

Stone Belt

Lifelong Learning Newsletter

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March 2012

This newsletter is produced and distributed by a committee of Stone Belt clients and staff. Please send comments, calendar events, story ideas, and requests to receive this newsletter electronically to LLnewsletter10@stonebelt.org.
March Newsletter Committee: Jeff B., Matt, Tyler S., Chris W., Julie, Richelle, Jeff S., Victor, Brittani, Denise, Karla, Adrienne Proptom, and Shawna Arnesen. Contributing photographers: Tyler Frazee, Nikki Holcomb, Eric Ford, and Ashley Thomasen

Stone Belt's Community Employment Program fosters long-term employment

The Newsletter Committee recently sat down with Bitta DeWees, director of Stone Belt's Community Employment Program, to learn more about the services her department provides and how individuals can receive assistance in finding and holding a job. Getting right down to the business at hand, the Committee wanted to know how one goes about applying for work services. Ms. DeWees explained that a person must first call their local vocational rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) office at 332-7331 and set up an appointment to complete the necessary paperwork and choose a work services provider. "Stone Belt is currently the biggest and best provider in the area," Ms. DeWees boasted. Once a referral has been made and the client has been accepted to the program, the next step, she explained, is to be assigned an Employment Consultant (EC) who will then conduct an assessment of skills, interests, and abilities and identify potential jobs. Throughout the process, the EC works closely with the client as they apply and interview for jobs, and with the potential employer. She went on to describe how, by working with both clients and employers, the EC ensures the needs of both are met, which helps fosters stable, long-term employment.

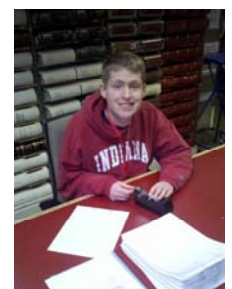
Currently, over 100 individuals are employed with assistance from Stone Belt's Community Employment Program and approximately 65 others are actively seeking a job. Several Lifelong Learning clients have found employment through the program in recent months.

Last October, Karen got a job at Domino's as a pizza box assembler. A veteran of pizza box assembly, having done so before for another employer for nearly a decade, Karen quickly mastered the complicated hexagonal fold necessary to begin each box and breezes through the process of finishing and stacking completed boxes. Besides a regular paycheck, Karen enjoys a more personal benefit. She loves working with her hands to create something out of nothing. Thanks to the work and dedication of her current EC, Ashley Thomasen, and others before her, Karen is back to having a job she loves.



Karen masters the hexagonal fold

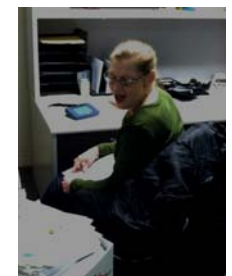
With seven years' experience as a document scanner at IMA, Chris R. proved the most qualified candidate for a position posted by the Monroe County Clerk's Office. In February, he began his new job working five days a week.



Chris R. prepares documents to scan

Recently, Misha took a job as a document shredder at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. She developed her skill set over the last ten years working at Ivy Tech and Sunrise Publications.

While Karen, Chris, and Misha all had previous experience, individuals interested in first time employment need to remember that everyone has to start somewhere to gain experience and skills.



Misha is excited to be back in the office

Spotlight on volunteerism: The Hand in Hand Program

Throughout the week, clients and volunteer groups can be seen around town collecting white bags with red lettering from doorsteps of homes as part of Stone Belt's Hand in Hand program. Inside the bags are donations of non-perishable food items for the the Community Kitchen.



Tom M. & Brenda unpack food at the Community Kitchen

The program was originally started by Carol-Anne Hossler and teacher David Sutherlin as a way to provide meaningful volunteer work for Jon, who was a student at Bloomington North at the time. After high school, Jon brought the program to Stone Belt, where he continues to volunteer. Over the years, the program has continued to expand, with a growing number of individuals having routes of their own. In addition, the Lifelong Learning Community Volunteer Group runs alternate routes each Monday afternoon, including a stop at Festive House, which has participated in the program for several years.

In all, there are 12 weekly routes spanning the greater Bloomington area with anywhere from three to 26 daily stops. In 2011, the program collected over 9000 food items and contributed over 500 volunteer hours and received a certificate of appreciation for its work with the Community Kitchen. The program is also in Columbus and expanding to Bedford.

Even with its tremendous success, Hand in Hand is looking to add more donors and volunteers. When asked why more people don't take part in the program, Eric Ford, who coordinates the project at Stone Belt, stated that "not enough people know about the program or how easy it is to participate." If you or someone you know is interested in participating in Hand in Hand all you need to do is email handinhand@stonebelt.org and get involved!

Client Council Report

The Lifelong Learning Client Council is pleased to announce that, with over 100 people in attendance, last month's Grease Sing Along Fundraiser raised over \$400 for the family of Tina K. The event was such a success and so much fun the Council is planning to continue to collaborate with the Self-Advocates to host another Sing Along Movie night in May. In addition, while providing feedback on programming, Council members suggested starting a Lifelong Learning Movie Club. As a result of their input, the program is starting a monthly movie club, with films viewed on the big screen. The first movie will be at 1:30pm on March 23rd.

Say Hello to...

Stone Belt's 10th Street facility is happy to welcome Carol Elliott to its Day Program staff. She is a DSP on Eric Ford's team. Carol spends most days working 1-on-1 with clients in the building and in the community.



When she is not working, Carol enjoys spending time with her three children *Photo by Matt F.* and watching them play basketball. One day she hopes to take a vacation to Hawaii, but fears it would be an extremely long trip due to her fear of flying; "I don't have my wings yet."

Other fun facts about Carol...

Hometown: Bowling Green, Indiana

Favorite Color: Pink and Red

Favorite Music: Anything but rap

Favorite Meal: Steak, baked potato, and salad

Favorite Sports: basketball and football

On behalf of Monroe County Lifelong Learning clients and staff, the Newsletter Committee welcomes Carol to the Stone Belt team. When you see her in the halls or classrooms, be sure to say hello and make her feel welcome.

I AM YOU special performance, March 8



Sarah runs lines with I AM YOU director Michelle Davenport

rehearsing for the show. Richelle, whose monologue centers on Stone Belt's principle of service – self-determination is essential – has been busy memorizing her lines and practicing her part in a group performance. "I'm Enjoying all of it, the whole process," Richelle declared with a smile when asked how rehearsal was going, "I've learned that I am not afraid to talk in front of people."

The production debuts at 7pm Thursday, March 8th, at the Bloomington Playwrights Project (107 W. 9th St.), with an exclusive performance for Stone Belt clients and staff. Tickets for Thursday night's show can be purchased at the 10th St. reception desk for just \$5.00. Buy your tickets now, as the show is sure to sell out. Additional performances include Saturday, March 10th at 7pm (\$20) and a Sunday, March 11th, matinee at 2pm (\$15). Tickets for Saturday and Sunday's performances can be purchased at the Buskirk-Chumley box office.

In search of The Time (of our lives):

Super Bowl Village 2012 Special Report

By ERIC FORD



On February 5th, 2012 our beautiful state capitol, Indianapolis, the Circle City, hosted the 46th annual NFL Super Bowl. To kick off the event, the green turf carpet was rolled down Georgia Street to create "Super Bowl Village" for eleven days of revelry. On Friday, February 3rd, the Lifelong Learning Program dispatched a team of party

hungry reporters. Running with the ball were Melissa, Matt, Brandon K., and Jason T., and for added support: Ann D. and Eric F.

Our reporters met at 10th Street and took a Stone Belt van up to Greenwood where they caught a free ride on an IndyGo bus. The day brought unusually sunny and warm temperatures to our wintering state, and the line-up promised a 2pm performance from funk-pop legends: Morris Day and The Time. On the way to the Village, Matt kept track of the number of bus stops and boarders and made guesses as to the time the bus would run out of seats. On the bus the group met a sleepy young man from Martinsville who had been up all night working, but planned to spend the day in the Village. They also met a retired basketball player sporting a Patriots cap who seemed to calmly accept the reporters' opinion that the Patriots would be roundly crushed Sunday night. As the city approached, much was learned about our new acquaintances. Most everyone had seen *Harry Potter*, feared for Kevin McAlister when he was left *Home Alone*, and knew that *Mrs. Doubtfire* was indeed a man played by Robin Williams. Everyone agreed that soup does go well with crackers.



Under the Super Bowl 46 Roman numerals

With no lack of conversation topics, it seemed like only a few minutes had passed before we caught our first view of Super Bowl Palace, Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts! The city was bustling with energy. Pedestrians were decked out in football paraphernalia, sidewalk preachers stood on boxes shouting their messages through microphones and bullhorns, and random uniformed police officers kept a watchful eye. Herds of people crammed together at street crossings waiting for the "go" signal. Our reporters were tested on their practiced pedestrian safety and good listening skills and scored a touchdown.

The flow of the crowd led our group to the Super Bowl Village. We were greeted with loud music booming from a rock band finishing a set. The occasional blast of heat

warmed our bodies from orange glowing heaters suspended above the street. Jason T. ran into some friends and shared a quick greeting along with a "Go Giants!"

Our destination was at the east end of Georgia Street where Morris Day and The Time would shortly be performing. We stood near an island of metal rails, and surveyed our surroundings. There was no doubt we were in the Super Bowl Village surrounded by 100,000 plus attendees, most wearing Colts blue. Banners and posters announcing the Super Bowl were suspended from buildings and poles, and planes and helicopters buzzed above reporting on the action.



Brandon K. sings along with The Time

The concert goes on where they were going when they turned to leave the show. The unanimous answer was "to get another beer."

The show ended after an encore, and it was time to catch the #31 IndyGo back to Greenwood. The crowd had thickened since 2pm and navigating our way back was like people swimming. We heard more sermons, saw more beer bottles at the Bud Light Hotel, and ran into a team of stone faced state troopers, but one broke rank and grinned when our reporter Melissa reached up and tickled the golden tassel on her Stratton hat. Everyone agreed the Village had been "awesome" and hoped other fans would enjoy themselves the rest of the afternoon.



Matt & Brandon K. enjoy the ride home on the IndyGo #31

There were plenty of seats on the #31. A man named "Dallas" talked in length with Matt about Sunday's game and reviewed films with Jason T. Dallas was from California and had actually been present during the filming of the scene in *Mrs. Doubtfire* where Pierce Bronsnan chokes and "Mrs. Doubtfire"/Robin Williams administers the Heimlich. Most everyone we met had heard of Bloomington, but not Stone Belt. We were pleased to spread the word. Our van was waiting patiently for us in Greenwood, and the return drive south was calm and uneventful. It was around 6pm when we returned home, geared up for Sunday's game, which will probably be the Super Bowl that these six Hoosiers never forget.

MARCH

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| 2012 HOLIDAYS (DAY PROGRAM CLOSED) MAY 28 - MEMORIAL DAY JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY SEPTEMBER 3 - LABOR DAY NOVEMBER 22 & 23 - THANKSGIVING DECEMBER 24 & 25 - CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY | | | | 1 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30 | 2 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-10:30 COOKING 1-3 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 6 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 7 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 KARAOKE NIGHT WITH JAKE 4:30 | 8 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30 I AM YOU (STONE BELT PERFORMANCE) 7PM | 9 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-10:30 COOKING 1-3 | 10 I AM YOU 7PM |
| 11 I AM YOU 2PM | 12 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 13 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 14 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3 | 15 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30 | 16 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-10:30 COOKING 1-3 ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION | 17 |
| 18 | 19 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 20 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 21 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3 | 22 DRUMMING 9-11 YOGA 1:30-2:30 | 23 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-10:30 COOKING 1-3 MOVIE CLUB 1:30 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 DANCE 10:30-11:30 SEWING 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 | 27 DRUMMING 9-11 BINGO 1-2 NEWSLETTER 1-3 SUBMISSION DEADLINE | 28 DANCE 10:30-11:30 NAIL CARE 1-3 YMCA ADAPTED STRENGTH TRAINING 2-3 | 29 YOGA 1:30-2:30 LOTUS BLOSSOMS PERFORMANCE (NO DRUMMING) | 30 CLIENT COUNCIL 9-10:30 COOKING 1-3 | 31 |



KARAOKE NIGHT WITH JAKE

ATTENTION ALL MUSIC LOVERS!

Jake Skinner is bringing back his groovy music for karaoke nights at 10th St. The events will take place in the main cafeteria on the 1st Wednesday of each month starting March 7th 4:30-7:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend. A donation to the Hand in Hand Project of a non-perishable food item is encouraged, but NOT required. Each event will be a celebration of monthly birthdays, so bring your friends, housemates, and staff. It's guaranteed to be a blast!

