the cart, especially when the cart gets full of recycling items and she can no longer see over the mound.

**LOGAN GILLIATT**
Logan Gilliatt lived with his parents prior to coming to Stone Belt. Many clients struggle with transitioning from a home setting into group home and Lifelong Learning programs. The first day at Larc in Bedford, Logan seemed stressed by the new environment and being surrounded by strangers. However, it took no time for Logan to get acquainted with staff and his peers. Lisa Dumond says, “Logan is a joy to be around. He frequently stops by my office to say, ‘Hi.’ He also gets along well with his peers.” Logan is learning how to use a tablet with staff support. “Logan is truly a Stone Belt success,” Lisa adds.

**RHONDA DUZAN**
Rhonda Duzan has been a client at Stone Belt for many years and has developed from a young girl to a mature woman. Rhonda sets a great example of what Stone Belt exemplifies: self-determination, empowerment, making contributions, great long-term results, self-direcing home life, maintaining competitive employment, and developing a quality of life through meaningful relationships. Rhonda married the love of her life on August 19, 2017.

**MARYLIN CHITWOOD**
Since coming to Stone Belt earlier this year, Marylin Chitwood has become an active member of the Writers’ Circle and Moving Forward classroom. She shares a home with her roommates in the Supported Group Living program and has learned healthy habits that have helped her lose weight and reduce the number of medications she has to take. “Stone Belt has changed my life so much, because I’ve learned a lot since I’ve been here,” Marylin says, adding that she likes the staff and has made friends. She likes to watch movies and listen to music in her spare time.
Stone Belt Faces — Clients

All of our clients have a story to tell. Here is just a sampling of some outstanding client stories and the impact our clients are having on their communities.

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Wayne Keefover

Wayne Keefover is described as one of the proudest clients in Stone Belt Manufacturing. He always dresses nicely and combs his hair each day. As a client of the Supported Living Program, he feels much better about himself. He wants to do a great job no matter what the assignment. Manufacturing appreciates his hard work in helping maintain high standards and consistent levels of production.

Marylin Chitwood

Since coming to Stone Belt earlier this year, Marylin Chitwood has become an active member of the Writers’ Circle and Moving Forward classroom. She shares a home with her roommates in the Supported Group Living program and has learned healthy habits that have helped her lose weight and reduce the number of medications she has to take. “Stone Belt has changed my life so much, because I’ve learned a lot since I’ve been here,” Marylin says, adding that she likes the staff and has made friends. She likes to watch movies and listen to music in her spare time.

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Spotlight: Supported Group Living
Supported Group Living’s focus this fiscal year has been comprehensive care of the whole person. A client’s support team – complete with nurses, master’s-level therapists, and behavior clinicians – meets at least once per month to discuss issues affecting the client, like their physical and psychological health and social interactions.

This team looks at the client’s whole life to find opportunities for them to live the lives they choose, to have choices and gain experiences that lead to individual and community growth.

Carmen Levasseur, director of SGL and a clinical social worker, states, “I put a lot of value on the social aspect of the client’s life. Increasing and enhancing a client’s social life builds strength and self-esteem.”

Spotlight: Supported Living Program
Our Supported Living Program is growing rapidly. Many management and administrative positions are being added to prepare for this continued growth.

To compensate for such rapid growth, we are investing in direct support professionals. A mentoring program to help new staff learn with an experienced mentor was launched this fiscal year and the agency is providing extra fund for resources, like a snack box for DSPs, to enforce how much the agency appreciates staff.

Additionally, the Families First program started this year. Through this program, clients’ family members can become Stone Belt staff. This allows clients to feel comfortable with the staff working with them and benefits the family by offering employment. Two clients have already started using the program.

With each having a wide range of responsibilities, we want to highlight six staff members who make a difference in the lives of our clients. These outstanding staff members are a sampling of the stellar employees we value here at Stone Belt.

Tracy Ault ensures each client has a meaningful day. She comes in each day with a smile no matter what is happening in her personal life. Clients enjoy Tracy’s programs because of her creativity and enthusiasm, and coworkers value her concern for safety and care issues.

Tara Henson is a single mother of two girls and, by example, shows them every day what hard work and a positive attitude can accomplish. She makes sure her clients are the number one priority in every task she does with a smile on her face and a song in her heart.

Misty Sallows has been at Stone Belt since 2016, starting out as a sub at Larc in Bedford and growing into a full-time position. Misty supports clients as they create projects in the art department and teaches a cooking class. She has a great sense of humor and gets along well with coworkers.

Neal Meyer has worked his way from a DSP to a Lifelong Learning coordinator. He has shown leadership and dedication in ensuring his staff is fully and appropriately trained. By doing so, he has helped clients achieve success with greater independence, improved health, and meaningful activities for their days.

Leann Fischel started at Stone Belt as a Lifelong Learning instructor, moved to the Skills Development program, and migrated into program support for the Records Department. She is a problem-solver and detail-oriented person. She has a calm demeanor and excellent interpersonal skills with both clients and coworkers. She’s upbeat and positive and always willing to help.

Cheri DuPre brings many years of experience to her role as an instructor in Bloomington’s Lifelong Learning program. She knows each person’s support needs, challenges and goals, and develops activities for the group that help everyone take the next step in their growth.
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Client Spotlight: Kelly Draus

Before Kelly Draus came to Stone Belt in 1987, she lived with her mother until her mother’s death. For a short time, she lived with her brother, but he wasn’t able to give her the support she needed.

Trying to prepare for the future, Kelly’s mom had started looking at Stone Belt services and even brought Kelly along to a meeting. Now, Kelly resides in an apartment and receives Supported Living supports. She lives with her cat, Oakley, who acts more like a dog than a cat.

Kelly is a talented artist who has sold art she created in the Art Studio. She also volunteers at a local church, helping with the church bulletins. Besides working on her art, Kelly enjoys reading, painting, watching movies, shopping, and eating at restaurants. She is an avid doll collector and enjoys showing her collection to people who visit. She feels she’ll never have enough dolls!

Kelly attends the Lifelong Learning program at Larc Monday through Friday and has a group of friends she enjoys spending time with. Kelly’s newest interest is learning to use a tablet. “I love tablets! They are fun to play and challenge me to learn,” Kelly says.

Staff Linda Nelson reports that Kelly needed a lot of help from staff when she first started using a tablet, but she is now learning how to navigate on her own. Kelly likes to play card games on the tablet. Solitaire is one of her favorites.

Kelly says she’s grateful to the Knights of Columbus for donating proceeds from the annual Tootsie Roll Drive to purchase tablets, and her friends are also thankful for them.
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Kelly Draus shows a piece of art she created and gave as a gift.
FACES IN BLOOMINGTON

Client Spotlight: Rob Hahn

Rob Hahn is a man of routine. He came to Stone Belt from Peru, Indiana, which was a complete life upheaval, especially since he also made the move without his family.

Shortly after moving to Bloomington and Stone Belt, Rob took the jump into seeking community employment. It took a few months, but he found a job at Yogi’s and started to become more and more independent.

Continuing to befriend and build connections with his co-workers, Rob was exploring the possibility of completely fading out his career coach and working only with his coworkers. Unfortunately, Yogi’s announced they were closing, and Rob had to say goodbye to his job there.

Although Rob’s work at Yogi’s has ended, his employment experience is just beginning. With a successful Bloomington work story under his belt, Rob is already looking for his next job.

“Now Hiring” signs are posted all over town, and Rob learned enough from his experience at Yogi’s to become even more successful, more independent, and faster at his next job. Through this experience, Rob learned that businesses open and close, but his abilities, networks, and experiences only get better.
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Client Spotlight: Amber Teulker

Amber Teulker grew up in Brownstown, but was living in Seymour in a supported living program with a different agency when she started receiving Community Employment supports from Stone Belt in late-2012.

Vocational Rehabilitation had sent her to dog grooming school a few years before, and that experience launched her desire to work with animals. In early 2013, she got a job as a dog bather at Teresa’s Dog Grooming. At that time, Amber was driving to Columbus for meetings.

Because she liked the employment support she was receiving from Stone Belt, she also sought out Lifelong Learning, where she made friends and connections in Columbus. Soon after, she got a flyer about other supports and was excited about the Supported Living Program. She shared it with her parents and has successfully relocated to a new community where she can be closer to work and the Lifelong Learning program, while still maintaining a close connection with her family.

During her four years of employment with Teresa’s Dog Grooming, Amber has dealt with health, relationship, and moving issues, and is no longer able to drive. The owner, Teresa, has been flexible and stuck by Amber’s side.

Amber has done well at her job and was recently able to groom a couple of dogs. She hopes to continue down her road of success in her dog grooming career.
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Patrick Robbins

Dedication, community spirit, and humanitarian are words that come to mind when CEO Leslie Green thinks of Patrick Robbins. Patrick has been a great supporter of Stone Belt and people with disabilities for more than 20 years.

When Patrick first started working with Stone Belt, he focused on helping people with disabilities find employment. As a member of a Bedford business advisory council, he did this by integrating Stone Belt into the Bedford community and making connections and inroads with employers.

Patrick started working with The Arc of Lawrence County, Stone Belt’s partner in the community, and eventually became president and represented Larc on Stone Belt’s Board of Directors for more than 10 years. He retired in 2016.

Because of Patrick’s dedication to his community and people with disabilities, he received Stone Belt’s Thomas Middleton Award, the highest honor given for outstanding contributions to Stone Belt. He is the most recent and 10th recipient of this award since 1985.

“The thing about Patrick, is once he gets involved in something, he is very, very committed,” Leslie says. “He doesn’t do things halfheartedly.”

This commitment is reflected by the years he spent helping people with disabilities. His love of his home community and the clients Stone Belt serves is evident through his words and actions. Stone Belt and the Bedford community cannot thank Patrick enough for his outstanding contributions.

We want to take time to recognize those longtime employees who retired this year. We are grateful for their service to Stone Belt and our clients.

Diana “Dee Dee” Bordeleau worked for Stone Belt for more than 20 years. She was instrumental in starting a class in which clients learned how to bake dog biscuits. Clients then took the biscuits to a local animal shelter and fed the dogs. Dee Dee was an avid lover of animals and taught clients how to treat them. When she noticed some clients were fond of the cats, she decided to help them come up with recipes for cat treats. Dee Dee was known for her kindness, and clients cared and respected her.

Vicky Wyatt retired at the end of May. She was the Lifelong Learning art instructor in Columbus for about four years. She was artistically talented and always worked well with the clients.

Connie Crow retired in January from Milestones. She had been a bright spot in many people’s lives for almost seven years. Whether it be clients coming to the clinic or her coworkers, Connie was pleasant, and had a smile and genuine appreciation for everyone.

Georgia Emmert started working at Stone Belt in the early fall of 1999. Her focus was on using her skills to support clients to grow independently in the community. She was a quiet observer and communicated directions with clients softly, discreetly, and only when needed. Her relationship with co-workers and supervisors was respectful, patient, and professional. Through Georgia’s advocacy and coaching, some of Stone Belt’s proudest community partnerships grew, like Community Kitchen, Nutrition Links, and Hilltop Gardens.

Michael Lamm worked with Stone Belt for almost 17 years. He is an avid gardener and shared his love of gardening with clients. They planted flowers together annually and grew a few vegetables as well. He shared a love of racing with some clients and helped them go to racing events, whether at Bloomington Speedway or at NASCAR events in Indianapolis. Michael kept up with local events and shared those happenings with clients.
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FACES THROUGHOUT OUR YEAR

Columbus friends enjoy a walk in the woods.

Kim and Betsy enjoy the Buddy Walk.

Michael talks with The Ability Experience’s Journey of Hope TransAmerica team during Fun Day.

Shirley and Charles enjoy a laugh on Fun Day.

Riley makes a sensory toy for VIPS.

Staff and clients enjoyed the Knights of Columbus Bingo events in Bedford.

Alex dances under the bridge during an IU and Me event.

Brittany shows a piece of art at the Columbus Buddy Walk.

Carla Mann illustrated a children’s book written by Jim Kenny.

Kim and Mary enjoy the Buddy Walk.
FACES THROUGHOUT OUR YEAR

Columbus friends enjoy a walk in the woods.

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