MEET THE BOARD
Take a minute to get to know these people who help shape Stone Belt.

page 1

GROWING UP
Years of inadequate office space needs are solved with two new buildings: a new purchase and old expansion.

page 4

STONE BELT EAST
Stone Belt expands its Supported Living and Life Skills Enrichment services into two new counties, Jennings and Jackson.

page 6

HIGH SIGHTS SET
Three cases illustrate the importance of giving during Stone Belt’s capacity building fund-raising campaign.

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.
Meet the Board

Members have many responsibilities

The Stone Belt board of directors consists of 13 elected members. There are five officers including a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President. There are also representatives from Lawrence and Owen counties as well as one Stone Belt client. According to board bylaws, at least five members must be parents or guardians of persons with developmental disabilities. Each year the board of directors adopts a written service plan identifying goals, objectives and policies to promote Stone Belt’s mission. The board also evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of Stone Belt programs.

Board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Stone Belt’s main conference room at its 10th Street facility. The meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Officers and members are nominated each year at the Annual Meeting. Current board members and Stone Belt’s CEO are responsible for recruiting new members. If you are interested in serving on Stone Belt’s board of directors or any of its other committees contact Leslie Green at 332-2168, ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org. New volunteers are always needed and welcome. Read on to learn more about this year’s board.

PRESIDENT
DON HOSSLER
OCCUPATION
Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at IU
BOARD TENURE
Four years, first time as president
INTERESTING FACT
Lived in Russia after Perestroika started

VICE PRESIDENT
ED OTTING
OCCUPATION
Retired Information Systems Corporate Division Director at Eli Lilly
BOARD TENURE
Seven years
INTERESTING FACT
Ed previously served as President of the Arc of Indiana.

SECRETARY
PHIL MEYER
OCCUPATION
Station Manager for WTIU Bloomington
BOARD TENURE
Three years
INTERESTING FACT
Phil has won a regional Emmy Award for his work at WTIU.

PAST PRESIDENT
HENRY UPPER
OCCUPATION
Retired Piano Professor at IU
BOARD TENURE
Six years
INTERESTING FACT
Henry’s wife Celicia is an Interior Designer who helped choose colors for Stone Belt’s 10th Street expansion.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2003-2005
BETSY HIGGINS
OCCUPATION
Business Office Director at Ivy Tech
BOARD TENURE
Ten years
INTERESTING FACT
Betsy is a Stone Belt client. She is also on the Arc of Indiana board.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2005-2007
TIM HINES
OCCUPATION
Business Office Director at Ivy Tech
BOARD TENURE
Newly elected this year
INTERESTING FACT
Graduated from Ball State University and recently moved from Anderson, IN.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2004-2006
VICKI BAKER
OCCUPATION
Special Education Teacher
BOARD TENURE
Four years. Also serves on Stone Belt’s Human Rights Committee.
INTERESTING FACT
Has taught several Stone Belt clients in her classes.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2003-2005
CHARLIE BRADLEY
OCCUPATION
Retired Lumberjack
BOARD TENURE
Has served on the Stone Belt board and Owen County Arc board
INTERESTING FACT
After an accident years ago Charlie changed his life for the better.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2004-2006
DAVE GREGOIRE
OCCUPATION
Business Development Director at the National Educational Service
BOARD TENURE
Two years
INTERESTING FACT
Has served in every position.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2005-2007
CATHI CANFIELD
OCCUPATION
Economic Development Coordinator of Middle Way House, Inc.
BOARD TENURE
Charlotte has also served as President, Vice President and Secretary
INTERESTING FACT
Has been President of the Board of Trustees for Indiana State University.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2005-2007
STUART MUFSON
OCCUPATION
Professor of Astronomy at IU
BOARD TENURE
Has been on the board for over 10 years and has served in every position.
INTERESTING FACT
Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2004-2006
DAN ROBBINS
OCCUPATION
Retired Business Owner
BOARD TENURE
Is a member of the LABC board.
INTERESTING FACT
Owned Conva Care Services, a family business for 28 years.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2003-2005
BARBARA WILSON
OCCUPATION
Attorney at the Eric Koch Law Firm in Bloomington
BOARD TENURE
Two years
INTERESTING FACT
Barbara spent a number of years abroad championing human rights issues.

MEMBER CLASS OF 2004-2006
BETSY HIGGINS
OCCUPATION
Treasurer and Past President
INTERESTING FACT
Newly elected this year

MEMBER CLASS OF 2005-2007
DOUG GILES
OCCUPATION
Branch Manager for Employment Plus, Inc. in Bloomington
BOARD TENURE
Newly elected this year
INTERESTING FACT
Caths enjoys playing tennis, traveling and is learning to play the guitar.

INTERESTING FACT
Barbara spent a number of years abroad championing human rights issues.

INTERESTING FACT
Has been involved with the Arc movement since 1961.

INTERESTING FACT
Henry’s wife Celicia is an Interior Designer who helped choose colors for Stone Belt’s 10th Street expansion.

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Lived in Russia after Perestroika started.

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Phil has won a regional Emmy Award for his work at WTIU.
New year brings with it changes, growth.

Stone Belt is an ever growing and evolving organization and periodically there is a need to update publications to reflect our image. We are so excited to present to you first look at Touchstone, our newly named and designed quarterly newsletter. 2005 brings to Stone Belt not only many program initiatives, but also changes in the way we publish information. Starting with this flagship edition, Touchstone will replace the Mainstream News.

Touchstone’s new design will help make this possible. The larger page size will allow for more articles and pictures. In addition, the new magazine-style format will help with readability. We hope these changes will quickly give you the information you want and need.

It was a long-overdue but easy decision to replace the title of The Mainstream News. Today “mainstreaming” is not commonly used, but is instead replaced with words like inclusion – one of Stone Belt’s core values.

The title Touchstone brings with it a freshness: Our new name is fresh to us, and is an evolving term. Touchstone might seem like a witty play on words, but delving deeper into its definition reveals it has a lot in common with Stone Belt’s mission. A touchstone is a hard black stone that a judgment is based. We hope your judgment of Touchstone and its contents will be positive.

Touchstone will be packed with familiar articles you love like program spotlights and the message from the CEO, as well as many new features like client spotlight and photo spreads. We hope you will find this information interesting and entertaining. Welcome your feedback in any way. It is important to us to know we are reaching you and giving you articles with information you are interested in because you are part of Stone Belt’s extended family. Let us know if there’s something you would like to read about or if you want to get involved with one of our many programs.

There are many parts of Stone Belt that we want you to learn more about. This issue brings to you information about our board of directors. Take a minute to get to know these people who help shape Stone Belt. There are several spotlights about our growth profiling new buildings and program changes. Finally, you can learn about our 2005 fund-raising campaign. With a goal of $200,000, it will take a lot of support from readers like you. Find out why you should help and how you can make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to many more years of collaboration together.

If you have any feedback about Touchstone please contact editor Cheryl Paul at 332-2168, ext. 261 or email cpaul@stonebelt.org.

Touchstone is distributed free of charge to families, friends, businesses and partners of Stone Belt.

Touchstone is also defined as a criterion and a standard on which a judgment is based. We hope your judgment of Touchstone and its contents will be positive.

activities for both these locations. And, as we have been moving along with these planned activities, our reputation for quality services brought us two new opportunities. First, we received referrals for 10 residents of Muscatatuck State Developmental Center who were looking for supported living arrangements. Although these individuals bring intense challenges because of their behavioral support needs, our supported living staff quickly jumped at the chance to provide them with an opportunity for a new life in the community. Second, we have been asked by the Jackson County Arc to provide Life Skills Enrichment activities in Seymour. This will start after February 1. While both of these initiatives were unplanned, we are excited about the opportunity to meet the wants and needs of these new clients and their families.

The energy of the staff toward accomplishing all of our initiatives is outstanding. They never shrink from a challenge and have impressed everyone with their drive, expertise and enthusiasm. I think you, our stakeholders, can be very proud to be associated with such fine professionals. I know I am.

We know that many challenges, both programmatic and financial, lie ahead of us, but our expectations for a progressive and successful future are great. As always, thank you for your ongoing support of Stone Belt.

With Wild Expectations,

Leslie Green
Chief Executive Officer

calendar of events

March 8 Employer Awards Ceremony 2 to 3:30 p.m. Bloomington Convention Center Cook Group Room 302 South College Avenue For more information contact Elizabeth Hall at 332-2168, ext. 234 or email ehall@stonebelt.org.

March 8 Aktion Club Meeting 4 to 5 p.m. Stone Belt 10th Street, Main Conference Room For more information contact Ann Dininger at 332-2168, ext. 247 or email adininge@stonebelt.org.

March 17 Job Club Meeting 4 to 5 p.m. Stone Belt 10th Street Main Conference Room Special Guest: Mary Banks, Front Office Manager for Four Winds Resort. For more information contact Elizabeth Hall at 332-2168, ext. 234 or email ehall@stonebelt.org.

April 25 Dr. Brazelton Parent Night 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jackson Creek Middle School Auditorium. Community night. Free to attend. Dr. Brazelton will talk then parents can participate in a question/answer session.

from the editor

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from the CEO

New year brings with it changes, growth.

Nobody succeeds beyond his or her wildest expectations unless he or she begins with some wild expectations.

— Ralph Charell, Author

Life at Stone Belt is anything but boring these days. Some of our energetic program development is part of our strategic initiatives (things we’ve planned) and some of them are opportunities that have been afforded to us. Stone Belt has never been afraid of taking on ambitious projects and now we are certainly living up to this reputation in a big way.

As you will read in this issue our space expansion planning has come to fruition. We are presently moving into our 10th Street addition and the Landmark area. The 10th Street expansion will eliminate the overcrowding of our burgeoning Supported Living and Life Skills Enrichment programs. Look for open house and ribbon cutting activities for both these locations.

And, as we have been moving along with these planned activities, our reputation for quality services brought us two new opportunities. First, we received referrals for 10 residents of Muscatatuck State Developmental Center who were looking for supported living arrangements. Although these individuals bring intense challenges because of their behavioral support needs, our supported living staff quickly jumped at the chance to provide them with an opportunity for a new life in the community.

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The first day of the seminar is a Parent Community Evening. This event will be held on Monday, April 15. During this presentation Dr. Brazelton combines an informative topical presentation with an open forum. Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, a renowned pediatrician, will host a seminar in Bloomington in April. This is offered for groups interested in parenting and child development.

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton Offers Seminar in Bloomington

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UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WRAPS UP

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2005 brings many exciting new endeavors to Stone Belt of Monroe County. These include a newly purchased 550 South Adams Street facility as well as a new addition to our 10th Street building.

**ADAMS STREET PURCHASE**

With the purchase of a building at 550 South Adams Street Stone Belt has taken a major step toward solving its space difficulties.

In November, Stone Belt signed an agreement with the Rogers Group to buy the building for $1.2 million. Staff started moving in January 26.

The 17,000-square-foot concrete block structure will be used to house Stone Belt’s Infant and Child Developmental Services (ICDS) program — including First Step, a statewide program catering to preschoolers who have developmental disabilities or are at risk for developmental delays, and Monroe County Healthy Families, a statewide program designed to strengthen families’ ability to provide education and support services to parents.

The facility will also house Stone Belt’s Milestones program (see page 5 to learn more) as well as some employment services for clients.

These programs, along with Supported Living and Child Developmental Services (ICDS) and Milestones programs.

Stone Belt purchased 550 South Adams Street in November. The new building will house Stone Belt’s Infant and Child Developmental Services (ICDS) and Milestones programs.

**10TH STREET EXPANSION**

Last March, Stone Belt broke ground on a new 8,000-square-foot, two story addition at its 10th Street facility — its first expansion since the 1970s. The $800,000 metal and stone addition will provide much needed office space and programming space for clients. Some amenities of the building include four large accessible restrooms, a permanent training room, several new conference rooms and a long-term storage space. Financed in part with a $100,000 Community Development Block Grant, the building was completed in January.

In addition to providing new programming possibilities, the space will also allow supported living program staff to move from its rented space on 2nd Street. This will enable staff to be in closer proximity to their clients and other employees with whom services must be coordinated at 10th Street.

The 17,000-square-foot facility is more than twice as large as the rented office space.

The need for an expansion is far overdue. The original 10th Street building was built in 1970 at a cost of $312,000 to provide services to 120 clients and 50 employees. The warehouse was constructed in 1974 to provide much needed office space and programming space for clients. Some amenities of the building include four large accessible restrooms, a permanent training room, several new conference rooms and a long-term storage space. Financed in part with a $100,000 Community Development Block Grant, the building was completed in January.

At the end of the 2004 fiscal year Stone Belt completed an evaluation of its facilities’ operating costs. One result of this was the recognition that purchasing a new building could be accomplished for only a small increase annually to what was paid in leasing expenses. The 17,000-square-foot facility is more than twice as large as the rented office space.

“An increased our equity to the point where we’ve been able to secure a long-term, tax-free bond at a very low interest rate,” Pejeau said.

That said the new facility will require about $250,000 worth of renovations — including equipment, furnishings and modifications. Stone Belt is applying for a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Bloomington to help with repairs. This is federal money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development that is distributed by cities. In order to receive a CDBG grant 51% of the business must serve city residents. Stone Belt will be notified if they have received the grant in June.

Staff members moved into the new facility at the end of January. Milestones services will be located on the first floor of the building, however there will be different entrances for its programs. Customers for clinical services including Psychiatry and Counseling will enter through Suite B, located on the South side of the building. Customers for health services including case management, nursing and speech therapy will enter through Suite A, located on the North side of the building.

Infant and Child Developmental services will be located on the second floor of Adams Street. Customers for ICDS should enter through Suite A and use the stairs to reach the second floor.

Once all are settled into the new facility there will be a ribbon cutting and open house activities planned.

To take a tour of either the new Adams Street building or 10th Street addition please contact Development Director Larry Pejeau at 332-2168, ext. 279.
In its seven-year history, Stone Belt’s Supported Living program has grown tremendously. The program started in 1997 serving one client and today serves almost 100 making it larger than the Group Living program. The Group Living program will be headed by Tonya Vandivier, current Clinical Services Director. Tonya has worked at Stone Belt for over 13 years in CLS and has been program director since November 2003. The Supported Living program will be headed by new director Dottie Stewart, previously Assistant Director of CLS. To learn more about Stewart see the story at the right.

When it was decided to split the two programs Vandivier chose to stay with Group Homes. “I started working in Group Homes and have been involved with them for all 13 years of my career at Stone Belt,” she said. “The logical choice for both programs was for me to stay with Group Homes and give Dottie the chance to be promoted to Supported Living Director. She has a lot of experience in that area.”

The separation will also help develop Stone Belt’s new Supported Living program. “This has been under served in the state and has never left the state. She has worked at Stone Belt since 2003, but has been in the business of rehabilitative services for over 30 years. She started her career in 1977 as a special education teacher after graduating from IUPUI with a degree in education. She has worked as an Intermediate Care Facility/Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) surveyor and Program Director for the Indiana Department of Health for 11 years. In 2003, she joined the Stone Belt team as a Supported Living Program Director. She is board certified psychiatrist, will treat adolescents and adults in the early days of her transition with Milestones. She has kept busy during the early days of her transition with Milestones. She has kept busy during the early days of her transition with Milestones. She has kept busy during the early days of her transition with Milestones.
NEW MUSCATATUCK CLIENTS

Mark Norris and Beth Helmerich helped move two clients into their new home the week of the big snowstorm.

Stone Belt is pleased to announce an array of services to Jennings and Jackson counties. These new programs will be managed with Stone Belt’s current office in Bartholomew County and will be known as Stone Belt East.

Bartholomew County and Jennings County will become home to 10 new Stone Belt Supported Living Program (SLP) clients. These new clients formerly resided at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. There will be no office in Jennings County; services in this area will be headquartered at the Columbus offices.

Jackson County will be the home of Stone Belt’s new day program. The building and program services will be headquartered in Seymour.

Read on to find out more about these exciting new changes.

NEW MUSCATATUCK CLIENTS

Admitting and preparing for Stone Belt’s 10 new clients has been a long process with a lot of hard work by many staff members including the Human Resources Department and many SLP Coordinators.

Their work started on September 2004 when Stone Belt received a request from the Transition Team at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. The team asked that Stone Belt consider providing 24-hour support to two or three individuals currently residing at Muscatatuck. The center is slated to close by summer 2005 and needed to find community homes for its few remaining residents.

Within two weeks, the number of referrals had grown to 10 individuals.

Over the next few months, Stone Belt staff members, including new Supported Living Director Dorothy Stewart, met with the referred clients. After numerous interviews and meetings, the decision was made to accept them into our program. This spurred a chain of events including a hiring frenzy and housing search. It was estimated that at least 50 new staff would need to be hired to handle the influx of clients who require around the clock support.

On December 3, Stone Belt East welcomed its first two clients to their new home in Columbus. Tony King and Chad Effner have a beautiful historic home downtown.

The next two clients, Amanda Brewer and Enix Brewer (no relation) moved into their new home in North Vernon in the middle of a snowstorm on December 22. For more on their exciting move see the story at right.

On December 28, Dale Mouzin and Martin Bonowski were the fifth and six clients to arrive. They are now comfortably settled into their new home in Columbus. 2005 brought to Stone Belt its final four new clients, they are slated to move in February.

So far the clients’ transition from institution to community living has been successful.

Supported Living Program Coordinator Beth Helmerich has been instrumental during the clients’ move. “They are so happy to be living on their own for the first time. Little things like running out to Wal-Mart a few times a day make them feel so happy and independent. It’s exciting to see the smiles on their faces.”

Feedback from many of the clients’ parents has been positive as well. Mariam Cigan, mother of Amanda Brewer said, “We have no complaints about Stone Belt’s services. Amanda’s sisters recently saw her smile for the first time in years.”

Teams Coordinator Mark Norris loves seeing the clients’ settle into their new homes, “It’s great to watch them get an opportunity to live a different quality of life,” he said.

In addition to SLP’s growth with the Muscatatuck clients, there have been many other calls for service.

At this time, Stone Belt will help the Muscatatuck clients adjust before any other clients are accepted into the SLP programs. However there are plans for future expansion.

JACKSON COUNTY DAY PROGRAM

Another new service to be offered at Stone Belt East is day program services.

Near the end of 2004 the Jackson County Arc approached Stone Belt to see if they would be interested in providing day program services in that area. The board approached Stone Belt because they had heard about the quality services Stone Belt provides in Bartholomew County.

After much consideration Stone Belt decided to broaden services into Jackson County. “We thought it was important to expand and meet a need in that community,” said Susan Russ, Assistant Director of Employment and Personal Resources (EPR).

One thing that was important that the program provides in Bartholomew County is the SLP program. However there are plans for future expansion.

A new place to call home

The Jackson County School System is providing Stone Belt the use of this building in Seymour for their new Day Programming services in that area.

Mark Norris and Beth Helmerich helped move two clients into their new home the week of the big snowstorm.

Staff vital in helping new clients move

It may sound like an easy job moving two clients into their new home, but supported Living Team Coordinator Mark Norris and Program Coordinator Beth Helmerich will tell you that it’s harder than it seems, especially in the midst of a snowstorm.

December 22, moving day for two former Muscatatuck clients Amanda Brewer and Enix Brewer (no relation), turned out to be less than perfect because of a snowstorm that was in progress.

Jennings County, the location of Amanda and Enix’s new home, was covered in about 30 inches of snow. However, rescheduling the move was out of the question. Norris had promised them they could move in on that date. So true to his word, Norris and Helmerich ventured through the snow to Muscatatuck to bring them to their new home.

Throughout the day the snow deepened and Norris made the decision to stay with Amanda, Enix and their staff throughout Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to provide needed assistance. Snowed in, staff were on the lookout for the clients’ first Christmas in their new home memorable. First they festively decorated the home. Then, they made sure gifts were available. In order to do this, Norris drove through the snow to Muscatatuck to pick up their presents.

In addition to providing needed staffing during this period, Norris and other staff with four-wheel-drive vehicles made additional trips out to drive staff to and from work.

Norris and the staff also wanted to make sure the clients were as comfortable as possible. To do this Norris made numerous runs to the grocery store and Wal-Mart. Norris praised all who helped with the move and subsequent settling in. “It would not be possible for the move to happen without Beth’s help and all of the direct care staff who did whatever it took to make the transition a success. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work,” said Norris.

“Mark’s dedication and commitment to Stone Belt is tremendous. Without his hard work and great leadership, Stone Belt would not be on track moving in the first group of Muscatatuck clients,” said Terry Vanderlip, Director of Group Homes.
The federal government’s Medicaid public health insurance program, as well as state funding, has paid for the majority of these support services but this funding dynamic is increasingly operating in a deficit. Optional Medicaid services such as those received by individuals with developmental disabilities are being seriously threatened and there is a state waiting list of at least 15,000 more individuals trying to secure funding for support services through the Medicaid Waiver. Justin Lovell (see story below) is an excellent example of someone on this list.

Funding changes and challenges are constant in the lives of disabled individuals as well as their service providers. Stone Belt wants to offer the most effective support services to our community members with developmental disabilities and to remain the provider of choice in Indiana. We work diligently every day to maximize the value of our financial resources, but we need your help. We have started our Capacity Building campaign to help meet immediate budgetary challenges and to help prepare and empower every individual to participate in our community.

In the uniqueness and worth of each individual. We trust that you support this principle and our efforts to carry it out. We hope you will consider making a contribution. You can use the enclosed envelope to make your donation. Please consider how your contribution can help:

$50 will buy admission tickets for up to 10 individuals to participate in a community event
$100 will buy resource materials for 10 families of young children, giving those parents the information they need to provide the best developmental support for their children.
$250 will provide First Aid and CPR training to 10 staff members, helping 30 clients.
$500 will provide developmental screenings for more than 50 children and possibly identify issues that, with early intervention, can be reduced or eliminated.
$1000 will provide all materials needed for Life Skills Enrichment classroom instructions for one seven-year program such as art, current events, cooking and sensory awareness.

For more information about the Capacity Building campaign or to arrange a tour of our programs and facilities please contact Larry Pejaas at 812-332-2166, ext 279 or email at lpejaas@stonebelt.org.
Halloween Fun

Halloween is always one of Stone Belt's biggest parties. Clients and staff got into the spirit with scary and funny costumes. Read more about the party on Page 3.