Stone Belt debuts new logo

Stone Belt has a new logo! The story of who we are has never been told like this before.

Stone Belt's new logo reflects our 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 complements 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 an organization and as a community of individuals. The logo highlights the colors that have become associated with our work in the community, and the logo can be identified by anyone with a visual impairment. Each square in the mosaic, unique in itself, is part of something bigger. When all of the pieces come together, they create a complete and perfect square, exemplifying the idea that when all of the parts are in place, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The colors of the mosaic represent our programs and services, and are 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 pieces come together, they create a complete and perfect square, exemplifying the idea that when all of the parts are in place, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

This logo will serve as the visual image of our agency, and will be accompanied 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. 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.

The vision for the implementation 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 the people 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!

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 Parnell. I was there for 5 or 6 years and made some friends while I was there. 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 it on corn bread or biscuits. “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 the help of Touchstone, we are publicly revealing our story and the highly anticipated launching of our newly designed Web site. Both of these communication tools will provide clients with the essential information of the Model of Excellence approach and the outcome of the resources Touchstone has been creating and connecting to. Now our clients are receiving the outcomes. Thus, if our supporters and constituents are interested in continuing to learn more.

Through Touchstone, we have partnered with an out-of-state disability advocate to bring exciting and unique characteristics to the recent release of the video “Legacy: The Dreamers.” We have joined efforts to publish this video to the national audiences of the video project and digital for all people and the eliminators of the “R” word. Read more about Touchstone and GoodShop.

The Stone Belt is also helping with the annual Walk to End Down Syndrome, as it is our mission to support this amazing cause and to change the world

The walk will be on September 27th, and there is a 5K Race Walk and a 1 Mile Fun Walk. The registration fee is $25.00 for adults, $15.00 for kids 12 and under, and free for kids 5 and under.

Linking APRC Tax Credits Reborn

2008 marks an even more successful year for the APRC tax credit. Stone Belt is pleased to absorb all of the APRC tax credits in 2007 and 2008, and we invite you to join those tax credit movements to support our clients.

By going to www.GoodShop.com and selecting Stone Belt as your agency of choice, Stone Belt has earned over $31,000 in support of 2007 National Conference tax credit program. The Stone Belt is thrilled to absorb all of the APRC tax credits in 2007 and 2008, and we invite you to join those tax credit movements to support our clients.

Remember, each time you shop, you are thanked for your generous support. Through the GoodShop program, there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in just one year.

Contact the GoodShop Foundation

If you would like to participate, contact Cyndi Baker at 812-829-3978, ext. 225 / kfreeman@stonebelt.org.

Stone Belt enhances the quality of life for people with disabilities and improves the lives of those who support them. Stone Belt is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is a Model of Excellence site.

For more information contact Karen Freeman at 812-829-3978, ext. 225 / kfreeman@stonebelt.org.

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Log on to GoodShop.com

Find more information about this event on Page 6.

Upcoming events

FALL 2008, Issue 24

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 us, or have them contact Karen Freeman at 812-829-3978, ext. 225 / kfreeman@stonebelt.org.

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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.
lights, camera, action

clients to perform original monologues

Last fall Michelle Davenport, a IU senior with exceptional oral and communication skills, walked through the doors of Stone Belt 10th Street. Her mission was to organize a drama presentation by Stone Belt clients for the public. A year later the venue has become weekly.

On Thursday, November 30 at 7 p.m. Stone Belt, in partnership with the Bloomington Marathon Project, will present ‘Tropic Thunder’ a one-act, one-person performance by client at the Bloomington Marathon Project (142 W. Kirkwood Ave.)

The evening will feature seven clients performing original monologues about their lives. The monologues are a result of a writing retreat, which involves both audio and written bilingual formats. The monologues were written from the heart of the composer and were originally developed during Diazepam, a Therapeutic Respite and Sharing Showcase event at Stone Belt.

Davenport had two unique experiences in high school that inspired her passion to work with individuals with disabilities. First was the class “The Boys Next Door,” about four men with developmental disabilities who live in a group home. Second was her friend with autism who needed help in organizing an event. “I want to show that all of us are special and unique. One thing I really wanted to help people understand is that just because you can’t see the intelligence, it doesn’t mean you are not talented,” said Davenport. “The trip gave me the option to perform at an early age.

Last fall Davenport came, Stone Belt on a mission to analyze the quality of speech. She is not preparing a case project or winning a speech. She simply wants to understand clients. “I thought I knew about them, but I have come to realize how.Those clients are very talented. They have stories to share, possibility, they want to share,” she said.

Perhaps the most important thing about Davenport is her drive. She is not preparing a case project or winning a speech. She simply wants to understand clients. “I thought I knew about them, but I have come to realize how. Those clients are very talented. They have stories to share, possibility, they want to share,” she said.

For Elbert, there was no person who was not able to become more than what he was. Mrs. Johns 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 Stone Belt community. This started a few years ago.

In the early 1990s, Elbert Johns, executive director of Stone Belt Arc for people with disabilities, died of cancer. Nearly 1,000 people attended a memorial service at the First United Methodist Church of Bloomington.

By Charlotte Zietlow

Elbert Johns is a former Stone Belt Board member and president and current board member and former Stone Belt CEO. Elbert 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 worked for him and his visionary leadership and example continue to inspire many.

Elbert’s impact reached beyond the Stone Belt community with his state and national efforts, including his leadership in mobilizing advocates to end the discriminatory & segregated ITC system for individuals with disabilities.

Stone Belt will be developing a way to memorialize Elbert’s contributions to Stone Belt and to people with disabilities. The evening will feature seven clients performing original monologues about their lives. The monologues will be delivered in both English and Spanish.

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.

Phil Meyer is the father of a 16-year-old son with autism.

To watch a video of Phil Meyer discussing his son Adam and autism, go to www.indy.com and search for the story Phil’s son inspired him to pursue a national boycott.

The employment rate for people with disabilities is still an unconscionable 65-70 percent. Wages for those who are working is nearly as bleak: barely $1 million for workers with disabilities nationwide.

By Phil Meyer

stone belt

film review

advocates call for boycott of “tropic thunder’’

in Florida, Adam Mayer was recently erected out of low-quality wood, although the “Frozen” delightfully serves the look and feel of the original. Mayer and his friends have been encouraged to find a new way to build the “Frozen” delightfully serves the look and feel of the original. Mayer and his friends have been encouraged to find a new way to build the

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 church in Minnesota, on talk radio and in movie theaters nationwide, my dreams for our son are taking giant steps backwards.

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 democracy that holds up hope and equality for all people, we should be able to have an African American candidate for president.

With that in mind, the Stone Belt will now be developing a way to memorialize Elbert’s contributions to Stone Belt and to people with disabilities. The evening will feature seven clients performing original monologues about their lives. The monologues will be delivered in both English and Spanish.

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

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 to partner with the community to prepare, empower and support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.

art explosion
Stone Belt was abuzz with art activity this summer. June kicked off with the completion of an entrance gate to the new Bryan Park Playground (right). The gate was created by the painting of a local artist and Stone Belt participants. Art & Call Mosaics were installed at a July juried exhibit and an exhibition begins at Stone Belt’s B-Line Trail sculpture garden. For more art news see Page 7.

movie boycott
Advocates call for a boycott of “Tropic Thunder.” page 7