

marketing

Stone Belt debuts new logo

Stone Belt's new logo tells the story of who we are!

We are extremely excited to introduce you to Stone Belt's new signature logo, which will be utilized to promote the agency's vision of excellence. The logo was designed by Communications Manager, Stacey Ryner, and finalized by the Development Department staff before its approval by the Executive Team and Stone Belt's Board of Directors. The logo compliments our already-recognizable blue word mark, and will often be accompanied by an abbreviated version of our mission statement.

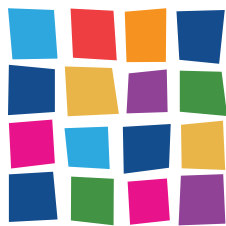
The new logo says a great deal about who we are as both an agency and as a community of individuals. The logo highlights the colors that have become associated with our Principles of Service, and is anchored by squares of "Stone Belt blue," sharing the message that our principles form the value system that shapes our vision. Each square in the mosaic is unique, as is each individual associated with the agency. When all of the small shapes are put together, they create a complete and perfect square, exemplifying that when all of the parts are in place — when we all work together, and when every person is counted as a contributor — Stone Belt experiences success. The colors of the squares also represent our many programs of excellence: residential services, Milestones, employment, Hand in Hand, day services, Art & Craft. The mosaic personifies the beauty of diversity, a lesson Stone Belt works to teach to the larger community.

This logo will serve as the visual image of our agency, and will be complemented by the already existing logos utilized by Stone Belt to promote specifically marketed public programs and events such as Milestones, Art & Craft, Hand in Hand and Run With Me (the complete logo family can be seen below). All of these logos are also squares, and also incorporate the Principles of Service colors.

The logo will be utilized on all Stone Belt print materials, including newsletters, brochures, advertisements, letterhead and business cards. The logo will also be utilized in all web-based materials, including the newly designed website. For more about the Web site see pages 4-5. *Touchstone* readers can look forward to future editions of the newsletter utilizing different logo spot colors.

The vision for the implantation of the new logo is that it will create a memorable, positive image for Stone Belt, one that is representative of the excellence of our staff, our programs and those we support. Employees will be asked to utilize the logo in all correspondence, and to display it publicly in a way that brings pride and respect to the agency.

We hope you'll see the logo as a means to tell the Stone Belt story to the whole community!



Stone Belt

preparing, empowering and supporting individuals with disabilities



first person

Patty Owens evokes memories of family

By Patty Owens
Stone Belt South client

I can remember back to when I was 5 or 6 years old. My Dad would take all of us kids to town. This was usually on a Saturday afternoon. Daddy would watch us like a hawk. One of our favorite places to go was Smallwood's Drug Store. Daddy would treat us to a Coke.

I was the closest to Barb, who was 4 years older than me. We loved to play in the woods. We built a "house" in the woods. We liked to sweep out the leaves and make it pretty. My brothers liked to come to our house and mess it up, which would make us mad. When they did that, I would tell Mom and Dad, and they would get in trouble. I was always Daddy's Girl. He spoiled me rotten!

When I was 10 years old, I started going to church in Peerless. I went there for 2 or 3 years and made some friends while I was there.

I remember buying presents for Mom and Dad. I would always find a knick-knack for mom. She always said she loved what I got for her.

My all time favorite childhood memory was going to Grandma Owens' house. She made the best Taffy Jelly in the world. I loved to put in on corn bread or biscuits.

Grandma raised chickens, but we weren't allowed to go near them, because they might attack us. She had about a dozen or them. Grandma also had a very big garden, where she grew just about every fruit and vegetable in it. I liked to go and pick stuff (like a tomato), and eat it. "Mmmm.... They were so good.. I can still remember how they tasted.

█ *Patty Owens has been a Stone Belt South client since 1997. She participates in Stone Belt's Supported Living, Community Employment and Work Services programs.*



Overcoming obstacles leads to success

With this issue of Touchstone, we are publicly revealing our new logo and the highly anticipated launching of our newly designed Web site. Both of these communication tools will provide you with the means to stay informed of both the accomplishments we make and the challenges we are working to overcome. And, as always, our fortitude and commitment to overcoming obstacles remains unwavering.

While Hollywood has portrayed persons with intellectual disabilities with degrading language and characterizations in the recent release of the movie "Tropic Thunder," we have joined advocacy groups that have rallied and raised the national awareness of the need for respect and dignity for all people and the elimination of the "R" word. Read more about a parent's take on this issue on Page 7.

We are also countering the challenge of high turnover for our direct support staff by adding educational opportunities and increasing the proficiencies of our supervisors. Happily, we can report a drop in our turnover and currently have a 100% retention rate of the Direct Service Professionals who are participating in a certification program through Ivy Tech.



With obstacles also come successes. Our Employment Program is growing. We are aggressively increasing the number of clients who are finding jobs with local employers. In addition to the wonderful opportunities this provides to the supported employee and his/her employer, this success also helps us to meet our goal to replace non-productive or under-productive time in manufacturing programs with meaningful activities.

The arts programs continue to thrive and will expand to all of our service areas. Our vision of fully integrating artists with disabilities into the vibrant arts community comes closer to fruition each month. Find out more about these activities on Page 6.

I can say that I have many reasons to feel positive and to be excited about the work we are doing now and about the activities of the upcoming months. While we do face challenges, it is the successes we experience and the support of our constituents that enables us to move forward. I hope you will enjoy learning more about Stone Belt while you read this colorful issue of Touchstone and when you visit our revamped Web site — www.stonebelt.org.

With great appreciation,

Leslie Green, Chief Executive Officer

upcoming events

SEPTEMBER 1 – JANUARY 31

INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION EXHIBIT

View Stone Belt's mosaics at the Indiana Arts Commission Headquarters (150 West Market Street, #618, Indianapolis).
• For more information contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / lpejeau@stonebelt.org.

MONTH OF OCTOBER

BLOOMINGTON BAGEL COMPANY ART EXHIBIT

View Stone Belt's mosaics at Bloomington Bagel Company (113 N. Dunn St., Bloomington).
• For more information contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / lpejeau@stonebelt.org.

OCTOBER 18

DOWN SYNDROME FAMILY CONNECTION BUDDY WALK

Bryan Park (meet at North Shelter House off Henderson). Registration begins at 9 am, 1-mile walk starts at 10 am.
• For more information contact Cyndi Johnson at 812-339-2012 / kajcynidj@hotmail.com.

NOVEMBER 24

I AM YOU — STONE BELT MONOLOGUE PERFORMANCE / 7 PM

Stone Belt clients present monologues at the Bloomington Playwrights Project (107 W Ninth Street, Bloomington). Tickets are \$10 and available at the Sunrise Box Office (114 E Kirkwood), Stone Belt (2815 East Tenth Street) and online at www.bloomingtonarts.info.
• For more information call 812-332-2168, ext. 314 / ajackson@stonebelt.org.

NOVEMBER 1 / 6:30 PM

STONE BELT WEST REGION / OWEN COUNTY ARC ANNUAL CELEBRATION

IGA Building, Spencer
Join us in recognizing our valuable clients, staff, volunteers and community partners while enjoying a catered dinner.
• For more information contact Karen Freeman at 812-829-3978, ext. 225 / kfreeman@stonebelt.org.

JANUARY 5 – MARCH 2, 2009

LENNIE'S ART EXHIBIT

View a selection of artistically decorated bird houses and mosaics at Lennies (1805 E. Tenth Street, Bloomington).
• For more information contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / lpejeau@stonebelt.org.

quarterly donors

Stone Belt extends appreciation to all our generous donors from June 1, 2008 to August 31, 2008. We are grateful for their continued support.

LIMESTONE SOCIETY LEVEL GIFTS (\$2,500 — \$4,999): Phyllis Little.

BUILDER'S SOCIETY LEVEL GIFTS (\$1,000 — \$2,499): Auntie Anne's, Inc.; Lisa Baker; Alexander & Virginia Buchwald; Charles & Rhonda Burch; Carlisle Brake & Friction; Arthur & Kay Dahlgren; Larry & Susan Davis; Don & Carol Anne Hossler; Innovative Financial Solutions; Harold & Claudia Lindman; Ed & Mary Lou Otting; Richard Sanders; Henry & Celicia Upper.

ADVOCATE LEVEL GIFTS (\$500 — \$999): Anonymous; Bill C. Brown Associates; Malcolm Brown; Crowder's Super Drugs Stores; Maureen Gahan; Daniel & Rosalind Gerstman; Ken Gros Louis; Phil & Margaret; Internal Medicine Associates; JA Benefits; Mallor, Clendening, Grodner, & Bohrer; Leonard & Mary Phillips; Richard & Susan Stryker; Sandra Taylor; United Commerce Bank; Kurt & Lisa Zorn.

STEWART LEVEL GIFTS (\$100 — \$499): James & Shirley Abbitt; Ann Armstrong; Robert & Penny Austin; Diana Baker; Sarah Baumgart; Shirley Boardman; Basil Bennett; Building Associates, Inc.; Roland & Susan Cote; John Davenport; Richard & Rosemary Dever; David & Jane Dunatchik; Robert Ellis; Joe & Gloria Emerson; Paul & Karen Ficker; Malcolm & Ruth Fleming; Beth Gazley; Henry & Alice Gray; David Haas; Craig & Kathryn Holden; Indiana Steel & Engineering; Eric & Emma Ford; Gary & Helen Ingersoll; Ikon Office Solutions; Jason & Amy Jackson; David & Janet James; Sherry Jeffers; Gregory Lloyd; Bryant & Amy Travis Lucas; Janice Lundy; Charles & Donna Martindale; Ed Maxedon & Leslie Green; Fred Gregory; Miles & Marjorie Kanne; Robert & Suzanne Mann; Jerry & Jane McIntosh; P.E.A.C.E. W. Meyer; Ruth Miller; Michael Molenda & Janet Stavropoulos; Stuart & Cookie Mufson; Roberta Murphy; The Peoples State Banks; William & Phyllis Perkins; Nancy Rayfield; Jill Robinson; Dick & Virginia Rose; Jerry & Nancy Ruff; Ruthann Berck & Associates; Harold & Sandy Sabbagh; Curtis & Judith Simic; Winifred Smith; Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.; Gene & Ellen Stern; Gary & Kristin Stratten; Don, Jane & Mark Summitt; Sylvan Tackitt; Barbara Terry; Betty Turflinger; Jerry & Sherry Umphress; Peggy Welch; Edward Wenstrup, Jr.; Wininger, Stolberg Property Group, Inc.; Wayne & Vivian Winston; Paul & Charlotte Zietlow.

FRIEND LEVEL GIFTS (\$1 — \$99): Venus Abbitt; Timothy & JoEllen Baldwin; Louise Blish; Vada Clayton; Joseph & Betty Deckard; Doyle & Sandy Ehlers; Elliott Stone Company, Inc.; FC Tucker/OBR Realtors Inc.; Pat Freeman; Gosport Manufacturing Company, Inc.; David Greene; Jacob & Melissa Gross; J. Ogden & Mary Joan Hamilton; Phyllis Simpson Herr; Tim & Mary Ann Hines; Dale & Loretta Horton; Aaron Houssian; Carol Hudson; Burton & Eleanor Jones; George & Martha Kuh-McCarthy; Jim & Kathie Lazerwitz; The Living Room Center, Inc.; Lila Massa; Florence McBride; Mary McGrady; Donna Miller; Kim Miller; Teresa Miller; Michael & Beverly Muehlenbein; Glenda Murray; Robert Pate; Vonnice Peischl; Brent Peterson; Richard & Carol Pittman; Linda Quackenbush; Jim & Kathy Richardson; Sabbagh & Associates, Inc.; Kathleen Sideli; Nancy Smith; Philip & Gloria Smith; Donald & Nila Sunday; Joseph Taylor; Dane & Nancy Woll.

IN-KIND GIFTS: Best Buddies International.

of note



FUN DAY FESTIVITIES

On July 29, Stone Belt celebrated its annual Fun Day festivities. Clients and staff, agency-wide, gathered at Stone Belt Central's 10th Street headquarters for a day of games, food and fun. This year's event once again featured the Push America, Journey of Hope, Trans America cyclists who bike across the United States to raise money and awareness for persons with developmental disabilities. The riders donated \$750 to Stone Belt to apply to fitness related activities. This year Stone Belt will use the donation to increase athletic opportunities for clients. Fun Day also included a lunch prepared by the members of Kappa Kappa Sigma, a local philanthropic sorority.

LIMITED NAP TAX CREDITS REMAIN

Stone Belt received an allocation of \$20,800 in NAP tax credits for 2008. We are pleased to share that we have already reached more than 75% of our NAP fund-raising goal. NAP credits are going quickly and are available on a first come-first served basis. If you are interested in this meaningful giving opportunity that will provide you with outstanding tax benefit, don't delay!

Stone Belt is extremely pleased to have had such great success with the 2007 NAP tax credit program. The State of Indiana awarded Stone Belt \$20,500 in NAP tax credits in July of 2007, and we were able to pass along these tremendous tax savings to our donors. Stone Belt donors utilized the entire allocation in only a four month period, raising \$41,000 in support of Milestones, Clinical and Health Resources — a Stone Belt program of excellence that provides much needed psychological and psychiatric services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Because of this generosity, Milestones is able to provide approximately 2000 more hours of clinical services during 2008, enhancing individuals' efforts to become more independent and active members of our community.

Through NAP, a contribution to Stone Belt of a minimum of \$100 allows a donor to receive 50% of the total contribution back as a tax credit when filing an Indiana tax return. In addition, donors may claim the total amount of the gift as a tax deduction on an itemized federal return, extending the savings even further. Therefore, a gift to Stone Belt goes more than twice as far! Not only does a donor earn a significant break on taxes next April, the gift also provides funding for a much-needed program serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

Contact the Development Office at 812-332-2168 / development@stonebelt.org to find out how to purchase your NAP tax credits today.

DOWN SYNDROME FAMILY CONNECTION TO HOST BUDDY WALK

The Down Syndrome Family Connection, in partnership with The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) invite the public to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month this October. There will be special opportunities throughout the month to learn about Down syndrome and to promote acceptance and inclusion of individuals born with this genetic condition.

The Buddy Walk will be the premier event at this year's festivities. It will be held Saturday, October 18 at Bryan Park (meet at the North Shelter House off Henderson) in Bloomington. Registration will begin at 9 am with the 1-mile walk beginning at 10 am. All are welcome. Over the last 13-years the Buddy Walk has become the premiere advocacy event for Down syndrome and has become a major platform for inclusion in communities across the country.

If you would like to participate, contact Cyndi Johnson at 812-339-2012 / kajcynidj@hotmail.com. The pre-registration deadline is October 6. All who are pre-registered will be ensured an event t-shirt.

Kim Rienks of INAPSE, The Network on Employment, will also be presenting the "I Have a Voice," display, a collection of photographs of individuals with Down syndrome. Keep watching for more details about this event.

The Down Syndrome community has been celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Month each October since 1981.

SABE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the nation's largest client directed organization, headed to Indianapolis September 4-7 for their 2008 Annual Conference.

More than 1,500 individuals attended the convention held at the Marriott. Betty Williams, President of Self-Advocates of Indiana; along with the hardworking board of directors, played a key role in landing and hosting this milestone event for Indiana.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) stepped up to the plate in support of the conference, providing financial support to Self-Advocates of Indiana to hire a professional meeting planner and assist with the cost of the conference to lower overall registration fees.

The title of the conference featured a familiar Indianapolis theme — "Rev Up Your Engine." Only individuals with disabilities were eligible to make one of the dozens of presentations to this large audience. Sessions included titles like, "Taking a Risk While Becoming a Leader," "Running Your Own Individual Support Plan Meeting," "Changing Lives — Life Outside the Institution," and "People First — Labels are for Soup Cans."

Upon learning of the upcoming conference, the Monroe County Self-Advocates, including board member Angie Ehlers, revved up their enthusiasm. They raised money to participate and organized a delegation of over 20 people to attend.

"We learned how to have more control over our lives and gain independence," said Ehlers.

Stone Belt supports the ongoing activities of the Monroe County Self-Advocates and also provided financial assistance for the members to attend the event.

Shop for Stone Belt

www.
GoodShop
.com

Stone Belt has earned over \$300 in the past year, simply by having staff, friends and family utilize GoodSearch.com for Web searches in the name of Stone Belt. Stone Belt receives 1¢ for every Web search done on our behalf.

Now there's a new opportunity to support Stone Belt in a BIG way, doing something that many of us are already doing all of the time. GoodSearch.com now has GoodShop.com!

By going to www.GoodShop.com and selecting Stone Belt as your agency of choice, you can then shop hundreds of online stores and the businesses will donate a percentage of your purchase to Stone Belt!
Here's how:

- 1 Log on to www.GoodShop.com
- 2 Select Stone Belt as your agency of choice, then scroll down to find the store where you wish to shop.
- 3 Click on that store and shop as you regularly would. Each store lists the percentage of your purchase that they will donate to Stone Belt, so you can see how much your purchase will earn for us.
- 4 Once you click on your store, there is nothing else you need to do. The money will just come our way!
- 5 Remember, each time you shop, you must get to your selected online store through the GoodShop Web site, otherwise no donation will be made to Stone Belt. It's just one extra click of the mouse, and it can earn Stone Belt thousands of dollars in just a few months!

Help spread the word about GoodShop.com and continue to use GoodSearch.com.

touchstone

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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 who would, please contact Publications Supervisor Cheryl Paul at 812.332.2168, ext. 261 or email cpaul@stonebelt.org.

introducing the new

www.stonebelt.org

Designed with YOU in mind, Stone Belt has been busy exploring new ways to make your visit to our Web site as informative and inspiring as it can be. With bold colors, helpful tools and our new drop down navigation, we've made it easier to find what you're looking for. Get inspired and learn more about Stone Belt, an organization that is dedicated to preparing, empowering and supporting individuals with disabilities.

site links

Click on these other Stone Belt divisions (Milestones Clinical & Health Resources, Art & Craft, and Run With Me) to visit their Web sites.

search

Looking for something specific?
Trying to find someone?
Type it here and we'll help you find it.

rotating graphic

Multiple, clickable images rotate in this space featuring a variety of different programs or events. Featured items will change often.

drop down menus

The website is divided into 5 menus organizing information. For more on what each section contains, see below.

stone belt stories

At Stone Belt, we measure our organization by the success of our clients and the feedback we receive from our constituents. We will change these stories about clients, staff members, family members donors and volunteers periodically so visit often to hear more from our supporters.

who we are

- > Our Mission & Principles
- > Facts
- > History
- > Frequently Asked Questions
- > Leadership
- > Stone Belt Stories

what we do

- > Client Programs
- > Manufacturing
- > Employment Services
- > Milestones
- > Art & Craft
- > Hand in Hand

photo album

Visit our photo albums often as we post new albums and images taken at Stone Belt events.

our news

- > Headlines
- > Calendar
- > News & Press Releases
- > Publications
- > Photo Album
- > Join Our Mailing List

support Stone Belt

- > Giving
- > Societies & Planned Giving
- > Endowment
- > NAP Program
- > Corporate Sponsorship
- > Volunteer Opportunities

working for us

- > Current Openings
- > Benefits
- > Apply

State & National News

This section will feature up to the minute state and national news stories making headlines about individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and Stone Belt.

online donations

Stone Belt can now accept donations to our general fund online using PayPal. PayPal protects your financial information with industry-leading security and fraud prevention systems.

banner ad

This banner ad will change to feature upcoming events and activities at Stone Belt. Here the Central Region Annual Celebration is highlighted.

agency news & events

Browse all of Stone Belt's past and present news releases and event postings here.

banner ad

This banner ad anchors the site and links to the GoodShop and GoodSearch Web sites that are fund-raising vehicles for Stone Belt.

employees only

Employees can log into this section with their Stone Belt username and password to access special features.





IU Senior Michelle Davenport has organized a performance of monologues by Stone Belt clients on November 24. Here she poses with performers Frank Porter and Joy McCune.

Lights, Camera, Action

Clients to perform original monologues

Last Fall Michelle Davenport, an IU senior with exceptional zeal and determination, walked through the doors of Stone Belt 10th Street. Her vision was to organize a drama presentation by Stone Belt clients for the public. A year later, her vision has become reality.

On Monday, November 24 at 7 pm Stone Belt, in partnership with the Bloomington Playwrights Project, will present "I Am You," a monologue performance by clients at the Bloomington Playwrights Project (107 West Ninth Street, Bloomington).

The evening will feature seven clients performing original monologues about their lives. The monologues are written in a variety of formats; one is a poem, another a letter and others biographical stories. The monologues were written over the course of the past year under supervision of Davenport, a Therapeutic Recreation major and Theater minor, at IU.

Davenport had two unique experiences in high school that impacted her desire to work with individuals with disabilities. First she saw the play "The Boys Next Door," about four men with developmental disabilities who live in a group home. Second, she had a friend with autism who used singing as an outlet.

"I saw how powerful this form of expression was for him. It was so beautiful. I realized I wanted to help free people from their disabilities and help them realize they have abilities," said Davenport. "The play gave me the idea to use theater as an outlet."

Last Fall Davenport came to Stone Belt to volunteer on the advice of a friend. She first started working with client Joy McCune on writing her biography and quickly realized how great Joy was at telling stories. After some time, she had the idea of gathering a few more clients to prepare monologues and perform them for the community. She started work on this project immediately, volunteering 3 days a week helping clients perfect their stories.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Davenport is her drive. She is not preparing a class project or receiving class credit, she simply wants to coordinate this event. "The project means so much to me. I feel so privileged to have been given the opportunity to be a part of their lives."

☑ Tickets to "I Am You" are \$10 and available at The Sunrise Box Office (114 East Kirkwood Ave), Stone Belt (2815 E Tenth Street) or online www.bloomingtonarts.info. Call 812-332-2168, ext. 314 or email development@stonebelt.org for questions.

The following is an excerpt from Frank Porter's Monologue to be performed at "I Am You" on Monday, November 24 at The Bloomington Playwrights Project.

What does independence mean to you? This is what it means to me:

Independence means being able to have friendships. Independence means the choice of friendships, some people I like and some people I don't. I choose friendships that I believe will be healthy for me and others. The friendships I care about the most are my brother and sister because they are family and I love them unconditionally. These friendships are deep and meaningful. I don't like it when in friendships people try to pick fights. Sometimes I feel lonely just like you. Sometimes I feel that I don't have close friendships just like you. We all go through times when we feel that no one is there to support us. Then I remember the good times. We all need friendships, but only relationships that help us each grow.

Independence means being Frank Porter. Frank Porter means business; I stay busy and active all the time. One of my favorite activities is to sew and to make key chains out of yarn by myself. I love to color pictures and when I get them all done I'm going to frame them to make money. I love being creative and making things. One day I will sell the things I make and receive a lot of money like a million dollars. I also enjoy watching TV and my favorite shows are Power Rangers, Opportunity Overdrive. I am happy that I am Frank Porter and have my own independence. Independence is very important to all of us.

art & craft

Exhibits planned through '09

Stone Belt will continue exhibits of its unique artwork at a number of locations throughout Bloomington this fall and winter.

August kicked things off with an exhibit of mosaics at Tutto Bene (213 South Rogers Street, Bloomington). One of the most popular pieces at the show was "Scream," by artist Kelly Tate. "People identify with the picture because they can relate to the emotions behind it. It can be a scream of frustration, happiness or fear. It is one of Art & Craft's best-selling pieces," said Larry Pejeau, Director of Art & Craft.

In October the Mosaics will return to the place of their first Bloomington exhibit, The Bloomington Bagel Company (113 North Dunn, Bloomington). "We are so excited to revisit the place where we got our start selling the artwork," said Leslie Green, CEO. 2009 brings a selection of decorated Blue Bird houses and Art & Craft mosaics exhibited at Lennie's Restaurant (1805 E. Tenth Street, Bloomington) from January 5 through March 2. Keep watching Stone Belt's Web site and publications for more details about opening receptions for these shows.

As always, Stone Belt artisan's most recent mosaic work, creative greeting cards, jewelry and furniture can always be viewed and purchased at the Stone Belt Gallery (2815 E. Tenth Street, Bloomington). A holiday sale for Art & Craft is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 13 where the new Stone Belt 2009 calendar featuring a mosaic each month will be available.

This year Stone Belt artists will once again be collaborating with Lotus organizers to create sculptures for the 2008 Festival Parade. This annual event features an eclectic mix of whimsical sculptures and marching bands and is the opening event of the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival, an international music festival that draws large crowds to downtown Bloomington each year. The parade travels from Third Street Park to Kirkwood Avenue. It will be held October 2 at 5:45 pm.

"Animal Island," Stone Belt's collaborative sculpture garden created by client artists and local artist Joe LaMantia is currently being installed along the B-Line trail on Morton Street between 5th and 6th Streets in downtown Bloomington. This will be the first permanent installation to be completed along the B-Line trail and dedication ceremonies are anticipated to be held mid October.

The sculpture features four large, brightly painted, ¼" plate steel poles with animal images mounted to them, whimsical weather vanes sit on top of each. Embedded in the concrete ground are four colorful mosaic stepping stones. All items are based on client drawings. "This wonderfully creative installation will surely be enjoyed by joggers and walkers along the B-Line trail for years to come," said Pejeau.

New inspiration and the sharing of resources is the goal of a group traveling to San Francisco, California in September. This trip, partially funded by VSA arts of Indiana, will include Linda Wisler, VSA arts of Indiana Resident Master Artist; Leslie Green, Stone Belt CEO; Larry Pejeau, Director of Stone Belt Art & Craft; Karen Holtzclaw, Stone Belt Art Instructor; and Joe LaMantia, Stone Belt Collaborative Artist.

The group will be visiting five different studios that support and promote artists with disabilities. These include The Art of Possibility studio in Santa Clara, Creativity Explored in San Francisco, Creative Growth in Oakland, The National Institute of Art and Disability (NIAD) in Richmond and will also tour The Arc of San Francisco. Look for a full report of what was discovered and learned in the Winter issue of Touchstone.

☑ To learn more about Art & Craft contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / lpejeau@stonebelt.org.

film review

Advocates call for boycott of "Tropic Thunder"

By Phil Meyer
Stone Belt Board President

In Florida, Alex Barton was recently voted out of his kindergarten class. The teacher stood him before his peers and encouraged them to say what they didn't like about his behavior. Then she asked the students if they wanted him back in class. By a vote of 14-2, they voted him out. Alex has Asperger's Syndrome.

In Minnesota, Adam Race, a 13-year-old boy with autism, was banned from his church. Adam's parents received a restraining order preventing them from attending their home parish of 12 years.

Last month, syndicated talk radio host Michael Savage said on his show that 99 percent of the time, a child with autism was just "a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out."

And now in thousands of theaters nationwide, Ben Stiller, in the summer blockbuster movie "Tropic Thunder," is implying it's hip to call my son a "retard."

My wife and I have three healthy children, one of whom has autism. My dream is that in my son's lifetime, he will be treated for who he is, not for the disability he has.

I went to see "Tropic Thunder" last week. Ben Stiller plays an actor whose roles include a character called "Simple Jack." Simple Jack has a developmental disability. In the film-within-a-film, Stiller sports a caricature of an

institutional bowl haircut and bad teeth.

In an interview with Entertainment Weekly, Stiller and Robert Downey Jr. discuss how they consulted with African-American cast member Brandon T. Jackson about Downey's portrayal of an African-American and the use of the "N-word." Jackson's character ends up saying the "N-word" once in the film. The makeup used to make Downey look like an African-American is incredibly realistic.

On whom did they rely to tell them if their use of the "R-word" 15 times might be unacceptable?

Due to pressure from organizations such as Special Olympics and the Arc of the United States, DreamWorks has pulled a Web site for the film-within-a-film and merchandising attempting to make a catchphrase out of a line from the movie — "never go full retard."

In the most offensive scene in the film, Matthew McConaughey, playing a Hollywood agent, speaks to Stiller's character about adopting a child. "Well, at least you still have a choice. I'm stuck with mine," states McConaughey, pointing to a photograph of his teenage son with a developmental disability.

During the time it takes to watch "Tropic Thunder," six more children will be diagnosed with autism. In Indiana, the incidence of autism has increased to 1 in 113 people.

People with developmental disabilities are four to 10 times more likely to be victims of crime.

The employment rate for people with disabilities is

still an unconscionable 65-70 percent. Wages for those people who are working are mostly below poverty level. Doesn't this sound like the state of race relations in our country 50 years ago? Historically, we have seen the elimination of other stigmatizing words over time. We recognize racism, sexism, ageism and homophobia, but there is no term for discriminating against people with developmental disabilities.

Language frames how we think about others. Attitudes and expectations of the public help determine the degree to which citizens with developmental disabilities are able to learn, work and live alongside their peers without disabilities. It's time to respect and value people with developmental disabilities like our son. It's time to stop using the R-word.

Later this month, the Democratic Party will nominate an African-American for President on the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. With that nomination, Dr. King's dream moves one step closer to reality. In a classroom in Florida, in a church in Minnesota, on talk radio and in movie theaters nationwide, my dreams for our son are taking giant steps backwards.

☑ Phil Meyer is the father of a 16-year-old son with autism. For further coverage about the controversy surrounding "Tropic Thunder" log on to www.patriciaebauer.com.

people make a difference

Elbert Johns remembered by friends, colleagues

By Charlotte Zietlow
Former Stone Belt Board President, Member

In the early 1990s, Elbert Johns, executive director of Stone Belt Arc for nearly 20 years, led the Stone Belt board, the staff and self-advocates in forming this mission statement for the agency. I carry this statement on a card with me, although I finished 16 years on the board several years ago.

And I am not the only one. For me, and for the community, Elbert Johns brought knowledge and compassion and courageous, stretching leadership to Stone Belt from the early '80s. Step by step, year by year, he encouraged, cajoled, empowered all of us to understand the potential of persons with intellectual and other disabilities.

For Elbert, there was no person who was not able to become more than who they were, who could not participate in the community, in his or her own lives, in ways they had not thought they could. That applied not only to the consumers at Stone Belt, but to the staff, the board, the whole community. Elbert did not let us rest.

Elbert oversaw the evolution of Stone Belt Arc as a COMMUNITY organization — an employer and an employment agency, maintaining group homes and placing people in their own apartments, dependent on volunteer assistance and encouraging self-advocates to be volunteer assistants.

He identified untapped resources of county funding for mental health and other developmental disability services. He helped weather the tide of changing federal and state guidelines and priorities in the provision of and access to services for infants, children and parents as they struggled to negotiate the red tape and vacillating theories prevailing.

And as the Internet loomed as a tool to connect and understand which services were available for whom, and what they consisted of, Elbert migrated to TheArcLink.com, the national Web site dedicated to this goal.

Over the last years, TheArcLink provided a site for the Medicaid Desk, a clearing house for consumers. It served as the host for the upcoming Conference for Self Advocates Becoming Empowered. He worked with national experts on many avenues of communication possibilities for persons with cognitive and physical disabilities.

He worked tirelessly to make their world more complete and more accessible for those who years ago might have been forgotten and warehoused. Elbert changed the future for these people at the local, state and national level.

But the main thing about Elbert, my friend and colleague for nearly 25 years, was that he was caring, loving, embracing, encouraging, insistent on justice but polite, prepared and positive. He was very active in his church, but always embracing persons with different points of view, cultures and ways of doing things. He was a very loving husband with a remarkable wife, Chris, and four wonderful children. He doted on his grandchildren.

Mission statements are often composed in a hurry and shelved. The mission statement that Elbert and Stone Belt spent hours parsing and polishing to get just right is something many of us revisit constantly, but the whole community, too, can be measured by the extent to which it has pervaded all our lives.

And that is, as well, the extent to which Elbert Johns has changed our world and the world of those he worked for so tirelessly.

☑ Charlotte Zietlow is a former Stone Belt board member and president and current board member and former president, The ArcLink, Inc. This article first appeared in the Herald-Times.



By Leslie Green
Stone Belt CEO

People with disabilities lost a strong advocate on July 14 with the untimely passing of Elbert Johns.

Elbert came to Bloomington in 1985 to become the Executive Director of Stone Belt Arc and to build upon its positive reputation for preparing, empowering and supporting people with disabilities to participate in the community. Prior to his arrival in Bloomington, Elbert was the Executive Director for The Arc of Stanly County in Albemarle, North Carolina and he had also worked in a state institution in Georgia.

During his 15-year tenure at the helm of Stone Belt, many programs and services offered by the agency were initiated or greatly expanded. Under Elbert's leadership, Stone Belt was among the first organizations in Indiana to offer supported employment services that enabled individuals with significant disabilities to meet the needs of local businesses. Our residential options were significantly expanded by the growth of group home and supported living services. Nine of Stone Belt's 11 group homes were built during Elbert's administration, offering clients from the local area, as well as many who previously resided in state institutions, the opportunity for community living. Many other resources, including the support of self-advocacy activities were also added.

Elbert's impact reached beyond the Stone Belt community with his state and national efforts, including his leadership in mobilizing advocates to end the waiting list for developmental disabilities services within Indiana, and the initiation of TheArcLink, Incorporated, a company that enables clients and families to find resources in their local communities.

He was a man with big visions and the ability to activate resources to make things happen. He was a true friend to the individuals with disabilities who benefited greatly from his impassioned labors. His friends at Stone Belt will miss him very much. In the upcoming days, Stone Belt will be developing a way to memorialize Elbert's contributions to Stone Belt and to people with disabilities.

Stone Belt

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

**art
explosion**

Stone Belt was abuzz with art activity this summer. June kicked off with the installation of an entrance gate for the new Bryan Park Playground (right). July continued with the painting of a Bloomington traffic box. In August, Art & Craft Mosaics were exhibited at Tutto Bene restaurant and the installation began on Stone Belt's B-Line Trail sculpture garden. For more art news see **Page 7**.



Stone Belt



LOOK AT US NOW

New logo and Web sites debut. **pages 1, 4, 5**

IN MEMORIAM

Elbert Johns, former Stone Belt CEO, is remembered. **page 6**

MOVIE BOYCOTT

Advocates call for a boycott of "Tropic Thunder." **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 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.