

winter 2006 touchstone

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



Retiring Stone Belt Board Member Charlotte Zietlow stands with a special client-created art award presented to her at Stone Belt's agency-wide Annual Meeting on September 25. Read more about the Annual Meeting and other award winners on Pages 4-5.

STANDING ON PRINCIPLE

Principles of Service provide guidelines for support. **page 1**

GET ON BOARD

Board of Directors gets new officers, members. **page 6**

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Clients display artwork throughout the community. **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.

Principles of Service provide guidelines for delivering support

Stone Belt has developed our Principles of Service with the involvement of clients, families, staff and others from the community. These principles are used as the guidelines for what we do, how we deliver supports and services and the values and principles we hold as important. The Principles of Service are:

- Self-Determination is Essential
- Learning Creates Empowerment
- All People Have Contributions to Make
- Positive Supports Provide the Best Long-Term Results
- Home Life Must Be Self-Directed
- Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life
- Social Life and Relationships Help Create Quality of Life

Read on to find out more about each Principle. Descriptions are provided with an illustration of a client who embodies the Principle.

➤ To find out more about Stone Belt's Principles of Service contact CEO Leslie Green at 812-332-2168, ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org.

SELF-DETERMINATION IS ESSENTIAL

People have the right to self-determination. They must have opportunities and experiences that enable them to exert control in their lives and to advocate on their own behalf. Stone Belt emphasizes that right, and the responsibilities connected to it.

We teach and provide information for people to make choices as well as take responsibility for their own decisions.



Jerry Zumpe is a wonderful example of determination, work ethic, and resilience. He wanted to live independently and is now successfully doing so. He is an excellent worker and only gets the highest marks from his employer, Bloomington Hospital. He walks from his home to the hospital in the early hours of the morning, come rain or shine. Once, when he fell in his home, he independently got himself to the ER and filled out the necessary paperwork to receive care.

LEARNING CREATES EMPOWERMENT

Obtaining information and skills gives a person more personal power. All of our services emphasize learning and skill acquisition in areas that are suitable to each person's interests, age and cultural background. We emphasize activities that provide for growth and opportunity and are purposeful to the creation of a fulfilling life.



This past summer, through the generosity of one of our donors, Betty Underwood (see brief on page 3), Sandy Gaskins (left) and five other clients took a computer class at the Bloomington Adult Education Center. Underwood also made it possible to have computers installed in the classroom area, giving Sandy, and other learners, the opportunity to practice their skills daily. In addition to participating in our instructional programs, Sandy also lives in Miller House, one of Stone Belt's 11 group homes.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE

Each person has unique capacities, gifts and talents. It is the aim of our services to further develop these assets in each person served and employed. We strive to provide opportunities for self-advancement, as well as to enhance each person's capacities to contribute to the greater good of the community.



Meet Angie Ehlers. She is a confident young woman who has assumed a leadership role with the Self-Advocates of Indiana. Their mission, which Angie helps to carry out so effectively, is to speak for themselves and others in order to make dreams, hopes, and needs come true. Angie recently volunteered to check the accessibility of Monroe County polling places. Her contributions have made it possible for more Hoosiers with disabilities to have a voice and to fulfill the American dream.

POSITIVE SUPPORTS PROVIDE THE BEST LONG-TERM RESULTS

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



Meet Angee Brewer. She lives in her own house in North Vernon. She was one of the last people to move out of Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. She participates in Stone Belt's Supported Living and Milestones programs. The team that supports Angee is delighted that she is becoming part of her community. Her family is very supportive and recently bought her a house. She will soon have a roommate to help share expenses and to provide companionship.

HOME LIFE MUST BE SELF-DIRECTED

People should be empowered to live in community housing of their own choosing that is accessible and affordable. Stone Belt provides flexible services that follow the person in his or her chosen home, including supported living arrangements, group homes or the person's family home. Supports provided by Stone Belt within those settings are arranged around the individual's wants and needs.



Lisa Hackney (left) and Catherine Cornell (right), are roommates who have an live at Canterbury Village Apartments. Because of the 24-hour support they receive, Lisa was able to move out of a group home. She now has a cat and complete control of her own menu. Catherine graduated from high school recently and moved from her family home to live with Lisa. Lisa is a compassionate and giving person who enjoys providing assistance to Catherine.

EMPLOYMENT IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF ADULT LIFE

Our culture strongly values work, and one's identity is often closely associated with one's career. People with disabilities have the right to rewarding and successful careers that demonstrate their competencies and give them opportunities to be successful in their desired employment. Stone Belt offers a variety of work opportunities and supports, which include: assistance moving from school to work, career planning, skill development, job advancement, and retirement planning.



Bobby Pate loves animals. He has a dog and rides horses at PALS. Bobby works 15 hours a week at Canine Companions walking, feeding and taking care of the pets that are boarded there. After a short training period, Bobby now only requires periodic checks from his employment consultant. He receives great support from his supervisor and co-workers. His job evaluations earn the highest marks. Bobby is proud of his job and the friends he has made.

SOCIAL LIFE & RELATIONSHIPS HELP CREATE QUALITY OF LIFE

A great deal of one's emotional fulfillment comes from the relationships one has with family, friends and co-workers. People with disabilities and people with other socio-economic challenges often have a disproportionate number of their close relationships with people who are paid to support them. While we acknowledge the importance of these relationships, we are committed to supporting clients to develop and maintain fulfilling, independent relationships that range from acquaintances to life partners.



Meet Dennis Oakley (right) and his good friend Timm Slota. One day Timm stopped by Stone Belt to volunteer; a Social Worker matched him up with Dennis and now, several years later, they remain close friends. They have similar interests and love to go to monster truck shows, motorcycle races and demolition derbies. They also volunteer together to ring the bell for The Salvation Army. Dennis has become part of Timm's extended family.

from the CEO

Stone Belt adopts Principles of Service

Stone Belt has recently adopted an important document called the *Principles of Service*. In it, we have identified seven principles that express the values we have toward our consumers as well as the outcomes we hope people will achieve with our support. The *Principles* promote mutual respect, appreciation and understanding between all stakeholders involved in the supporting, giving and receiving of services from Stone Belt Arc, Incorporated. They are as follows:

- Self-Determination is Essential
- Learning Creates Empowerment
- All People Have Contributions to Make
- Positive Supports Provide the Best Long-Term Results
- Home Life Must be Self-Directed
- Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life
- Social Life and Relationships Help Create Quality of Life

All new employees and leadership staff are receiving training on the *Principles*. We plan to bring this training to all staff in the future, as well. Along with the *Principles*, we are also committed to providing *Right Way* training to all staff. *Right Way* is a teaching method that helps clients learn desirable behaviors, and that emphasizes when we treat consumers and each other the “right way,” we foster their success and independence. I believe the integration of the *Principles of Service* and *Right Way* practices will have a positive impact on the quality of our services.



Features in this edition of *Touchstone* highlight our *Principles* in action. They exemplify the amazing and fulfilling lives that people can create for themselves when they have support and acknowledgement of their capabilities. In accomplishing this important work, Stone Belt is fortunate to have so many collaborative partners. Thanks to each of you for the contributions you make which help us actualize our *Principles of Services* in the lives of our clients.

Fondly,

Leslie Green, Chief Executive Officer

quarterly donors

Stone Belt extends appreciation to all our generous donors from July 1 to November 15, 2006. We are grateful for their support.

IN-KIND GIFTS: Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, Book Corner, Chase Bank, Chili's Bar and Grill, Colorado Steakhouse, Fazoli's Restaurant, Howard's Bookstore, IU Alumni Association, Kappa Kappa Sigma Sorority, Learning Treasures, Judson Mead, Judith Metzger, Chris and Nicola Payner, Larry Pejeau, Bobbi Polk, Timothy Slota, Starbucks, Suburban Lanes, TGI Fridays, The Game Preserve, Wonderlab Museum, World Arts, Yarns Unlimited.

FRIEND LEVEL GIFTS (\$1 — \$99): Venus Abbitt, Kathy Aiken, Carole Allen, Miriam Alpert, Kathryn Anderson, Babbs Supermarket, Vicki Baker, Marge Belisle, Louise Blish, Bloomington Bagel Company, Julius Bogner, Stephen Bonowski, Nancy Buckles, Charles and Rhonda Burch, Robert Burton, June Bush, Anita Calkins, Cathi Canfield, Jim and Wanda Carroll, Kathy Carter, Jean Clark, Paula Chambers, Dixie Chaney, Vada Clayton, Nikki Coffey, Katie Cunningham, Kathryn Davidson, Arthur Dahlgren, I.K. Davies, Richard Dever, Bitta DeWees, Doyle Ehlers, Angie Ehlers, Ola Evans, F.C. Tucker/OBR Realtors, Samantha Figley, Paul and Karen Flicker, Albert and Jeanne Ford, Pat Freeman, Vickie and Bernie Fry, Brad and Susanne Galin, Joan Gann, Beth Gazley, Kassie George, Margaret Gilbride, Doug Giles, Meg Groff, John and Elizabeth Hall, Barbara Harris, Valerie Haughton, Charles Haviland, Betsy Higgins, David Higgins, Richard Hendrickson, Phyllis Herr, Smith Higgins, Kim Hodges, Robert Horlander, Betty Lou Horton, Dale and Loretta Horton, Don and Carol-Anne Hossler, Sherry Jeffers, Ross Jennings, Eleanor Jones, Tina Khuzkian, Iris Kiesling, George Kirles, Randall and Rae Kirk, Kroger Seminary Square, Jim and Kathie Lazerwitz, Elizabeth Lion, Long's Leather, Donnie McGinnis, Mary McGrayel, Nancy Metcalf, Donna Miller, Ruth Miller, Lou and Denny Moir, Dale Mullins, Ward and Frances Moore, Charles Myers, Allison Pack, Robert Pate, Bobbie Patee, L.D. and Dorothy Payton, Richard Pittman, Rudy Pizzatti, Patricia Preusz, Jim and Kathy Richardson, Patrick Robbins, Don Robinson, Eric Roemer, Anne and Anass Roemer-Sentissi, Miriam Rosenzweig, Linda Samples, Paula Schaar, Kathleen Sideli, Gladys Simmons, Chester Skoczylas, Nancy Smith, Clark Sorenson, Robert and Catherine Stigall, Don Summitt, Mark and Jane Summitt, Donald Sunday, George and Viola Taliaferro, Al Tinsley, Nancy Titus, Amy Travis, Don Underwood, United Way of Jefferson County, Henry and Celicia Upper, William Van Buskirk, Joseph and Tonya Vandivier, Erin Waltz, Joan Wamer, Kay Westhues, Kyong Ge Williams, Steve Worland.

STEWARDSHIP LEVEL GIFTS (\$100 — \$499): James and Shirley Abbitt, Anonymous, Ann Armstrong, Diana Baker, Sarah Baumgart, Bennett Diversified Products Inc., William Beyer, Fay Blackburn, Shirley Boardman, Ward Brown and Amanda Denton, Nelda Christ, Benny Coster, John Davenport, Paul and Lana Eisenberg, Joe and Gloria Emerson, Employment Plus, Malcolm Fleming, Eric and Emma Ford, Jim Foster, Richard and Margaret Frisbie, Barbara Gifford, Leslie Green and Ed Maxedon, Fred Gregory, Irvin Grossack, David Haas, M. Phil Hathaway, Gary Hieftje, Tim Hines, James and Helen Houck, Ikon Office Solutions, Indiana Steel and Engineering, Gary Ingersoll, Ivy Tech State College, Gregory Lloyd, Patricia Lundy, Russell Lyons, Robert Mann, Charles and Donna Martindale, Jerry McIntosh, Michael Molenda and Janet Stavropoulos, Daniel Mueller, Roberta Murphy, Oliver Winery, Edward and Mary Lou Otting, Terry and Dixie Patterson, William and Phyllis Perkins, Leonard Phillips, Proes, Sherry Reiche and Jim Laster, Jill Robinson, Dick and Virginia Rose, Jerard Ruff, Harold Sabbagh, Bonnie Smith, Smithville Telephone, Donald Snyder, George Sorrells, John Speaker, Malcolm Stern, Tabor/Bruce Architecture and Design, Sylvan Tackitt, Sandra Taylor, Barbara Terry, The Arc of Jackson County, Cliff Travis, Betty Turflinger, Jerry and Sherry Umphress, United Commerce Bank, Edward Wenstrup Jr., Wayne and Vivian Winston.

ADVOCATE LEVEL GIFTS (\$500 — \$999): Bill C. Brown Associates, Michael Brammer, Malcolm Brown, Alexander Buchwald, William Corsaro, Maureen Gahan, Henry Gray, JA Benefits, Jason and Amy Jackson, Diana and Ken Gros Louis, Claudia Lindman, Valerie Merriam, Tracy Mitchell, Stuart and Cookie Mufson, Tony Pizzo, Push America, Paul and Charlotte Zietlow, Charles and Lisa Zorn.

BUILDER LEVEL GIFTS (\$1,000 — \$2,499): Jim Grandorf, Indiana State Council Knights of Columbus, Williams Brothers Healthcare Pharmacy.

CORNERSTONE LEVEL GIFTS (\$2,500 — \$4,999): Daniel and Rosalind Gerstman.

CAPSTONE LEVEL GIFTS (\$10,000+): Dorothy Dugdale Estate.

upcoming events

December 5 Self-Advocates Meeting

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Stone Belt 10th Street Main Conference Room
• For more information contact Nancy Smith at 812-332-9959 or email nsmith@stonebelt.org.

December 25 and 26 Winter Holiday

Stone Belt's day program facilities and offices will be closed.

January 1 New Years Day Holiday

Stone Belt's day program facilities and offices will be closed.

March 8 Employer Awards Ceremony

2 to 3:30 p.m. • Bloomington Convention Center, 302 South College Avenue

• For more information contact Elizabeth Hall at 812-332-2168, ext. 234 or email ehall@stonebelt.org.

April 28 Run with Me 5K Run/Walk and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk

Stone Belt 10th Street, Bloomington

• Check-in and event day registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. and 5K begins at 10 a.m.
• Entry fees. 5K: \$15 pre-registered, \$17 day of event. Fun Run: \$10 pre-registered or day of event.
• Registration forms can be found at www.stonebelt.org and at all Stone Belt locations. For more information contact Kyong Ge Williams at 812-332-2168, ext. 285 or email kwilliam@stonebelt.org.

touchstone

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Stone Belt is a member of:



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Tonya Vandivier: Director of Supervised Group Living

Touchstone is distributed free of charge to families, friends, businesses and community partners of Stone Belt. If you would like to receive our newsletter or know someone else who, would please contact Publications Supervisor Cheryl Paul at 812.332.2168, ext. 261 or email cpaul@stonebelt.org.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Stone Belt is pleased to announce the first five recipients of its \$500 educational assistance scholarships.

Selected by the Executive Committee of the Stone Belt Board of Directors, these five employees received assistance for the Fall 2006 semester: Kristi McCann, Pam Larr, Betsy Marshall, Shawna Thompson and Matt Stewart.

This program was funded through Stone Belt's development activities. Board member Ed Otting and his wife Mary Lou issued a challenge grant to raise funds for this program and for the Awards for Excellence for this fiscal year.



Kristi McCann
Manager of Professional Development
Pursuing a Masters of Science and Management degree at Indiana Wesleyan University.



Pam Larr
Behavior Specialist, Milestones
Pursuing an Ed.S. degree in Educational Leadership at Indiana University to receive her LMHC licensure.



Betsy Marshall
Behavior Technician, Deckard House
Pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Indiana University.



Shawna Thompson
SLP Caseworker, Monroe County
Pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Gender Studies and Psychology at Indiana University.



Matt Stewart
Associate Manager, Simpson House (Bedford)
Pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in General Studies with a focus in Social Work at Indiana University.

INVEST IN STONE BELT — INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY

We all benefit when every individual is acknowledged as making contributions, is supported in a self-determined life, and is encouraged to reach his greatest potential. Stone Belt is honored to be recognized by our visionary donors. Please consider these end-of-year giving opportunities:

■ **NAP Tax Credits to Support Milestones: Clinical and Health Resources**

NAP tax credits provide an excellent avenue to both extend charitable giving and benefit individual tax returns. Indiana residents and businesses are eligible to receive 50% of their gift back as a state tax credit on a minimum contribution of \$100. Through NAP, Milestones will provide 2000 additional hours of clinical services next year.

■ **End-of-Year Gifts to the General Fund**

General Fund gifts allow our entire program to flourish. If you'd like to make a gift in honor of someone, Stone Belt will be pleased to send a beautiful card to the honoree, hand-crafted by our clients, acknowledging your generosity.

■ **Stone Belt Wish List**

Donations of the items below will enhance the lives of our clients and the quality of our programs: Mini vans • Wheelchair accessible vans • Hoyer lift • School size laminating machine • Vinyl lounge chairs • Wooden chairs with arms • CD players • Computer sound card and speakers • Laptop computers • CDs and DVDs • Grocery and restaurant gift cards • Concert, theatre and sports tickets • Sensory items • Riding mower • Refrigerator • Health and Beauty supplies • Twin and Queen bedding • Men's and women's clothing and shoes • Outdoor basketball goal • Bath and kitchen towels • Yard furniture • Gas grills • Microwave ovens • Electric skillets • Computer desk chair

For information on giving opportunities, please contact Development Director Amy Jackson at 332-2168 ext. 314 or email ajackson@stonebelt.org.

BELOVED STAFF MEMBER IS REMEMBERED

Long-time Stone Belt staff member Mary Ellis, 74, passed away Friday, October 27 at Bloomington Hospital.

Mary was a clinical social worker who demonstrated a lifelong commitment to social justice through nearly forty years of work in the Bloomington community. Her contributions included past service on the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, work in executive positions at the Monroe County Community Action Program and at Tulip Trace Council of Girl Scouts, and the providing of therapeutic services through a private practice. At the time of her illness, she was retiring from Stone Belt where she worked since 1988.

Mary will be greatly missed by many clients and staff.



LEATHER WORKS RECOGNIZED

Stone Belt Leather Works was named 2006 Social Entrepreneur of the Year at the second Annual Fuse Business Innovation Awards in Bloomington on October 17.

Congratulations to Leather Works Director, Mike Long, and his staff for this honor. Thanks for helping to build this successful division of Stone Belt.



DATE SET FOR "RUN WITH ME" EVENT

Saturday, April 28, 2007 marks the second annual, "Run with Me" 5K Run/Walk and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk. The event will be held at 2815 East Tenth Street in Bloomington. Proceeds will benefit Stone Belt.

The 5K will begin at 9 a.m. and the Fun Run/Walk will begin at 10 a.m. Check-in and event day registration for both races will begin at 7 a.m. Entry fees for the 5K are \$15 in advance and \$17 the day of the event. The entry fee for the Fun Run/Walk is \$10 (pre-registered or the day of the event). T-shirts will be given to all pre-registered entrants with a limited number available on race day.

Awards will be presented to the top male and female finisher in each age group participating in the 5K. All Run/Walk participants will receive a ribbon. Door prizes will be drawn after the races.

For contact information see the calendar on Page 2.



UNDERWOOD DONATES COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE TO STONE BELT

Betty Underwood, long-time Stone Belt supporter, donor and grandmother of client Betsy Higgins, has recently donated two computers to Stone Belt.

The computers have been set-up in the 10th Street Manufacturing area. Clients will utilize the computers as part of their Career Advancement Services (CAS) programming. Since installation, clients have practiced keyboarding, math and Internet skills.

"We are so excited to have this new resource. It is a great supplement to our classes," said Kassie George, CAS Instructor.

Client Billy Setser said one of his favorite resources on the Internet is Google Earth. "It's fun to look up places around the world. One day we saw the Little Mermaid statue in Denmark via satellite."

STAFF HONORED

Two Stone Belt staff members recently received recognition from community groups. Stone Belt is proud to have these two individuals as part of our family.

Supported Living Coordinator **Billie Woods** was chosen as the WGCL (am 1370) and WTTS (92.3) Unsung Hero for the week of September 25. Billie received the award because of her extraordinary volunteer efforts in supporting clients to participate in the community. She organizes many special events for clients, including an annual trip to Holiday World. She is also very involved in Monroe County Special Olympics. All this is in addition to the great job she does on a daily basis with the clients she supports.



Southern House Group Home Manager **Nancy Smith** received recognition from the Bloomington Community Council on Accessibility on September 16 at the group's annual awards ceremony. Nancy received this honor in recognition of all the extra support she provides to help clients get involved in self-advocacy and other community activities. Nancy's belief in people, and her desire to see them succeed, has provided the drive for her to go "above and beyond" her regular duties. Her dedication to inclusion and community is exceptional and evidenced by the countless hours she dedicates to help people with disabilities experience self-determination.



Events celebrate Stone Belt staff,

Regional events held across four counties

This year, Stone Belt's agency-wide annual celebration was held September 25 at the Bloomington Convention Center. Agency-wide and Monroe County awards were presented at this meeting. See winners below and at right.

Two of Stone Belt's three satellite locations also held annual celebrations this fall. Winners for these events are listed at right. Lawrence County held their event on September 28 at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Owen County's ceremony was held November 4 at the IGA Building in Spencer. Stone Belt East will hold their ceremony this Spring. Read the Spring edition of *Touchstone* for complete coverage of this event.

The agency-wide celebration was attended by over 500 people including clients, their families, staff, board members, volunteers and community partners. At the event Monroe County clients, staff, volunteers and community partners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to Stone Belt and its mission.

Attendees enjoyed a catered dinner buffet and keynote address, highlighting Stone Belt's Principles of Service, by CEO Leslie Green. There was also a special tribute to The Arc of Indiana in celebration of their 50th Anniversary. One of the highlights of the night was the presentation of a special client-created art award to long-time retiring Board Member Charlotte Zietlow (see picture on cover). Clients across six counties were asked to decorate seven hats (Charlotte is known for her dizzying collection) that symbolize Stone Belt's seven Principles of Service. This special piece has been installed in the main conference room of the 10th Street facility in Bloomington.

agency-wide award winners

Staff from all Stone Belt locations were considered for the following awards that were presented at Stone Belt's agency-wide Annual Celebration at the Bloomington Convention Center on September 25.



Monroe County Life Skills Enrichment Coordinator

JENNY AUSTIN
Employee of the Year

People make their mark in the world in different ways. Some are very public and outspoken while others are quieter and remain less in the limelight. Jenny is more of the later. While the hectic pace of Stone Belt life goes on around her, this tireless worker effectively completes many tasks. It might be communicating to others through a well-composed email, meeting with a family interested in services, or responding to a need for assistance from a client. Jenny always remains cool and level-headed. Stone Belt honors and thanks Jenny for being a valuable team member.



Director of Monroe County Employment and Day Services

BITTA DEWEES
Visionary Leadership Award

The staff person who nominated Bitta said, "She is my boss and I've never felt better about a boss." Someone can only become a leader when there are those who willingly follow; Bitta has this quality. She is known for her compassion and understanding, and she supports her employees both professionally and personally. She is one of the most amazing problem solvers you'll ever meet and can address multiple projects and priorities with great skill. Bitta is also well known at the State level, advocating the highest outcomes for people in supported employment. Stone Belt is fortunate to have this amazing leader.



Darlene Erwin and Heather Gilbert work at Angee's Home.

ANGEE BREWER RESIDENCE
Residential Program of the Year

Stone Belt is fortunate to have two outstanding residential programs, Supported Living and Supervised Group Living. Homes in both programs are deserving, but this year, Angee Brewer's residence stands out. The staff that work here have come together to demonstrate a positive perspective, to focus solely on the desired outcome for Angee, and to share in the success she experiences less than two years after leaving Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. The nominator for this home wrote about the progress and happiness that Angee expresses each day, an ongoing goal for Stone Belt.

monroe

- Outstanding Day Services Client: Tom Brantley
- Outstanding Supported Living Client: Don Robinson
- Outstanding Group Home Client: Brad Gifford
- Client-Selected Staff Day Program: Eric Ford
- Client-Selected Staff Residential: Nancy Smith
- Outstanding Day Services Staff: Kelli Uland
- Outstanding Supported Living Staff: Matt Jackson
- Outstanding Group Home Staff: Dale Zabel
- Outstanding Milestones Staff: Mari Shawcroft
- Outstanding Administrative & Operations Staff: Linda Rushton
- Volunteer of the Year: Sarah Cohen
- Community Partners: Monroe County Council & Commissioners



Monroe County Commissioner Iris Kiesling (left) and Monroe County Council President Sophia Travis accepted the Community Partners award.



Special Thanks to Our Agency-Wide Sponsors
GOLD: World Arts, Inc; Williams Brothers Heath Care Pharmacy
SILVER: Bill C. Brown Associates; JA Benefits; Bradley & Associates
BRONZE: Tabor/Bruce Architecture & Design; United Commerce Bank; Employment Plus; PROES, Inc; Ikon Office Solutions; Classic Catering

clients and community partners

lawrence

Outstanding Employment & Day Services Client: Kyle Luttrell
 Outstanding Group Home Client: Sherry Boyles
 Outstanding Supported Living Client: Gina Barger
 Ms. Congeniality: Barb Kirsche
 Mr. Congeniality: Shannon McCoy
 Jester (comic): Amy Schmidt
 Client-Selected Staff Employment & Day Services: Roe Simmerman
 Outstanding Supported Living Staff: Brenda Watson & Kenny Hayes
 Outstanding Group Home Staff: Kelsey Kirk & Evie Miller
 Employment & Day Services Outstanding Employee: Carrie Elkins
 Employment & Day Services Employee of the Year: Lisa Dumond
 Community Employer: Dunn Hospital
 Volunteer of the Year: Bedford Regional Medical Center



The Lawrence County Arc Board of Directors
 President — Patrick Robbins, Vice-President — Laura Shaw,
 Secretary — Patsy Moore, Treasurer — Chad Ritter,
 Denise Mullis, Randy Greene, Connie Barrett, Melinda Owens,
 Angie Timan, Wanda Wever, Kim Hodges.

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Client of the Year: Electa Holsapple
 Jester (comic): Matt Fulkerson
 Ms. Congeniality: Richelle Hartman
 Mr. Congeniality: Dennis Heyen
 Client-Selected Staff: Becky Smith
 Outstanding Employee Supervised Group Living: David Furr
 Outstanding Employee Employment & Day Services: Amanda Hodges
 Outstanding Employee Supported Living: Rose Dickerson
 Community Partners: World Arts and MEP/Plywood King

Event Sponsors Include: Owen County State Bank, Jim and Phyllis Root, West, Parish and Pedigo, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Preusz.



The Owen County Arc Board of Directors
 President — Gene Arnold, Vice-President — Ellen Ross,
 Secretary — Julianne Wiegand, Treasurer — Julie Ross,
 Donna Buchanan, Loretta White, Linda Trefry, Charles Bradley,
 Margie Tucker, Connie Brock, Wyatt Holsapple, Herb Fisher.

Board gets new officers, members

Each year at Stone Belt's Annual Meeting the next year's Board of Directors is set. Outgoing members are honored and new members are inducted. This year's members are listed at right.

The Stone Belt Board consists of 18 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 a 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 adopts a written strategic 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 the public.

This year Stone Belt is debuting the Board Buddies Program, which pairs Board members with clients and staff. This gives Board members a chance to learn more about being a part of Stone Belt's extended family.

✉ If you are interested in learning more about Stone Belt's Board of Directors, contact CEO Leslie Green at 332-2168, ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org.

meet the board

President — Phil Meyer
WFIU Station Manager; Family Member

Vice President — Cathi Canfield
Regional Manager for Employment Plus

Secretary — Vicki Baker
Director of Education for Sylvan Learning Center

Treasurer — Doug Giles
Business Manager, Ivy Tech

Past President — Don Hossler
IU Education Professor; Family Member

Margaret Gilbride
IIDC Research Associate

Tim Hines
Retired Chamber Executive; Family Member

Stuart Mufson
IU Astronomy Professor; Family Member

Ed Otting
Retired Eli Lilly Executive; Family Member

Henry Upper
Retired IU Professor of Music; Family Member

Patrick Robbins
Retired Business Owner

Amy Travis
Monroe County Deputy Prosecutor

Beth Gazley
IU Professor of Public and Environmental Affairs

William Beyer
IMA Executive Vice-President, COO

Looking forward to 2007

By Phil Meyer
Board President

I'm honored to serve as your new Board President and I'd like to let you know who I am, why I volunteer for Stone Belt and what the Board's objectives are this fiscal year.

Some of you may know me as the Station Manager at WTIU, the PBS station licensed to Indiana University. My family and I moved to Bloomington in 2001, after I worked at the PBS station in Cincinnati for nine years. One of the biggest factors when our family moved to Bloomington was the availability of resources for our son Christopher, who has autism. We feel that volunteering as advocates for people with disabilities is our way to give back to the community that offers so much for our son.

It is an honor and a privilege to continue the work of previous board presidents, many of whom still serve Stone Belt as board members or volunteers. As I look toward my term as President, I would like to focus on Education, Enterprise, Governance, Advocacy and Development:

Education: Education has many meanings — to educate the general public about people with disabilities; to educate government on the vital role people with disabilities play in our society; to educate employers that people with disabilities are among the most dedicated, efficient and productive employees that can be hired.

Enterprise: Manufacturing, through Leather Works and the other Stone Belt enterprises, brings in additional income and provides employment for clients. Stone Belt clients gain valuable skills, work experience and competitive wages. Businesses gain a flexible, cost-effective labor force that can handle projects of almost any size.

Governance: Over the last year or two, the Board has looked at its committee structure, trying to make the best use of volunteers' time and to maximize limited resources. As Stone Belt changes, the Board needs to change with it. This year's Board has a good mixture of long-standing members who know and understand Stone Belt and its mission, along with newer members who bring a fresh perspective.

Advocacy: Much of what Stone Belt does is affected by government policy and government reimbursement. In 2006, The Arc of Indiana tracked over 200 bills at the State House that affected people with developmental disabilities, and kept local chapters and families informed. With thousands of families on waiting lists for services, we are a voice for people with disabilities who cannot speak for themselves.

Development: New Development Director Amy Jackson is off to a fast start with several initiatives to raise money to further the mission of Stone Belt. You'll find more information about these efforts in this and future issues of *Touchstone*.

I look forward to working with each of you — whether you are a client, a volunteer, a staff member, or a donor — to make this year one of the most successful in Stone Belt's history.

award winner

Deckard resident honored by City

As a junior at Bloomington North High School and a resident of Stone Belt's Deckard House, Brandon Ramos keeps busy with normal teenage things like homework, friends and his job. However, it is his exemplary service as a volunteer to the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department that sets him apart.

During the October Board of Park Commissioners meeting, the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department recognized Brandon for his volunteer service with the presentation of the BRAVO Award. The BRAVO Award is presented monthly to community volunteers that contribute significantly to the programs and events offered to participants.

"Brandon fits like a glove at the BACC and is missed by staff and participants when he is off work for any reason," said Mary Catherine Carmichael, President of the Board of Parks Commission. "Brandon has set a great example for others to follow."

Brandon volunteers through the Supported Employment program with the Monroe County

Community School Corporation (MCCSC). He works Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Bloomington Adult Community Center (BACC). He manages his own daily cleaning routine under the direction of Rick Owings, BACC Custodian.

Punctuality, personality and the desire to learn new skills are some of Brandon's most significant strengths. During the annual BACC shutdown in August, Brandon learned how to run the carpet machine and before long he was cleaning carpets like a professional.

"Brandon brings a delightful attitude to work that we all could learn from. His smile and big hello are very contagious," said Daren Eads BACC Director. "Brandon knows no enemies. He has friends all over the community."

In addition to his job at the BACC, Brandon has worked at Olive Garden, delivered the Herald-Times at Bloomington North High School and assisted at Monroe County United Ministries.

Jeff Bailey, Deckard House Manager, is so proud of Brandon. "This is a truly remarkable achievement for him.



Brandon Ramos is flanked by Nancy Kalina, MCCSC Work Study Coordinator and Daren Eads, BACC Facility and Program Coordinator.

Having a good job is clearly a goal Brandon has set for himself since he came to Stone Belt, and his success at the BACC is a perfect example of how a little determination can go a long way."

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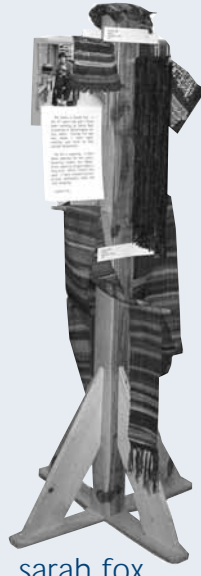
artistic expression



greeting cards



bloomington bagel exhibition



sarah fox weaving

Artwork celebrates client creativity

No matter where you are in South Central Indiana you're bound to have a special encounter with Stone Belt artistry. From picking up your morning bagels at Bloomington Bagel Company to purchasing a handmade greeting card at a local boutique, the artistic skills of some of Stone Belt's most talented clients can be found impressively on display.

An important creative force behind some of these pieces is Art Instructor Karen Holtzclaw, who works at 10th Street, Bloomington in the Day Program. Holtzclaw was instrumental in helping clients create the mosaics displayed at the Bloomington Bagel Company. The pieces are mixed-media, self-portrait line drawings of the clients created from wallpaper samples, yarn, fabric and glitter adhered to a cardboard mat with double stick tape.

It typically takes clients about six hours from conception to completion to create a piece. The clients first draw their images, and then choose their color scheme and the media that will be utilized in their pieces. Holtzclaw assists in affixing the materials to create the finished product. The results are stunning.

Stone Belt client Phyllis Gibbs said gluing the pieces together is her favorite part of creating the mosaics.

Bloomington Bagel Company changes their displays monthly at their Dunn Street location. The mosaics were up at the Dunn Street store until the end of the November; and will be on display at the Morton Street location through January 2007.

"People have been really interested in the pieces because they have a unique perspective," said store owner Sue Aquila. Store Manager Dawn Goodfellow agrees, "The art makes people smile because it's fun."

The pieces at Bloomington Bagel Company are not currently for sale. Presently, one type of art being sold is greeting cards created by clients at Stone Belt of Owen County.

Get Well, Happy Birthday, Congratulations, Thank You and Holiday themes are just a few examples of the hand-crafted cards. Stone Belt sells the cards for \$1 each, and clients are paid a piece rate for their work.

The cards stand out from commercial, mass-produced products. They feature humorous and inspirational sayings, like "Keep Trucking" (a get well card complete with a green pickup truck on the front).

The entire card creation is a very positive one for the clients. "They are amazed as much as we are at what they can do," said staff member Marsha Greable.

In addition to being sold, client artwork also routinely wins awards and is chosen to appear in exhibits throughout the State. One recent example is the weaving of Stone Belt client Sarah Fox.

Fox's woven scarves and potholders were on display at the IN*SOURCE Conference November 3-4 at the Bloomington Convention Center. Her pieces were chosen through an entry process for the statewide exhibition celebrating the impact of the arts in the lives of artists with disabilities.

Sarah began weaving three years ago, with the creation of small potholders. Her interest in weaving grew and now she owns her own loom and weaves daily.

"When I weave I feel so relaxed," Fox said. "It's so amazing for me to see a finished piece. I feel like I've accomplished so much."

Sarah is supported in her craft by Stone Belt staff member Ury Schahaf, who has gone above and beyond in his dedication to Sarah's passion. He participates in weaving classes at area business, Yarns Unlimited, to learn how to best assist Sarah in the creative process.



Sarah Fox with Ury Schahaf, a Stone Belt staff member who supports her artistry.



Stone Belt artists celebrate the Bloomington Bagel Company exhibit. L/R: Stone Belt Art Teacher Karen Holtzclaw, Phyllis Gibbs, Store Manager Dawn Goodfellow, Denise Hillenburg, Caroline Moh, Kelly Tate, Ray Weber.



Greeting card artist Ron Thacker enjoys gluing the star on the snowman.

first person

Don Robinson: Living my life

By Don Robinson
Stone Belt Client

It's pretty nice in Bloomington. Living by myself isn't too bad. Niki (my staff) helps me out with my money, my checks and everything. I work at the workshop, and got a little kitty cat. He was already named Garfield. Somebody was going to get rid of him. I got him on my birthday. He's a nice cat, he doesn't fight anyone. He doesn't like to be picked up. I got him a collar for his birthday.

I like to go swimming at the Y. I go out for nice long walks and sometimes I just sit around in the rocking chair. Once in a while I shoot pool over at the Office Lounge and drink beer, or go to basketball games on the weekends. Frankie comes over and visits me for the night. We go out to eat. I lived with Frankie— he used to be my roommate. Frankie's a nice guy. He likes to talk a lot and eat a lot.

Bedford was nice too. I lived in a group home down there. We went on picnics and had cook-outs down there. I worked at Toby's Donut Shop. I used to mop, sweep, clean out the sink, wash the tables down. We could get the donuts for half off. My favorite was the lemon-filled kind. I used to work there every day after the workshop, from 3 to 4 in the afternoon. He closed that place down.

I was born in Baltimore. That's where my mom was from. My grandfather, my mother's father, was born and raised over in Ireland. My dad was a hillbilly from Kentucky. That's how my mom met my dad. I've been back and forth, Baltimore, Kentucky, Indiana. We used to travel in the back of a pick up truck. I lived with my sister in Arizona, and in Indiana with my brother when he worked at Crane (Naval Surface Warfare Center).

We lived in a one-room bungalow in Gary, all five of us. It wasn't easy for my mom. That was a lot of work to do, raising a family with four kids. When my mother was pregnant with me, she was working in a bomb factory during the war, when Hitler was alive. I was home with mom a lot. I never went to school because of my handicap. I just sat around the house. I got sent into the hospital in Baltimore because my mom couldn't handle too much. If you can't handle too much, well someone's just got to go. You know what kind of hospital I'm talking about. It wasn't a place to be, for anybody. I got kicked around a lot. It was bad. This happened a long time ago.

I'd like to see my family more often. I went to see my brother Randy last year from Thanksgiving to Christmas. It was cold in Nevada. We gambled every Saturday, won some money. The second Saturday we went to the movie *Lord of the Rings*. We went out to eat and we went shopping for shoes. I didn't get to see my sister Nancy in Reno. My brother Rick lives in Florida. You never know where he'll be. He travels back and forth. So I don't know what to do right now, because I don't hear from him too often.

If I won the lottery, I'd probably go to Miami, relax in the sun, go fish, go on a big boat ride, go water skiing. I'm pretty happy. I went to Golden Corral on my birthday last year. I've got food in my tummy and a roof over my head. That makes me happy.

➤ Story written by Don Robinson with assistance from Jane Harlan-Simmons. Information was compiled from Museum of the Person in Indianapolis. To find out more about telling your story through Museum of the Person visit www.bloomington.in.us/~mop-i



Don Robinson participates in Stone Belt's Supported Living, Employment and Manufacturing programs.

➤ To find out more about viewing and purchasing Stone Belt artwork contact CEO Leslie Green at 812-332-2168, ext. 249 or email lgreen@stonebelt.org.

Stone Belt

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Fall-O-Ween

October is a traditional month of fun and celebration at Stone Belt. This year was no different, with many festive activities. These events culminated with The Great Pumpkin's Fall-O-Ween Bash on October 27 at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds, where clients and staff enjoyed a catered dinner, games, a magic show, haunted house and Chili Cook-off.

