Andy Upper remembered at playground dedication

Bloomington subdivision names Tot Park after former Stone Belt client

Andy Upper wasn’t able to use words, but his eyes told what he was feeling and his smile could light up any room. One only needed to read his face to understand his message. His infectious laugh was the one sound that came from him that could be heard, and he used this tool of expression often.

Andy lived the entirety of the 24 years of his life in the Bloomington community. Though he was a person with multiple disabilities, he experienced fully the life Bloomington had to offer. He participated in Stone Belt, school and church, and worked part-time at Sunrise Publications. He was also a regular at concerts and sporting events at Indiana University. Andy loved any activity as long as it involved contact with people. It was a true loss to the community when Andy passed away in 1999.

Park Dedication

On June 30 of this year, the Wininger-Stolberg Property Group honored Andy’s memory by dedicating the Andy Upper Tots Park in the new Renwick Subdivision in Bloomington. More than 100 people from around the country attended the dedication ceremony, during which guests paid tribute to Andy through speeches, stories and music.

“It was one of the most moving experiences I’ve ever had,” said Celicia Upper, Andy’s mother, about the dedication of the Tots Park. “It celebrated children and it celebrated people with disabilities. What more could a parent ask for?”

Eight-year-old family friend Andrew Webb traveled to the event with his parents from Macon, Georgia. Andrew, born the year Andy died and named after him, performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“After hearing all those speeches, I felt something in my heart,” Webb said. “I noticed that there were different sections that had different rhythms, and feelings,” said young Andrew Webb. But while listening, he said he only felt happiness.

Happiness was one thing Andy was known for spreading.

Stone Belt’s Connection

Andy, who passed away nine years ago from an unexpected bout with pneumonia, left his mark on Bloomington as an exceptional person who influenced many lives, despite his disabilities.

“Our purpose, and then his purpose, was to integrate him as a person with a disability into the community as much as possible,” said Henry Upper, Andy’s father.

Stone Belt’s relationship with Andy started in 1994 while Andy was still attending Bloomington North High School. An Employment Support Coach began learning Andy’s job at Sunrise to better support him after graduation. Upon graduation Andy started attending Stone Belt Day Services while continuing his part-time job at Sunrise, with support from Stone Belt.

Stone Belt, according to Mayor Mark Kruzan, “is one of the happiest, most honest places on Planet Earth.” Many at the dedication commented on the natural connection between Andy and Stone Belt – an individual who celebrated life and an agency that encourages such celebration.

Two of the greatest gifts Andy brought to Stone Belt were his parents, Henry and Celicia, now both long-time supporters and advocates for the agency. Henry is a former board president and continues today as a board member and the chair of the development committee. Throughout their years of service, the Uppers have introduced many new friends to Stone Belt.

“Andy’s parents are amazing, kind people who give so much to others. They truly made Andy a part of everything they did. Their generosity knows no limits,” said Bitta DeWees, Stone Belt Director of Monroe County Employment and Day Services.

Park’s Conception

Plans for the park began three years ago, when Eric Stolberg of Wininger-Stolberg, the property group overseeing Renwick, met with Frank Hrisomolas, a local physician. Hrisomolas, a long-time friend of the Uppers, suggested the idea of a park in Andy’s honor.

“After learning about this young man there was no question that honoring Andy in this way is what needed to be done,” Eric Stolberg said.

The park is designed for younger children – and children with special needs – to have a place to slide, climb, swing and run about. It’s part of a larger park, Cathcart, which will have pathways, picnic tables and pavilions.

Just outside the gates of the Andy Upper Tots Park, a plaque affixed to a large piece of limestone bears the Uppers’ response to the idea of a park in their son’s memory and honor.

“A park where children with their friends and family can interact would have brought him the greatest joy in the world in the place he called home — Bloomington.”

Bloomington Mayor, Mark Kruzan, attended the event and proclaimed June 30, 2007 as Andy Upper Day. “Andy’s integration into the local school system led naturally to his inclusion in the community and gave him an enriched life. At the same time, the residents of Bloomington met an energetic young man who allowed them to see a new fabric in their own lives,” said Kruzan. He also joked, “If I had Andy’s smile, I would never have to worry about another election.”

Well-known local composer, performer and music professor David Baker wrote a song for Andy shortly after his death. A recording of “Aspects of Andy” was played for the audience.

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Happiness was one thing Andy was known for spreading. Andy’s time as a Stone Belt client.

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upcoming events

SEPTEMBER 13 / 6:30 PM
STONE BELT OF LAWRENCE COUNTY / LAWRENCE COUNTY ARC ANNUAL MEETING
Lawrence County Fairgrounds Expo Building
Join us in recognizing our valuable clients, staff, volunteers and community partners while enjoying a catered dinner.
* For more information contact Kim Hodges at 812-332-2168, ext. 290 / khodges@stonebelt.org

SEPTEMBER 24 / 6 PM
STONE BELT AGENCY-WIDE ANNUAL CELEBRATION
Bloomington Convention Center. 302 South College Avenue, Bloomington
Celebrate Stone Belt’s 2007 achievements while enjoying a buffet dinner.
* For more info contact Cheryl Paul at 812-332-2168, ext. 261 / cpaul@stonebelt.org

OCTOBER 15 / 5:30 – 7 PM
MILESTONES OPEN HOUSE
Stone Belt Adams Street. 350 South Adams Street, Bloomington
Welcome Stone Belt’s new Psychiatric, Dr. Lia Kettenis, and tour the Milestones’ facility.
* For more information contact Maureen Gahan at 812-333-6324, ext. 284 / mgahan@stonebelt.org

NOVEMBER 3 / 6:30 PM
STONE BELT OF OWEN COUNTY / OWEN COUNTY ARC ANNUAL MEETING
106 N. Washington Street, Spencer
Join us in recognizing our valuable clients, staff, volunteers and community partners while enjoying a catered dinner.
* For more information contact Kim Hodges at 812-332-2168, ext. 290 / khodges@stonebelt.org
of note

Art & Craft Round-Up
Stone Belt's Art & Craft Mosaics will be on display at Lennie's Restaurant (1795 East Tenth Street, Bloomington) through the month of November. There are 30 total pieces on display including: Dragon, My Friend Kanie, Rooster, Dog with Ball and The Art of Politics, to name a few. Pieces are priced and available for purchase. Talk to your Lennie's wait-staff to learn how you can take home one of these unique pieces of art.

On September 4 Stone Belt held an Art Opening Reception at Lennie's Brewery to introduce the pieces to the public. Guests met the client artists behind the pieces while enjoying complimentary appetizer. "I enjoyed meeting the artists explain their pieces and the methods they used to complete their work," said Charlene Renner who attended the Lennie's event during the month of July. Stone Belt mosaics were also on display at the Anthem headquarters in Indianapolis. The pieces were hung in the main hallway where staff and visitors could enjoy the vivid colors and intricate textures. Four of the 12 pieces were purchased during the exhibit.

On September 8, Bloomington-based business Textillery Weavers sponsored a Stone Belt Benefit Sale at their showroom. Half of all sales that day were donated to Stone Belt. Stone Belt has earmarked the funds to be used for their Art & Craft projects. Textillery Weavers, a locally owned business, has a reputation for creativity in design and high-quality, hand-woven products. Textillery is also instrumental in supporting Stone Belt's Art & Craft Mosaics by donating yarns for use in the artwork.

Hand 'n Hand Ice Cream Social
On Wednesday, June 27, Stone Belt Arc hosted an Ice Cream Social for the Hand 'n Hand Project at its Tenth Street location. Hand 'n Hand is a collaborative project that benefits families and individuals, including Stone Belt clients, Community Kitchen recipients and local community residents. Participating households place non-perishable food donations out every other week, and Stone Belt clients and staff pick them up on daily routes for delivery to Community Kitchen. In 2006, 7% of Community Kitchen's food donations came from Hand 'n Hand. Stone Belt recently received a $9,200 grant from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County to expand the program. Participating in the Hand 'n Hand Project is simple, easy and helps so many people.

Best Buddies Staff Visit Stone Belt
A group of 60 Best Buddies staff from around the country visited Stone Belt Tenth Street on July 18. They toured the facility and participated in a craft project with clients. The group was visiting Bloomington for their national conference held at U. Best Buddies is an international organization that pairs persons with developmental disabilities of all ages in one-on-one friendships with other individuals in the community. The group strives to enhance the lives of people with disabilities by providing opportunities for friendships and integrated employment.

Leather Works Has Record Year
2007 was a record breaking year for Stone Belt Leather Works. Membership and association with the Advertising Specialty Institute (ASI), a trade organization, has been very successful in bringing in new customers. Leather Works has been receiving requests for quotes or catalogs every week from ASI distributors around the country who are seeking custom designs. Staff just completed their first international order sending a number of binders to a bank in Ireland and Luxembourg.

One unique order from Oliver Winery demonstrates why customers are seeking out Leather Works' services. This local business is preparing to launch a new, higher priced wine under the Creekbend Vineyard label. They approached Leather Works about designing a piece for their sales force — including cork and an actual arrowhead — needing the finished product in a month. Within a week, staff had located a cork fabric. Over the next few days the design was refined based on conversations about how the sales force would use the piece and how the owners hoped to portray the company. The binders were delivered with time to spare to rave reviews.

“As always, we appreciate the hard work of our 10th Street manufacturing clients in helping us complete these items and getting them delivered on time,” said Larry Pejeau, Stone Belt Director of Sales and Marketing.
our services

Milestones is a certified out-patient mental health clinic offering a wide range of supports. We provide a unique combination of behavior and therapeutic approaches to address mental health needs and provide personal care for each of our clients.

PSYCHIATRIC

Milestones has two psychiatrists on staff. Dr. M. Melinda Weakley is Board Certified in General Psychiatry. Dr. Lia Kettenis is in the process of becoming Board Certified in General Psychiatry as well as in Child/Adolescent Psychiatry. Both specialize in working with children and adolescents as well as individuals with developmental disabilities. Services include: Psychiatric Assessment; Psychiatric Consultation and Medication Management.

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT

Often individuals exhibit challenging behaviors such as self-injury, aggression, running away or severe tantrums. These behaviors can be frightening, isolating and stressful. Many times to effectively reduce challenging behaviors and increase desired behaviors it is necessary for families or support providers to work with Milestones. Milestones has many services in place to help with such challenges including: Behavioral Assessment/Observation; Behavioral Support Plan Development; Level I and Level II Behavior Management; School-based behavioral supports through Department of Education; Staff Training; Family/Caregiver Training; Case Coordination/Case Planning; Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training; Individual and Group Counseling; Human Rights Committee.

COUNSELING/ THERAPY

Milestones has Masters-level clinicians and a variety of support services staff available to meet the needs of our clients including: Individual and Group Counseling; Play Therapy; Couples Therapy; Family Therapy; Stress Management; Support Groups; Program Development; Staff Training and Consultation; Family/Caregiver Support and Education; Participation in Care Coordination/Case Planning.

NURSING

Nurses are a valuable support to families by providing experienced medical professionals to coordinate a multitude of services including: Nursing Assessment, Direct Nursing Services; Participation in Care Coordination/Case Planning; Consumer Training and Education; Staff Training; Family Training and Consultation; Medication Administration; Health Related Incident Management; Safety Committee; Agency Health Related Policies and Procedures.

receiving support

Milestones has offices in Monroe, Lawrence and Bartholomew counties, although the majority of out-patient services are offered in the Adams Street, Bloomington location. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm. Behaviors provide 24-hour on-call services.

CONTACT MILESTONES

550 South Adams Street, Bloomington, IN 47403
812-333-6324 / 866-569-9127 (toll free) / 812-331-6700 (fax)
milestones@stonebelt.com / www.milestonesclinic.org

meet the staff

M. MELINDA WEAKLEY, MD
medical director

Dr. Weakley is a graduate of the University of Louisville, School of Medicine and completed her psychiatric residency at the Indiana University University School of Medicine. She has over 10 years of experience in providing outpatient and inpatient psychiatric services. Dr. Weakley’s practice specializes in assessment, evaluation and medication management of children, adolescents, and adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities of all ages.

LIA KETTENIS, MD
psychiatrist

Dr. Kettenis is a graduate of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She completed her residency in both general and child/adolescent psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City in 2007. Dr. Kettenis’ practice specializes in assessment, evaluation, and medication management of children, adolescents and adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities.

MAUREEN GAHAN, MAMFT
milestones director

Maureen holds a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. Maureen joined the Stone Belt team in 1984 and has worked for the majority of her career in the community living program, until she transitioned to her current position, Milestones Director. She has experience in providing therapy to individuals, children, families, couples, and groups.

MAUREEN KIPP, MSW, LCSW
clinical supervisor

Maureen earned her masters degree in social work from Indiana University and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Indiana. She also holds a bachelors degree from Indiana State University in Community Health Education. Maureen has over 10 years experience providing therapy services.

CYNDI WEGMANN, MSW, LCSW
therapist

Cyndi graduated from IUUPS with a master’s degree in social work and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Indiana. She has 20 years of clinical experience providing individual and group therapy to children and adolescents.

BREE RUSSO, MSW, LCSW
therapist

Bree earned her masters in social work from Washington University in 2002 and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Indiana. Bree specializes in treating children and adolescents and has worked in a variety of settings including residential treatment, acute care and the school system.

ROSIE FALLS, LCSW
therapist

Rosie earned her masters degree in social work from New York University in 2003 and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Indiana. Rosie has had experience working with children and families in a variety of settings, including residential and acute care.

MARI SHAWCROFT, MA
manager of behavior support services

Mari has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and social welfare from the University of New Mexico and a master of arts degree in psychology from Chapman University. Mari is also a Registered Behavior Consultant and a certified CPI Instructor.

CONNIE THORNTON, MSW, LCSW
behavioral therapist

Connie earned her masters degree in social work from JUPUI and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Indiana. Connie has experience providing individual and group therapy to adults and adolescents with high behavioral challenges.

BROLYN SHROYER, MSW, LSW
behavioral therapist

Broylyn earned her Master of Social Work degree from Indiana University in 2006 and is a Licensed Social Worker in Indiana. Broylyn has worked in several youth organizations and enjoys working with children, adolescents and families with a particular emphasis on anxiety disorders.

PAM LARR, MS, ED.S
behavioral therapist

Pam earned her Master of Education degree from Indiana University in 2006 and is her Social Worker in Indiana. Pam has counseling experience with children, teens and adults with high behavioral challenges. She is trained in Dialectical Behavior Therapy and in treating individuals with personality disorder.

MARCIA PALADGETT, ACSW, LCSW
clinical social worker

Marella received her masters degree in social work from Indiana University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Indiana. Marella spent many years as an adjunct faculty member for the IU School of Social Work. She has more than twenty-five years of counseling experience.

CARRIE KOONS, MSW, LCSW
clinical social worker

Carrie has five years of clinical experience in a residential facility providing individual and group therapy to children and adolescents with behavioral and developmental challenges. She has also worked extensively in collaboration with community social service agencies in providing services to youth and their families.

BJ BENNETT, LPN
manager of health care services

BJ received her nurse’s training at Ivy Tech’s Bloomington campus in 1997. Before coming to Stone Belt she worked as mental health nurse and skilled care nurse for children with developmental disabilities. She is a member of the DNA.

TAMMY BARGER, LCN
nurse

Tammy received her LPN license from Ivy Tech in 1996. Since then she has worked as office nurse for a family practice and a clinical nurse at the veteran’s out-patient clinic. Before receiving her LPN license, Tammy worked at Stone Belt as a Group Home Manager.

MARY JOY TRIPOLI, LCN
nurse

Mary Joy Tripoli received her LPN license in 1974 and is a member of the Bartimaeus extended family.

BOBBIE SMITH, LPN
nurse

Bobbie received her LPN license in June 1978. She has worked with special needs populations in various capacities.

SHIRLEY SHERMAN, LCN
nurse

Shirley received her LPN license in 1972. Before coming to the Bartimaeus system, she worked in a variety of medical disciplines.

MARK WHITE
school nurse

Mark is a certified school nurse from the Bartimaeus School, Bloomington, Indiana and is a member of the Bartimaeus extended family.

companies

Bloomington-based Stone Belt is helping individuals with developmental disabilities to reach their potential. In addition to their work with children and adults, they provide community support services to agencies in Bloomington, Monroe, Lawrence and Bartholomew Counties. Stone Belt’s mission is to provide quality opportunities to all individuals with special needs while helping them achieve their potential.

showcasing growth

As Stone Belt expands its services, it continues to provide quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The organization is dedicated to helping individuals reach their potential and improve their quality of life.

MILESTONES

CLINICAL & HEALTH RESOURCES
building updates

Stone Belt’s 550 South Adams Street building has reached a finished state after many renovations. Since its purchase in August 2004, the building has gone through many changes, including housing a variety of different programs. Today Milestones occupies the ground level of the building and most of the second floor. One second floor wing is devoted to Stone Belt’s Community Employment program.

Here are some changes Stone Belt has made to the building since its purchase:

- west and north entrances made handicapped accessible
- four bathrooms remodeled and made handicapped accessible
- new fire alarm system installed
- replaced/added air-conditioning/heating units built into offices
- purchased furniture and equipment needed for play/family therapy rooms and offices
- added reception area and converted north office to waiting room
- converted computer room into second waiting area plus play therapy room with observation area
- remodeled and sound proofed (added insulation and solid doors) therapy rooms and corridor
- converted four vaults that had no windows, heat or electricity into five offices
- remodeled original mail rooms to group therapy room and added smaller mail room
- created Stone Belt training room out of upstairs conference room
- painted and/or added new flooring and window treatments to several offices

Recent updates completed this winter include a freshly painted exterior, new landscaping and signage inside and outside the building. Milestones Director Maureen Gahan feels the building is finally set to fulfill long-term needs. “With a lot of hard work the Adams Street building has evolved into the perfect space for our growing program.”

donors

Thanks to the generosity of donors in our community, Milestones is now able to provide even greater opportunities that allow children and families to successfully participate in the life of their community.

Local Philanthropists Ray (pictured at right in middle) and Marcy Tichenor have established a donor-designated fund in the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County. Their wish is to have the income of this fund be directed to support Stone Belt programming for children. The 2006 and 2007 allocations from this fund have been utilized in the creation of a play therapy room at Milestones.

The Tichenor Fund enabled Stone Belt to acquire a variety of carefully selected toys and materials available for use and play, chosen for their potential to stand for or symbolize the child’s inner psychic world. Through the medium of play children can explore and express thoughts, feelings, and experiences that are often difficult to convey in words. Trained play therapists observe and interact with the children, with the goal of helping children work through emotional, social, and behavioral difficulties and address family or school problems.

In addition to the Tichenor gift, Stone Belt has become the recipient of a second generous gift from the estate of Ms. Dorothy Dugdale. The funds from the initial gift from Ms. Dugdale’s estate were utilized in the renovations of Maxwell House, Stone Belt’s group home serving youth residents. In keeping with Ms. Dugdale’s wishes that her estate gift be utilized to provide resources for children served by Stone Belt, the board of directors unanimously voted to utilize the additional gift in the completion of a second play therapy room at Milestones, and in the creation of a Milestones Family Resource Center and Library.

Through Ms. Dugdale’s generosity, Stone Belt is creating a space to provide information and support on mental and behavioral health issues that apply to children, adolescents and individuals with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. Available to parents, caregivers, staff, children and family members who use Stone Belt and Milestones services, the Resource Center will include books, articles, pamphlets, videos, computer programs, and games. In addition, there will be a reserve and lending library.

website launched

In August Milestones unveiled its website, www.milestonesclinic.org. The site provides resources and information that will make learning about Milestones easier. Log-on to explore Milestones’ programs and services, news and events, staff biographies and more. From the Milestones site you can also link to its parent agency Stone Belt. As Milestones continues to grow you can be certain more information will be available online.

open house

Milestones will be hosting its first-ever open house to unveil its updated facilities and introduce its new psychiatrist Lia Kettenis, MD. Dr. Kettenis joins current Milestones staff: Medical Director, M. Melinda Weakley, MD; Milestones Director, Maureen Gahan, MAMFT; Behavior & Play Therapists, Social Workers, Nurses and an Administrative Team to offer a comprehensive outpatient mental health facility specializing in supports for children and persons with developmental disabilities.

The event will be held Monday, October 15, 5:30 to 7 pm at the Milestones Offices, 550 South Adams Street, Bloomington. Guests will be able to learn more about Milestones’ services, meet the staff, tour the facility and connect with the medical community while enjoying a catered reception.

Special thanks to Forest Pharmaceutical for underwriting this event. For more information contact Milestones at 812-333-6324 / milestones@stonebelt.org or log on to www.milestonesclinic.org.
Cleaning Overhaul
Recognizing the need for an updated professional and healthy work environment for all clients and employees, Stone Belt recently allocated $20,000 of its resources for the purpose of a deep cleaning and painting of the entire Monroe Manufacturing area. Fresh white walls, polished floors and newly-detailed equipment have created a more positive work space that promotes strong work ethic and an energetic atmosphere. Additional Stone Belt resources were also utilized in the cleaning and painting of the gymnasium in the Monroe County facility, which is utilized by many clients and instructors as part of its educational Day Programs.

Community members and supporters are invited to visit Stone Belt for a tour of the newly renovated Monroe Manufacturing, or of any of Stone Belt’s facilities located throughout six counties.

For more information, or to schedule a tour opportunity, please contact Amy Jackson in the Development Office at 812-332-2168 ext. 314 / development@stonebelt.org.

Manufacturing Excitement
Stone Belt takes great pride in providing clients with professional workforce opportunities through both community employment placements and through agency manufacturing programs located in Lawrence, Owen and Monroe Counties. Recently, a series of grants, private contributions and an allocation of Stone Belt resources – totaling close to $42,000 – have enabled the agency to significantly renovate and upgrade the manufacturing area of the Monroe County facility.

Art Studio
Stone Belt received a grant of $7,746 from the City of Bloomington through the Jack Hopkins Social Services Program. This grant has supported the renovation of a quadrant of the Monroe County manufacturing site that is utilized as an art studio for production of Stone Belt’s product line of client-designed and created fine art pieces, Art & Craft. The funds have been used in the creation of a secured, designated art space, including: installation of upgraded lighting; completion of separation walls; installation of a security door; painting of the space; and the purchase of a drying rack and art material storage.

Stone Belt’s launch of the Art & Craft Studio is an exciting venture in providing professional opportunities for individuals. Clients have the chance to express their abilities and talents – in innovative and creative ways – while earning a competitive wage. In addition to serving as a professional space for the production of Art & Craft art line, the studio also provides a place where local community artists work side by side with Stone Belt client artists. The studio is utilized as an art incubator in the creation of collaborative pieces for community-wide display and celebration in such venues as the Lotus World Music Festival, ArtsWeek, and city park installations. Stone Belt clients build meaningful social capital through the creation of lasting relationships of learning and growth with members of the community.

Manufacturing History
Historically the 10th Street Manufacturing program has been the main hub for work for all locations, due to the fact that it has the largest warehouse and fork trucks and is located in Monroe, the largest manufacturing county of the three, which includes Lawrence and Owen. Over the years many contracts found permanent homes at other Stone Belt locations that took responsibility for the projects. Many times the work was shared between two or three locations when there was a large or time-sensitive job to be completed. As many of Stone Belt's manufacturing companies chased cheaper outsourced labor abroad, it has been more challenging to find appropriate sub-contract work. Therefore Stone Belt has worked to grow its businesses in order to generate work for our clients. Over the years Stone Belt’s workshop has completed many different jobs for companies such as:

- Recycling Program. It was estimated by the Herald-Times at the time that the center saved four forests a year due to its efforts.
- General Electric. During its height in the late ‘90s 10th Street assembled thousands of shelves and actuator pads each week.
- Cook.
- Otis Elevator
- Carrier
- Schulte
- Sunrise Greetings
- Tree of Life
- Indiana University
- M&G Inc.
- K&K Vending
- Winters Associates
- US Military
- State of Indiana
- Walnut Springs Water Company
- Carlisle Brakes
- Indiana Limestone Company
- US Postal Service

Program Upgrades
Thanks to the generosity of donor Betty Underwood, the Career Advancement Services (CAS) area of the Monroe County Manufacturing workspace has received some wonderful improvements. CAS provides Stone Belt clients with on-going education in workforce skills, business etiquette, vocational and social skill development, and employment training.

Mrs. Underwood’s gifts have enabled Stone Belt to install a computer lab for the development of client technological and manual dexterity skills. In addition, her gifts have allowed Stone Belt to purchase new tables and chairs for the CAS area, which promote comfort and engaged learning.
I'm looking forward to my birthday on October 2 and to my favorite holiday, Christmas. I love the decorations and the music that's played at this time of year. I'm a big fan of Christmas carols, and my favorite one is "Auld Lang Syne." I also enjoy watching Christmas movies, and my favorite is "Home Alone." I think it's a great way to get into the spirit of the holiday season.

I also enjoy spending time with my family. My mother and father are both wonderful people, and they always make sure that I have a good time. My brother and sister are also very special to me, and we always try to make each other laugh. I feel very grateful to have such a loving and supportive family. Overall, I'm happy with my life and feel that I am living my best life.
touchstone

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

Fall 2007

TRIBUTE
Andy Upper remembered at playground dedication. page 1

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT
Milestones. Showcasing growth and change. pages 4-5

FUNDING
FSSA announces increased waiver supports. 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.

Fun Day
On July 25, Stone Belt celebrated its annual Fun Day festivities. Clients and staff, agency-wide, gathered at the 10th Street facility for a day of games, food and fun. This year’s event once again featured the Journey of Hope cyclists who bike across the country to raise money and awareness for persons with developmental disabilities. The riders donated $750 to apply to fitness related activities. This year Stone Belt has earmarked the funds for new gym equipment.

Clients Martha Hines and Wes Daniels joke with a Journey of Hope Cyclist during Fun Day festivities on July 25. The Journey of Hope riders once again stopped in Bloomington on their annual trek across the country. For more see back page.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED