

Halloween Extravaganza draws community interest

Fund-raiser deemed a success

Community participation was high at Stone Belt's first ever Halloween Extravaganza. "Considering this is the first year we held the event, we are really happy with our turnout," said Jack Clark, event organizer and Stone Belt MIS Director. "For the scale of the event we threw, everything went really smoothly. I attribute a lot of the success to all the hard working volunteers we had. This shows commitment to the organization."

Some event activities were more popular than others. Two of the biggest draws were the Dimensions of Darkness haunted experience and the Trail of Fantasy hayride.

Several visitors to Dimensions of Darkness commented that it was scarier than the haunted house in Harrodsburg, which was recently named best in the state. Clark said, "The way you can tell the success of a haunted house is by the number of screams you hear when people are going through. We definitely heard a lot of screams."

With the hayride, organizers were surprised by how popular the event was. For

the second weekend, an additional tractor had to be added to accommodate the crowds.

Other events like the magic shows and carnival games weren't as popular. One of the reasons for this may have been a weak marketing budget. A survey of attendees indicated many would have liked to see more advertising in area newspapers.

It is uncertain whether or not Stone Belt will continue the Halloween Extravaganza next year. If the event continues there will undoubtedly be changes, mainly focusing on activities that drew the biggest crowds.

On October 20 Stone Belt held a special Fall Festival for clients, staff and their families. Halloween Extravaganza events and food were made available to attendees at no cost. The event was a great way to bring staff together.

Stone Belt would like to offer a very special thank you to all of the Halloween Extravaganza corporate sponsors and volunteers. The event wouldn't have been a success without your support.



Stone Belt client Mike Murphy shows off his Tin Man costume at Stone Belt's Fall Festival event for clients and staff.



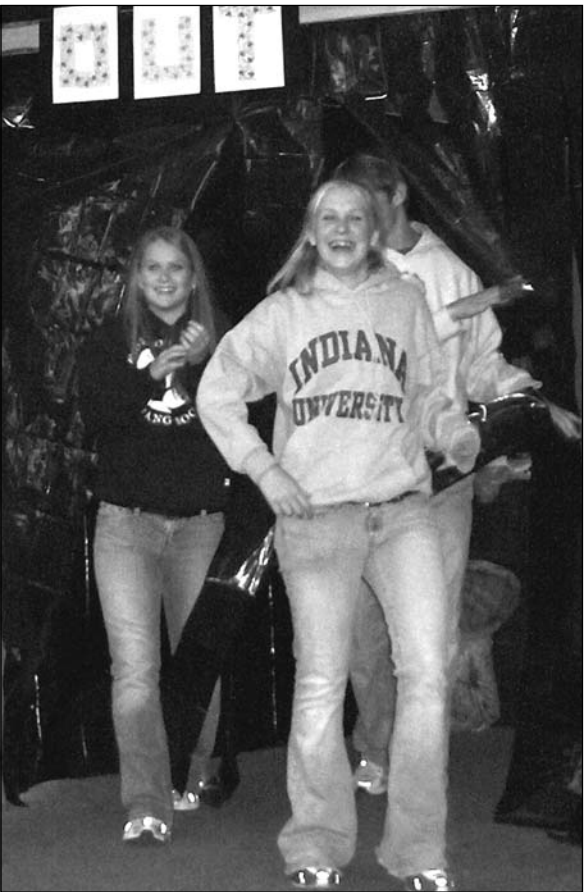
Stone Belt staff member Kristin Manno paints a child's face during the Stone Belt Fall Festival. The Fall Festival was a one-day event held for Stone Belt clients, staff and their families.



Shawn Halter, Assistant Director of Stone Belt's Supervised Group Living program; Nadine Morgan, Assistant IU Women's Basketball Coach; and Mike Freitag, IU Men's Soccer Coach judged the Costume Contest.



Above, Stone Belt clients Marcella Eller and Angie Ehlers get into the spirit of Halloween at the Fall Festival. At right a monster from the Dimensions of Darkness haunted experience; 4-year-old Meredith Walker participates in the Halloween Extravaganza's Costume Contest.



A group smiles as they exit the Dimensions of Darkness haunted experience at the Halloween Extravaganza.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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 - Tommy D's Windows, Doors, & More, Inc.
 - Safe and Sound Security

- Blue Sponsors**
\$100
- WonderLab
 - Office Depot
 - Sunrise Greetings
 - The Chocolate Moose

BY THE NUMBERS

Event organizers were pleased with the turnout at Stone Belt's Halloween Extravaganza. Here's a breakdown of attendance by activity:

- Dimensions of Darkness Haunted Experience**
- 164 Children
 - 680 Adults
 - = 844 TOTAL

- Number of Screams Heard in Dimensions of Darkness**
- Countless

- Trail of Fantasy Hayride**
- 224 Children
 - 434 Adults
 - = 727 TOTAL

- Extreme Magic Show**
- 97 Children
 - 195 Adults
 - = 292 TOTAL

- Game Tickets Sold**
- 2,532

from the CEO

Bringing light to the communities we serve



As the year draws to a close and we celebrate the season of light, I am thankful for being part of an organization that is all about “making light in the world.”

We have seen our services grow in the past year, even while facing funding restraints. Many of the people we support have new opportunities to light up their own lives.

Several residents in North Vernon will have their first Christmas tree in their own homes. Some families have found a new source of support for their child with developmental and emotional needs because of their involvement in Milestones’ Clinical Services and our Infant and Child programs. Many will have personal funds from their jobs to purchase holiday gifts for loved ones.

We will celebrate this holiday season for all that has been accomplished, but will also face harsh realities of the future. As we experience funding cuts and threats of even more cuts, we are committed to protecting our core values and mission despite the challenges. We are emboldened to look for innovative ways to do business and will continue to add value to the communities we serve. These communities would be a lot darker

without the participation and contributions of people with disabilities.

Thank you for all you do to help us enhance the light in the world. We wish for you and yours the very best holiday season.

Cheers,



Leslie Green
Chief Executive Officer

upcoming events

December 15
Stone Belt 10th Street Holiday Party
1 to 3 p.m.
Stone Belt 10th Street

- Kappa Kappa Sigma will host a holiday party for consumers and staff. There will be food and a variety of holiday-themed activities.
- For more information call 812-332-2168.

December 21
Stone Belt of Lawrence County Holiday Party
12 to 3:30 p.m.
LARC Building, Bedford

- This event is courtesy of the Elliott family, members of the LARC board of directors. They will provide a chicken dinner. There will also be a gift exchange and several other fun activities.
- For more information call Kim Hodges at 812-829-3978, ext. 222 or email khodges@stonebelt.org.

December 22
Stone Belt of Owen County Holiday Party
12 to 3:30 p.m.
Sweet Owen Industries (SOI) building, Spencer

- This event is sponsored by Tri Kappa from Owen County. There will be unlimited food including pizza, cookies, candies, a gift exchange and a choice of movie, Christmas Bingo or dance.
- For more information call Kim Hodges at 812-829-3978, ext. 222 or email khodges@stonebelt.org.

December 23 & 26
Christmas Observance
Stone Belt’s day program facilities and offices will be closed.

January 2
New Year’s Day Observance
Stone Belt’s day program facilities and offices will be closed.

January 10
Aktion Club Meeting
4 to 5 p.m.
Mt. Gilead Church, 10th Street & Russell Road

- Aktion Club is a client-based club that offers members an opportunity to give back to the community. The group is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.
- For more information contact Ann Dinerger at 812-332-2168, ext. 247 or email adininge@stonebelt.org.

January 10
X-Change Club Meeting
7 to 8:30 p.m.
Bloomington Adult Community Center, 349 S. Walnut Street. Second floor library.

- X-change is a group for family members and support providers of individuals with special needs of all ages. A safe environment to x-change experiences, resources and ideas.
- For more information contact Denise Brown at xchange@city.bloomington.in.us.

April 29
Stone Belt 5K Walk and mile Walk/Run
All day
Stone Belt 10th Street, Bloomington

- Mark you calendar for Stone Belt’s first ever 5K Run or mile walk fund-raiser. All proceeds will go towards Stone Belt programming. Plans are still in the works with more information to follow.
- For more information contact Kyong Ge Williams at 812-332-2168, ext. 285 or email kwilliam@stonebelt.org.

touchstone

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STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES ARC AWARD

Beth Richardson, Manager of Maxwell House group home was awarded the Cathleen Clark Professional Service Award from the Arc of Indiana.



She accepted this award on November 18 at the Arc’s annual awards ceremony in Indianapolis. Beth is a 17-year veteran of Stone Belt.

“Beth has made a world of difference to all the children, families and staff associated with Maxwell House,” said Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green. “We congratulate her on this prestigious recognition.”

STONE BELT HOSTS STUDENT MENTORING DAY

On October 12, the City of Columbus partnered with Stone Belt, the Bartholomew County School Corporation and the Bartholomew County Arc for the first annual Student Mentoring Day for individuals with disabilities.

Twelve area high-school age students were paired with City of Columbus employees to observe and gain hands-on experience in a variety of employment settings with the City. Some placements included the Columbus Area Arts Council, Police Department, City Utilities, Human Rights Department, City Garage/Transit, Parks & Recreation, Planning Department and Personnel Department.

Local student Jessica Reynolds enjoyed her mentorship at the city, “The mentoring day was a great experience for me because I learned about different jobs available in Columbus,” she said.

“The City was very eager to get local students involved in the Mentoring Day,” said Susan Russ, Stone Belt Assistant Director for Employment and Personal Resources. “The mayor and personnel department were extremely involved in making this partnership a success by setting up numerous mentoring opportunities in their organization.

Students worked with their mentor in the morning and then attended a luncheon provided by the Bartholomew County Arc. The luncheon included a motivational presentation by local artist Paul Neufelder.



STONE BELT OF OWEN COUNTY (SOI) HOLDS ANNUAL PICNIC

Stone Belt of Owen County (SOI) held its annual summer picnic on September 2 at Flatwoods Park in Ellettsville.

There were a number of activities to keep clients and staff busy at this all-day event including a barbecue lunch, volleyball and hiking park trails.

The finale of the event every year is a group water fight. Teams fight to the finish to see who can end up the wettest.

“Clients and staff look forward to the picnic every year,” said SOI Director Kim Hodges. “We all take a day off from work and spend time with each other in a laid back atmosphere.”

MILESTONES DISTANT LEARNING NETWORK CLASSES

Stone Belt’s Milestones division offers several Distant Learning Network classes throughout the year.

These sessions are geared toward medical and ancillary professionals. They fulfill Category 1 CEU credits and there is no fee to attend.

All sessions are held in Milestones’ building at 550 S. Adams Street, via satellite, in the main

MILESTONES



CLINICAL & HEALTH RESOURCES

conference room on the first floor. New classes are usually announced on Stone Belt’s Web site about 1 month prior to the class.

There is no fee to attend. Log on to www.stonebelt.org and click on the News and Events link and follow the link to the Calendar of Events. Classes are listed here by date.

Some class topics in 2005 included: Mood Stabilizers, Multiple Medications and Metabolics; Navigating Patients with Bipolar Disorder Across the Three Phases of Treatment; and Pharmacoeconomics in Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia: Are the Outcomes Worth the Cost?

For more information or to be added to the class mailing list contact Milestones Behavior Analyst Jeremy Toschlog at 812-333-6324, ext. 280 or email jtoschlo@stonebelt.org.



STONE BELT OPENS NEW OFFICE

Stone Belt opened a new office building in North Vernon on August 1. A ribbon cutting on September 16 celebrated the opening of the new space.

The building will house several Supported Living Program (SLP) Coordinators, a SLP Administrative Assistant, a Milestones Nurse and a Milestones Behavior Specialist.

“We are providing supports to a number of clients in this area and hope to eventually increase services even more,” said Dottie Stewart, Stone Belt Supported Living Program Director. “The North Vernon office makes us more accessible to our clients and staff in the area.”

Staff at the site will manage the various supported living locations, supervise direct care staff and oversee other financial, health and general program needs.

Several Jennings County community members were on hand to help Stone Belt staff celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new office. North Vernon Mayor John Hall ceremoniously cut the ribbon. The presence of so many community members showcased the great working relationship between the community and Stone Belt.

North Vernon businessman Wayne Stearns also attended. Stearns leases the building to Stone Belt and is on the Stone Belt East Advisory Council.

“We are excited about this new building because it will allow Stone Belt to provide better customer service and community relations,” said Stewart.

Stone Belt also has an office in Columbus, a day program location in Seymour and several supported living sites which make up Stone Belt East.

2005 STONE BELT HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Stone Belt is in need of a variety of items this holiday season. Donations may be dropped off at any of Stone Belt’s locations.

■ Employment and Personal Resources (EPR): contact Bitta DeWees, 812-332-2168, ext. 241

- Board games
- DVD Player
- CD player
- CDs
- Coffee maker
- TV
- Moveable chalkboards
- Furniture (preferably leather or vinyl): recliners, couches and end tables
- Magazine subscriptions (especially Reminiscing, National Geographic, The Good Old Days)

■ Supervised Group Living (SGL) Department: contact Tonya Vandivier, 812-332-2168, ext. 223

- Kitchen countertop
- Lawn furniture
- Crafts
- Vacation sponsors
- Computer games
- PG rated videos
- Board games
- Photo albums
- Cameras
- CD player
- Wallpaper border
- Interior house paint
- Dining room table
- Mini refrigerator
- Freezer (chest or upright)
- Wall art (to be chosen by house residents)
- Sporting event tickets
- Bloomington Speedway tickets
- Cause and effect toys
- Newspaper subscriptions
- Movie tickets (Lawrence and Monroe theaters)

■ Infant and Child Developmental Services (ICDS) contact Shirley Stumpner, 812-323-4631, ext. 240

- Books
 - What to Expect When You’re Expecting (Spanish edition)
 - What to Expect in the First Year (Spanish edition)
 - The Simple People, by Tedd Arnold
 - 1-2-3 Magic, by Thomas Phelan (in Spanish and English)
 - Games to Play with Babies, by Jackie Silber
 - Baby Play (Gymboree), by Dr. Wendy S. Masi
 - Toddler Play (Gymboree), by Dr. Wendy S. Masi
 - Siempre te quere (Love You Forever), by Robert Munsch
 - Diez Deditos: Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America, by Jose-Luis Orozco
 - Creative Resources for Infants & Toddlers (Spanish Edition), by Judy Herr and Terri Swim
 - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Prenatal Drug and Alcohol Use and its Effects
 - any books on fatherhood
 - any prenatal resources and materials
- Videos/DVDs
 - Signing Times video series
 - 1-2-3 Magic Series (in English and Spanish)
 - 14 Steps to Better Breastfeeding
 - Car Seats: How to Protect Your Child from Birth to Ten
 - Celebrate Birth
 - Choices in Childbirth (in English and Spanish)
 - Healthy Steps for Teen Parents (3 volume set)
 - Infant and Toddler First Aid (2 volume set in English and Spanish)
 - The Dad Difference (2 volume set)
 - The Stages of Labor: A Visual Guide (in English and Spanish)
 - The Stages of Labor: A Visual Guide for Teens (in English and Spanish)
 - Why Breastfeed?
 - any childbirth videos
 - any fatherhood videos
 - any prenatal videos
- Baby Items
 - Diapers, all sizes and brands
 - Money for car seats
 - Car seats in new or good working condition
 - Bibs
 - Onesies
 - Infant Toys
- Crafts
 - Old magazines
 - Craft supplies
 - Plain gift bags, non-holiday

Annual Meeting Celebrates

Event recognizes individuals' commitment to Stone Belt

This year Stone Belt's agency-wide annual meeting was held August 22 at the Bloomington Convention Center.

The event was attended by about 500 people including clients, their families, staff, board members, volunteers and community partners. It is one of the organization's highlights of the year and one of the largest seated events held at the convention center.

At the meeting clients, staff, volunteers and community partners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to Stone Belt and its mission. See winners at right.

Attendees enjoyed a catered dinner buffet and keynote address by Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green. The speech highlighted milestones in the organization throughout 2005.

Three of Stone Belt's satellite locations also held annual award ceremonies where consumers, staff and community groups were honored. To read more about the Lawrence County, Owen County and East locations award ceremonies and for a list of their winners see Page 6.

This year Stone Belt gave several businesses, with whom it has strong working relationships with, the opportunity to sponsor its annual meeting. Sponsors were as follows:

Gold Sponsor / \$1,000
• Chase

Silver Sponsors / \$500
• Bradley & Associates, Inc.
• SIHO Insurance Services
• Bill C. Brown Associates

Bronze Sponsors / \$250
• Monroe Bank
• Johnson & Associates
• Employment Plus

"This year's meeting celebrated a year of growth and change. I look forward to working together to achieve even more success in 2006," said Green.



JOHNATHAN HOSSLER
Supervised Group Living (SGL)
Outstanding Client

During the last year, Johnathan Hossler has graduated from high school, started a new schedule within Stone Belt's day program and has volunteered in the community by delivering food to those not able to go out. He shows great respect for those he cares for.



MYRA HAWKINS
Supported Living Program (SLP)
Outstanding Client

Myra has had quite a year of change. She advocated for herself to become financially independent from her family and moved out of her family's home into her own place where she is enjoying making her own decisions. Myra is living proof that self-advocacy works.



JEREMY MARTIN
Employment and Personal
Resources (EPR)
Outstanding Client

In his third year as a canine playtime attendant at Wayport Kennels, Jeremy has truly become an outstanding community participant. He has accomplished much this year including a new roommate, new apartment and continuing his job.



LORI METCALF
Operations & Manufacturing
Services Outstanding Client

This past year Lori has become a shining star within the 10th Street manufacturing facility, especially on tasks requiring nimble fingers to assemble complex pieces. This client has gained many friends, enjoys her quiet time and shows a positive upbeat attitude at work.



ANGIE WILES
Infant and Child Developmental
Services (ICDS)
Outstanding Employee

Perfect words to describe Angie would be loyal, organized, flexible, caring, compassionate, empathetic, non-judgmental and dedicated. Her loyalty is evident in the service she has provided to Stone Belt over the past nine years.



RON SIPES
Operations and Manufacturing
Services Outstanding Employee

It is said that attitude determines success. Because of a newly found positive attitude, Ron has become one of the most valued people at 10th Street. Courteous and polite he does his job without complaint and is a key reason that things get clean whenever needed.



KATHERINE O'BRIEN
Milestones Clinical & Health
Resources Outstanding Employee

Katherine is a leader in her own department and throughout the entire organization. Katherine is always seeking the best and least restrictive interventions for our clients. She is focused on always finding the best practices and leading transformations.



KRISTIN MANNO
Administration
Outstanding Employee

This year Kristin took on new and expanded responsibilities in her human resources role. She accepted the challenges of supervision, finished her degree at IU and was instrumental in the push to mass hire a group of employees in Stone Belt's east region.



MARK NORRIS
Employee of the Year

Most notably Mark pursues the mission of Stone Belt and pushes his staff and clients to do the same. Accepting a challenge few others would even consider, he lived away from his family and moved clients in the midst of a snowstorm. He now makes a 2-hour drive several times a week.



MARTIN BONOWSKI & DALE MOUZIN
Residential Program of the Year

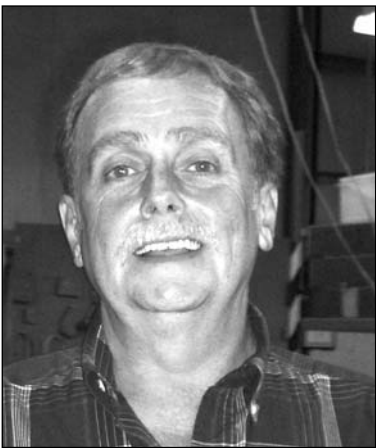
Stone Belt expanded this year with the addition of several new supported living sites in our east region. These sites, many with clients exiting the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center, have been a tremendous success. One of these sites, occupied by Martin Bonowski and Dale Mouzin, is recognized as Residential Program of the Year. The staff at Dale and Martin's have aggressively pursued normal community interactions, have involved the clients' families in their lives for the first time in years and have created a home that is comfortable and welcoming. True success can be found simply by looking at their smiles and obvious contentment.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIP (IU ACE PROGRAM)
Community Partner Award

IU's Community Outreach and Partnership has provided Stone Belt with a volunteer for Community Engagement (ACE). (pictured), recruits, organizes and trains the organization. COPSL pays Sarah instrumental in reviving volunteer service at IU and the COPSL program for their

s Clients, Staff, Community



DAN HARTNETT
Client Selected Staff
Day Programs

Keeping work fun is important to the clients of Stone Belt. No matter what else may be happening, Dan Hartnett, Work Services Specialist, always succeeds in keeping Stone Belt's clients safe, working hard and having fun at 10th Street's manufacturing facility.



KAY WESTFALL
Client Selected Staff
Residential Programs

Kay is a long-time Stone Belt staff and is the manager of Miller House, a group home that has been recognized as one of the best group homes in Indiana. Kay brings happiness, fun and organization to the clients at Miller House and at Stone Belt.



TIFFANY SPEERBRECKER
Supervised Group Living (SGL)
Outstanding Employee

Described as both an ideal employee and supervisor, Tiffany is always looking for ways to improve her house, clients and staff. As the associate manager at Bridgwaters House, she has created a well-organized and smoothly run weekend operation there.



LINDA RUSHTON
Supported Living Program (SLP)
Outstanding Employee

A relatively new employee, Linda has taken to her job and has not been afraid to do whatever is necessary to get events set, clients taken care of and the entire department organized. She learned her job quickly and willingly accepts new assignments.



URSZULA DAVID
Employment and Personal
Resources (EPR)
Outstanding Employee

Described by her co-workers as having the patience of a saint, Urszula is always working hard to ensure that the clients she is working with are fully engaged and enjoying activities. She is a model for the direct service professional.



BETSY HIGGINS
Award of Distinguished Service

Betsy received this award in recognition for her long-term service on the Stone Belt board of directors. She served for over five years and contributed greatly to the group during her tenure. Stone Belt recognizes Betsy's dedication and thanks her for her commitment to the organization over this period.



JODI SHEPHERD
Volunteer of the Year

A graduate student in the IU School of Library and Information Sciences, Jodi has devoted many hours of her time to develop a resource library for Stone Belt's ICDS program. With her help, a computer database was established and every file in the ICDS collection was categorized.



MAVIS ANDERSON
Early Intervention Services
Provider

Mavis Anderson is a Social Worker at Bloomington Hospital. She is a kind and caring soul that does not like to see families do without and helps connect them with resources they need. Mavis is an "Angel of Mercy" at the hospital and a great resource to the ICDS program.



MAUREEN GAHAN
Visionary Leadership Award

Professional, yet caring. Demanding, yet understanding. These phrases apply to Maureen. Her combination of directness, compassion and common sense has always made her valuable to Stone Belt and this value was magnified this year with her leadership of the Milestones Clinical and Health Resources program.



STEVE WARREN
Hero Award

This award is a new one created for Steve. He was responsible for a very expedient decision that ultimately saved a client's life. Steve is an Employment Support Consultant. This award is called the Hero Award this year, but from now on, will be known as the Steve Warren Hero award, given for heroic actions.



PARTNERSHIP IN LEARNING

Partnership in Learning (COPSL) program coordinator called an Advocate at Stone Belt's ACE, Sarah Cohen (not IU student volunteers to come to work for Stone Belt and has been services at Stone Belt. Stone Belt thanks partnership.



PEOPLE AND ANIMAL LEARNING SERVICE (PALS)
Community Partner Award

Providing one of the most popular programs with Stone Belt clients, People and Animal Learning Services (PALS), provides opportunities for clients to ride horses and participate in their care. The PALS staff is always helpful and supportive to ensure that people can participate at whatever level they are able to. The PALS group goes above and beyond to include Stone Belt clients in their social gatherings and celebrations. Stone Belt thanks PALS for their partnership.



BAKER FAMILY PRACTICE
Thomas Middleton Award

Over the years the Baker Family Practice has provided dental care for many disabled persons whom might otherwise have had difficulty finding dental care. As a group they are unflappable. Everyone is welcome and nothing seems to throw them. The entire office works well with individuals with cognitive disabilities. We know that they have worked out many different kinds of financial arrangements for families who might not have otherwise been able to afford dental care for the their dependents. We think the entire dental staff epitomizes the attributes of Thomas Middleton.

award ceremonies

Stone Belt satellite locations hold annual award ceremonies

This year Stone Belt’s three satellite locations held annual award ceremonies to honor clients, staff and community members at their respective locations.

Read on to find out more about each event and see below for a list of all award winners.

STONE BELT OF LAWRENCE COUNTY

The Lawrence County Arc (LARC) held their annual meeting September 22 at the Lawrence County Fair and Expo Building in Bedford. The event featured Stone Belt services and the excellent

partnership that exists with the Lawrence County Arc.

Attendees shared a buffet dinner while Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green gave a keynote address. Stone Belt of Lawrence County Director Kim Hodges led the event. This was Hodges’ first year as Director and her first annual meeting with the group.

“I was so excited to join Stone Belt of Lawrence County this year and to be a part of its exciting new ventures,” said Hodges. “The annual meeting was a great time to come together to recognize everyone’s hard work.”

STONE BELT OF OWEN COUNTY

The Owen County Arc held their annual meeting November 5 at the Sweet Owen Industries (SOI) building in Spencer. The event featured Stone Belt services and the excellent partnership that exists with the Owen County Arc.

Attendees shared a buffet dinner and a keynote address by Stone Belt of Owen County Director Kim Hodges.

“Every year I can’t wait for the dinner,” said SOI client Sam Siscoe. “It’s so fun to see all my friends and watch them win awards.”

STONE BELT EAST

Stone Belt East held its annual awards ceremony October 25 at the Bartholomew County City Hall.

In the past only Bartholomew County has held an annual celebration, but this year the group felt they should expand on this, largely to celebrate the area’s growth this past year.

“The growth our area has experienced this past year has been enormous. We are so proud of our efforts and wanted to celebrate our success,” said Dan Mustard, Columbus EPR Team Leader.



Simpson House clients and staff smile as they receive the “Residence of the Year” award at the Stone Belt of Lawrence County annual award ceremony.



Jeremiah Dougherty shows off his “Outstanding Client EPR” award with Team Leader Dawn Mullins at the Stone Belt of Owen County annual award ceremony.



Stone Belt Supported Living Program Teams Coordinator Mark Norris, presents Eniex Brewer with the award for “Outstanding Client in the Supported Living Program.”

**STONE BELT OF LAWRENCE COUNTY
AWARD WINNERS**

- **Employees of the Year**
Billy Brim
Janice Earl
- **Outstanding Employee SLP**
Jamie Templeton
- **Outstanding Employee SGL**
Maria Howell
- **Outstanding Client LSE**
Bryan Allen
- **Outstanding Client Manufacturing / Career Advancement Services (CAS)**
Becky Johnson
- **Outstanding Client EPR**
Jason Harper
- **Ms. Congeniality**
Sherry Boyles
- **Mr. Congeniality**
Johnny Brooking
- **Jester**
Crystal Pitts
- **Community Employer of the Year**
Day and Carter Mortuary
- **Residence of the Year**
Stone Belt Simpson House

**STONE BELT OF OWEN COUNTY
AWARD WINNERS**

- **Jester**
Dale Mullins
- **Mr. Congeniality**
Greg Johnson
- **Ms. Congeniality**
Jenny Ross
- **Outstanding Client EPR**
Jeremiah Dougherty
- **Outstanding Client LSE**
Mike Jones
- **Outstanding Client Manufacturing**
Marsha Shrake
- **Employer of the Year**
Cloverdale McDonald’s
- **Volunteer of the Year**
Mike Turpin
- **Client Selected Staff of the Year**
Mary Lopossa
- **Outstanding Employees of the Year**
Jamie Reece
Julie Webb
- **Residence of the Year**
Hite House

**STONE BELT EAST
AWARD WINNERS**

- **Volunteer of the Year**
Brenda Luken
- **Community Partners**
Kid’s Commons
Recycle Center for the City of Seymour
- **Employer of the Year**
Kohl’s Department Store
- **Outstanding Advocate**
Wendy Heaton, Independent Case Manager
- **Professional Achievement**
Yvonne Willhite, Columbus High North
- **Outstanding Client Employment Services**
Jamie Turner, Kohl’s
- **Outstanding Client LSE**
Gina Goodwin, Fantastic Sams
- **Outstanding Client SLP**
Missy Bishop and Brad Summerlot
- **Residential Program of the Year**
Eniex Brewer
- **Outstanding Employees**
Dennis Spencer and Charlie York
- **Outstanding Client SLP**
Eniex Brewer
- **Residential Program of the Year**
Dennis Spencer and Charlie York
- **Outstanding Employees**
Dan Mustard
Cricket Rea
Benet Pearl



Bird Bonanza

Winter is a perfect time to provide shelter and food to your feathered friends. Stone Belt Art & Craft makes a variety of bird houses and feeders to meet your needs. All pieces are built with durable weather-hardy white cedar.

To buy, call: 812.332.2168, ext. 270.



staff spotlight

Meet Mark Osborn: new Stone Belt CFO

Mark Osborn’s arrival in Bloomington as Stone Belt’s new CFO is a homecoming of sorts.

Osborn has traveled the country and world working for a variety of companies, but even after all this, his career has brought him full circle, returning him to the state of his youth.

An Indiana native, Osborn grew up outside Ft. Wayne. He moved to Bloomington in 1979, as a freshman to attend Indiana University. After graduating with a degree in Economics, he moved to Indianapolis to take a job with the City of Indianapolis. He then returned to Bloomington after a few years where he attended IU for graduate school and received his MBA.

After this, Osborn worked at a variety of companies making stops in cities including Minneapolis, St. Louis, Cleveland, Chicago, Austin and lastly Dallas. His positions were all in the corporate finance field. Some of these jobs even sent him to exotic world cities like Hong Kong and Paris.

“My friends were always envious of all the traveling I did with work. What they didn’t realize is that I didn’t even get to see the cities. Most of my days were spent in conference rooms that could have been anywhere,” said Osborn.

This frequent travel and exhausting work schedule is just one of the reasons Osborn wanted to make a change in his career.

“There has been this trend in the corporate world where people are leaving high-paying jobs to do something simpler with their lives,” he said. “Many found it difficult to balance a personal and professional life. They find themselves entirely consumed by their work life and unfulfilled in the process. This was part of my idea that I wanted to make

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— Mark Osborn,
Stone Belt CFO

a change and do something different.”

Stone Belt seems like a perfect fit for Osborn. He sees the company’s desire to reduce its dependence on governmental funding as one area where his for-profit experience can really help. Osborn said this is something that really impressed him during the interview process.

Osborn sees Stone Belt’s manufacturing operations as one area that can help fill in the gap for decreased federal aid.

“I like the baseline strategy for Leather Works, but the execution needs to be tweaked a little,” he said. “We need to brand the product consistent with our most distinguishing characteristic, that these products are produced by the developmentally disabled.”

The need to tell Stone Belt’s story better is something Osborn feels passionately about. He feels that the organization needs to tap into the desire that many companies have to give back to the community.

“Many companies find it

objectionable to just give money, but we’re not asking them to do that. We’re asking them to buy our high-quality leather product that happens to be handcrafted by persons with developmental disabilities,” he said.

An example he cites is law firms. Many law firms give out gifts to their clients every year. Sometimes this might be an item like a leather portfolio. Mark said Stone Belt should tap into companies like this and get them to buy Leather Works’ portfolios. “They are spending the money anyway; why not have them spend it with an organization that will use the profits to help others?” he said.

During Osborn’s interview process he was most impressed with how Stone Belt staff members he met talked about their work in a context of delivering a valuable service.

“Stone Belt talked about being effective in what they did. They were very cognizant about outcomes with the decisions they made. This was the connection I was looking for,” he said.

Osborn has spent the early days of his transition meeting with various department directors and learning about the organization. From his meetings he’s concluded that Stone Belt is at a good turning point.

“Changes in State and Federal funding are going to cause us to evaluate how we provide services,” he said. “This can create a fertile environment for rethinking what we’ve done historically to try to adapt to these changes.”

Mark is excited about being a part of Stone Belt and sharing its story. “We need to tell what we do in a way that reaches people on an emotional level. That’s what great brands do.”

client spotlight



In addition to many of the community activities he is active in, George Kirles has recently started participating in Career Advancement Services (CAS) classes.

George Kirles: A man who has it all

By Jenny Austin

Looking at George Kirles, you might think he has everything. He has a job in the community he’s held for years. He is in a relationship with a smart, pretty young woman. He works out at the YMCA. He attends the local Greek Orthodox Church. He’s been a fixture in the 10th Street manufacturing facility and Life Skills Enrichment (LSE) classes for years.

But George felt like something was missing. Growing up with a disability in the 1950s meant that George’s academic opportunities were very limited. He wanted to be able to exercise his mind just as he exercises his body. Although George had attended Adult Basic Education classes, those just weren’t quite what he was looking for.

When Stone Belt 10th Street began offering Career Advancement Services (CAS) classes, George became interested. CAS provides a sound grounding in basic academics, combined with instruction in employment-related areas and character education.

In addition, CAS has begun to offer occupational training in various areas that will eventually lead to Certificates of Technical Achievement for participants.

Persons in CAS also rotate through paid work in Manufacturing Services that not only serves as a hands-on training in specific tasks but provides income as well.

Although George had a schedule he enjoyed in Life Skills Enrichment (LSE) classes, his curiosity was piqued by the new classes downstairs. George arranged to shadow CAS classes for a few times; and he liked what he saw. Here were the academics George had been desiring: reading and practical math such as money skills and time-telling. Classes based on skill levels meant that George could learn with his peers. CAS instructors had been selected from the Manufacturing Services supervisors, so George would be working with familiar staff as well. George was ready to start immediately.

There was just one small catch. Unfortunately, in social services, much of the world is hung on what funding is available. George did not have the correct funding for Career Advancement Services (CAS); George had funding for Life Skills Enrichment (LSE). Now CAS is a less expensive service than LSE, so the state would save money by letting George switch, but it’s not an automatic process. George took the lead advocating to his Case Manager to change his plan of care to include the new classes. He made it very clear to her that this was a change he wanted to make.

When George knows what he wants, he is likely to get it. That was certainly the case with CAS. Before long, the changes had gone through, and George was able to make the switch. Now you will often find George seated at the classroom table, hard at work on his day’s lessons.

client spotlight

Self-Advocacy at work



“I’m much more confident. I believe I’m working for a change for myself and others like me.”

— Angie Ehlers,
Self-Advocate

Angie Ehlers doesn’t leave her fate in the hands of others, she takes on challenges herself and fights for what she believes in. She is a true self-advocate for herself and others with disabilities.

Ehlers, a resident of Stone Belt’s Southern House group home, has been active in self-advocacy causes for over 10 years. She is President of the Monroe County Self-Advocacy Group and recently took on a new challenge; she was chosen to attend the Partners in Policymaking Academy.

The Partners in Policymaking Academy is a leadership-training program for adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. It is funded by the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities. The program teaches leadership skills and techniques to develop positive partnerships with elected officials, school personnel and other individuals who make policy decisions about services for persons with disabilities.

Ehlers became involved in the organization after receiving information about it at the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities last year. She applied and was accepted. The program is open to a limited number of people, this year about 40 were chosen. It covers hotel, travel and other expenses for its attendees.

For Ehlers, being chosen for the academy meant making a few commitments. She travels to Indianapolis monthly to participate in two all-day sessions. She is also responsible for completing homework assignments and a final community project.

Some session topics include: history behind the self-advocacy movement, education about legislative policies and ideas for organizing self-advocacy in the community. In sessions, participants have the opportunity to practice new skills, build a network of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and learn from national experts.

Fall 2005

touchstone

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



Halloween Delight
A variety of costumes took center stage at Stone Belt's first Halloween Extravaganza.



Several Jennings County community members helped Stone Belt celebrate the opening of its new North Vernon office. From left to right: Jan Tucker, Jennings County Chamber of Commerce President; Judy Heath, Jennings County Chamber of Commerce staff; Dorothy Stewart, Stone Belt staff; Camela Garret, Stone Belt staff; Leslie Green, Stone Belt CEO; Barbara King, North Vernon Plain Dealer & Sun reporter; John Hall, North Vernon Mayor; Mike Walters, North Vernon Plain Dealer & Sun representative; Dottie Stewart, Director of Stone Belt Supported Living Program; Janice McKenna, Stone Belt staff; Mark Norris, Stone Belt staff; Wayne Stearns, building owner. For more on the new office see Page Three.

HALLOWEEN FUN

Stone Belt hosts its first Halloween fund-raiser. **page 1**

MEETING MANIA

Winners from our four annual award ceremonies. **pages 4-6**

NEW FACE

Mark Osborn starts as Stone Belt's new CFO. **page 7**

OUR MISSION

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