

# touchstone

summer 2008

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



*This is the third consecutive year that employees from Macy's in Bloomington have participated in Stone Belt's Run With Me 5K. They support XXX, a co-worker and Stone Belt Employment Program client.*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Catch-up with the former residents of Travis House. **page 1**

---

## EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Five staff members honored at Awards for Excellence. **pages 4-5**

---

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Stone Belt fields Bloomington City Co-Ed Softball Team. **page 6**

## 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.

# reunion

## Travis House

### where are they now?



*Carolyn Abbott is proud of the Bloomington apartment she shares with her roommate since leaving Travis. She gets great joy from keeping her home neat and organized. Since moving into her own place, Carolyn has become more involved in community activities. She recently received an award from Bloomington Parks & Recreation for perfect attendance in their Friday Night Social Program.*



*Sheila Boyles lives in an apartment near Stone Belt Tenth Street and has had the same roommate since leaving Travis. She prides herself in her independence while still enjoying spending time with her friends. She loves going on road trips with her old roommates and still occasionally socializes with them. She loves being able to walk to Stone Belt every day and is proud of her new job at Arby's.*



*Bobby Pate lives in an apartment on the west side of Bloomington with his roommate and his dog, Princess. He is a loyal animal lover and excellent neighbor. He goes out of his way to help anybody he can. He enjoys socializing and trying new activities. He takes pleasure in participating in PALS horseback riding classes with his girlfriend of more than 12 years, Cheryl.*



*Cheryl Downs shares a house on Bloomington's south side with two roommates. She enjoys working at Movie Gallery where she has been employed since 2002. Cheryl loves horseback riding and is very active in the PALS program. She also loves visiting her family and spending time with her boyfriend of more than 12 years, Bobby.*



*Terry Simpson was the only resident who moved out of Travis into an apartment alone. After a while, he decided to get a roommate and moved into a duplex on Bloomington's east side. Since leaving Travis, Terry, who at one point was rather quiet, has found his voice and now does a superb job of self-advocacy. Terry continues to work at Crazy Horse and loves spending time with friends.*



*Angie Deel loves sharing her Bloomington apartment with her roommate she has lived with since Travis closed. Recently, Angie has shown a talent for interior design with her selections of home furniture and decorations. She has worked at IU for over 10 years, and enjoys swimming at the YMCA and dancing. Since she plans her own meals, she has become an excellent cook with a huge list of favorite recipes!*



*Laura Mills rents a four bedroom house on the south side of Bloomington with two roommates. Recently, she has enjoyed having the flexibility in her schedule to stay home alone at times. Laura is a hard worker and enjoys her job. She also loves looking for things to buy for her house and enjoys decorating so much she has even bought several items for her parents' home.*



*Michael Grubb currently lives in an apartment on Bloomington's west side and has been with the same roommate since leaving Travis. He works as a custodian at Stone Belt 10th Street, where he has made many friends. Since leaving Travis House, he has become more active in community activities and enjoys annual fishing trips to Patoka Lake with his roommate.*

The former residents of the Kirkwood/Travis House group home embody the success that Stone Belt's community living program strives to achieve each day in encouraging self-determination and independence.

Kirkwood House — later renamed Travis House — opened in 1987 as a residence for eight men and women of various ages, many of whom had previously lived in another one of Stone Belt's group homes. Kirkwood House was viewed by both the agency and the residents as a transition home, suitable for individuals who were moving toward turning a life-long dream of independent living into reality.

A number of individuals moved in and out of Kirkwood House during the early years. Some successfully transitioned into independent living, while others experienced challenges living on their own for the first time. At this point Stone Belt was able to provide only one residential option in addition to group homes: the Semi-Independent Living Program (SILP) offered clients a few hours of support each week. For those who had been accustomed to round-the-clock resources, the transition to SILP sometimes proved overwhelming.

Despite these challenges, many residents still dreamed of having their own apartments. They purchased and stored appliances, furniture and decorative items, eagerly awaiting the day when they could transition to an independent living arrangement.

In 1997 Stone Belt created a program called Supported Living, and with this new program the dream of independence and self-determination came closer for the residents of Kirkwood House. Through the Supported Living program and the State's Medicaid Waiver funding, clients would have the opportunity to live in private residences and yet still receive a high level of services, including the possibility of 24-hour support if needed. Many Kirkwood House residents immediately put their names onto the Medicaid Waiver waiting list. The waiting list for this service was, and still is, incredibly long, with some individuals waiting many years before receiving a Waiver.

In 1999, Kirkwood House residents moved from their Bloomington home on Kirkwood Street to a new duplex on Burks Drive that had been converted into a single residence and named Travis House, in honor of recently retired Residential Director, Joan Travis. In preparation for receiving Waiver funding, residents worked diligently to acquire new skills and take on new levels of responsibility. They worked with their staff to take the steps necessary to realize their dreams of independent living.

In 2001, with support from the state through the providing of Medicaid Waivers for all of the residents, Stone Belt officially closed the Travis group home and helped the residents transition to the supported living program. In April 2002, the residence was once again separated into two sides of a duplex, and the residents signed leases and decided to give this new arrangement a try for the next year.

Throughout 2002, residents continued learning the skills required for them to live independently. They all received their own house keys and began paying their own bills. They also started purchasing their own groceries and planning their own menus. They began taking more ownership of their home and actively participated in decorating and purchasing furniture.

In early 2003 the residents began considering moving into off-site rentals on their own. Between February and April all of the individuals moved out, and Stone Belt then sold the property the following December.

This April, the former residents of Travis House celebrated the 5-year anniversary of their final transitions from Travis House to supported independent living. They met for their annual reunion at Mr. Gatti's Restaurant in Bedford, when they reminisced about their old residence and celebrated their personal achievement in the years since they moved.

Billie Woods, who was the house manager at Kirkwood/Travis House during the residents' transition, spoke of her pride in them. "It's been such a joy to watch these individuals blossom over the years since their time at Travis House. They have made real decisions about what they wanted their lives to become and have worked hard achieving their goals. In spite of fears and uncertainties, they proved they were ready to go out on their own."

Today all of Travis House's former residents live successfully in their own homes. They are vocal in their decisions and express happiness and fulfillment in their lives. Stone Belt empowered them to make informed decisions about their futures, and they embraced this responsibility. Meet these inspirational people in the stories at right and left.



**Sept. 1987**  
Kirkwood House purchased and first residents move in.

**Dec. 1997**  
Stone Belt starts its Supported Living Program.

**1999**  
Indiana Board of Health recommends a transition to Supported Living.



**Feb. 1999**  
Kirkwood residents move to new duplex on Burks Drive. This duplex was converted into one residence and named Travis House after recently retired residential director Joan Travis.

**Feb. to April 2003**  
Residents move from Travis East & West into their own off-site apartments.



**April 2002**  
Travis House converted back into a duplex and split into 2 SLP sites, Travis East and West.

**Dec. 2003**  
Stone Belt sells Travis House.

from the CEO

# Colors of Stone Belt flourish with Spring

*The white light streams down to be broken up by those human prisms into all the colors of the rainbow. Take your own color in the pattern and be just that.*  
— Charles R. Brown

As the earth comes back to life and exhibits a splendid array of spring colors, so too are we surrounded both literally and symbolically by multitudes of color in our daily activities at Stone Belt.

The Art & Craft studio flourishes with bright colors as client-artists produce community art pieces such as the B-Line trail commission in Bloomington, as well as the retail items that are featured in our gallery and special exhibition (Page 6); and our successful Run with Me 5K fund-raiser was awash with colorful and excited participants (Page 7).

We have also used a rainbow of colors to symbolize our Principles of Service, which are boldly displayed throughout all of our facilities and on our newly designed logo and Web site to debut in upcoming weeks. These eye-catching colors remind everyone of the important outcomes that we hope to promote for clients,

staff and other constituents:

• *Relationships Create Quality of Life:* The story of George Kirles' reuniting with his family members at the Run with Me event is a touching portrayal of the value of relationships (Page 7).

• *Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life:* The Awards of Excellence, bestowed upon five of our outstanding employees, powerfully demonstrates the significance of success in employment (Pages 4 and 5).

• *Home Life Must be Self-Directed/ Positive Supports Create Long-Term Results:* The former Travis House residents provide shining examples of the importance of self-direction in home life and the value of receiving positive supports to accomplish one's goals (Page 1).

• *All People Have Contributions to Make:* The members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity are increasing the contribution they make to others through their philanthropic relationship with Stone Belt (Page 7).



• *Self-Determination is Essential:* Jessica Reynolds exits high school and celebrates one-year on the job at a Columbus TJ Maxx Store (Page 4).

• *Learning Creates Empowerment:* Angie Deel advocated to have the Monroe County Special Olympics add swimming to their sports offerings. Her work made a difference and she just participated in and received a medal at the group's first swim meet (Page 3).

I hope you will enjoy this issue and that it will inspire you to think of the many ways that the values portrayed in our Principles of Service also color your life to make it rich and rewarding. As always we thank you for your continued support of our mission, principles and programs.

All the best,

**Leslie Green**, Chief Executive Officer

## upcoming events

### THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20 MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE 100TH BIRTHDAY EXHIBIT

View Stone Belt's mosaic of the Monroe County Courthouse dome on display at Monroe Bank in Bloomington (210 E. Kirkwood Ave.) This piece recently received the Best in Show award in the Amateur Adult Category at this show.

• For more information contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / lpejeau@stonebelt.org.

### JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

Stone Belt administrative offices and day program facilities will be closed.

### JULY 8 — JULY 31 PEOPLE'S STATE BANK ART EXHIBIT

Browse a selection of Stone Belt's newest Art & Craft Mosaics on display at the People's State Bank in Spencer (304 E. Morgan Street).

• For more information contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / lpejeau@stonebelt.org.

### JULY 29 / 9 AM — 3 PM FUN DAY

The PUSH America Journey of Hope cyclists will return to Stone Belt (2815 E. Tenth St.) for the third straight year. Meet the riders and celebrate Fun Day!

• For more information contact Jenny Austin at 812-332-2168, ext. 300 / jaustin@stonebelt.org.

### SEPTEMBER 22 AGENCY-WIDE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Celebrate Stone Belt's 2008 achievements while enjoying a buffet dinner. Event will be held at the Bloomington Convention Center (302 S. College Ave).

• For more information contact Amy Jackson at 812-332-2168, ext. 314 / ajackson@stonebelt.org.

### NOVEMBER 24 I AM YOU — STONE BELT MONOLOGUE PERFORMANCE

Attend a performance of Stone Belt client monologues at the Bloomington Playwrights Project.

• For more information contact Amy Jackson at 812-332-2168, ext. 314 / ajackson@stonebelt.org.

## quarterly donors

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

**ADVOCATE LEVEL GIFTS (\$500 — \$999):** Anonymous(8); Lisa Baker, DDS; First Insurance Group, Don & Carol Anne Hossler; Cook Pharmacia; Crowder's Pharmacy; Edward Jones; IU Credit Union; JA Benefits; Nationwide; Larry Ratts\*; Robert Willislon.

**STEWARDSHIP LEVEL GIFTS (\$100 — \$499):** Barnes & Noble; William Beyer; Raymond Bouvier\*; Barry & Pam Godwin\*; Judith Halweg; Innovative Financial Solutions; Charles Jelavich; Kappa Kappa Kappa; Robert & Linda Kirchubel; Randall & Michelle McAtee; Michael & Susan Mayfield; Grant Miller; David Rhodes; Jerry & Nancy Ruff; St. Mark's Church; Tri Kappa Sorority Alpha Chapter; Joan Wamer\*; Amy Travis; Bill & Pat Verhagen .

**FRIEND LEVEL GIFTS (\$1 — \$99):** Karen Adams; Donald Allen; Diana Baker; Kenneth & Barbara Beatty; AM & MA Bolic; Jeff Buie; Anita Calkins; Robert Corbin\*; Virtue Corlett; Arthur & Kay Dahlgren; Ann Dininger; Carrie Dyer; Jacqueline Faris; Jerry & Linda Forshee; Maureen Gahan; Jason Gearheart; Jacob & Melissa Gross; Douglas & Pamela Hausmann; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Heath; Highlanders Home Extension Club; James Holthaus; Tim & Mary Anne Hines; Kim Hodges; Carol Hudson; Barbara Hughes; Faye Jackson; David & Margaret Johnson; Deb Kloosterman; Carol Kraft; Thomas & Melissa Kuhn; Frank & Eileen Lagreca\*; Keith Lundy; Pat Lundy; Rod & Dawn Lukas; Dolores Martens; Ed Maxedon & Leslie Green; Nancy Metcalf; Thomas Minehan; Robert & Bridget Morgan; Stuart & Cookie Mufson; BJ Muehlenbein; Ray & Marie Murphy; Eugene & Beverly Rasch; Velma Rea\*; Michael & Melinda Riley; Patrick & Sharon Robbins; Patty Rocco; Miriam Rosenzweig; James & Sherry Rowlett; William & Alice Ryan; Betty Sue Saunders; John Scully; Merrill Smith\*; Stanford Community Services; Susan Summitt; Thomas & Maryanne Thickestun; Donna Thompson; Robert & Jennifer Toutkoushian; Cliff & Joan Travis; Steve & Ann Worland; Paul & Charlotte Zietlow; Mary Ziskin.

**IN-KIND GIFTS:** Bloomingfoods; Bloomington Bagel Company; Bucetto's Smiling Teeth; Dagwood's; Erman & Associates; Indiana Running Company; IU Auditorium; Jason & Amy Jackson; Mixed Greens; Randall & Rae Kirk; Bryant & Cheryl Paul; Roots; Starbucks; Subway; Taylor Imprinted Sportswear; Victor Oolitic Stone Company.

\* Denotes gifts given through the United Way

## of note

### LEATHER WORKS SOLD

In June 2003, Stone Belt purchased the Michael O. Long Company and started the Stone Belt Leather Works division. The purpose of the business venture was to provide an independent revenue stream to help offset Stone Belt's dependence on Medicaid funding, while providing clients with the opportunity to learn new skills associated with the production of fine, hand-made leather goods. Stone Belt and the Long Company had long had a mutually beneficial partnership through subcontracted work, and this arrangement provided an exciting opportunity for both parties.

During the nearly 5 years that Stone Belt owned and operated Leather Works, the business has been able to achieve the original goals, although on a more modest scale than initially envisioned.

Due to Stone Belt's current need to focus on core operations, the Board of Directors and management have concluded that the timing is right to conclude ownership of the Leather Works business division. Through talks with Mike Long, it has been determined that the most appealing approach is to sell the business back to Long while maintaining a mutually beneficial partnership for both parties.

Stone Belt will now continue to produce belts and other small leather items, some of which will incorporate client-created art designs from Stone Belt's Art & Craft product division. Mike Long will maintain his line of quality personal leather goods. He stands ready to assist Stone Belt in the transition of the business, and has pledged to remain available to provide specialized labor on possible future products that Stone Belt may create.

The Leather Works venture brought Stone Belt many wonderful opportunities to increase capacity and open new doors for community interaction. Stone Belt looks forward to its new relationship with Mike Long and his staff.

### STONE BELT PARTNERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME FAMILY CONNECTION



Stone Belt partnered with the Down Syndrome Family Connection and Barnes & Noble Bookseller to hold an educational and fund-raising event at the bookstore's Bloomington location on March 29 as part of Down Syndrome Awareness Day and Disabilities Awareness Month. During the event Stone Belt client and community self-advocate, Betsy Higgins (seated in center), read "A Friend for Isabella" to a group of children and families. After the reading, attendees participated in a hands-on community art piece, replicating a Stone Belt mosaic.

## people make the difference

### FAMILY HONORED FOR PROGRAM CREATION

Stone Belt is pleased to announce that the Hossler Family — including dad **Don**, mom **Carol Anne** and son **Jonathan** — are one of twenty families recognized nationally by the Auntie Anne Pretzel Company Foundation's "A Twist on Giving Back" program. Nominated by Stone Belt, the Hosslers were selected as an innovative volunteer family for their creation of the Hand in Hand Project. Jonathan Hossler is a Stone Belt client.

The Hand in Hand Project is a collaborative activity that currently benefits hundreds of individuals, including Stone Belt clients, food bank recipients, and community residents.

The project involves daily collections of non-perishable food donations, contributed by community members and collected by Stone Belt client volunteers, that are then donated to area food banks. Hand in Hand currently supports dozens of neighborhood routes in Stone Belt's Central and West regions, providing hundreds of families with meaningful philanthropic opportunities.

Stone Belt clients are successfully contributing to the strengthening of society through meaningful on-going volunteer employment. The project, in turn, provides participating households and food bank staff with the valuable lesson about the ability of everyone to positively contribute.

The Hossler family is now featured on the Auntie Anne Pretzel Foundation's Web site, [www.atwistongivingback.org](http://www.atwistongivingback.org). In addition, they have received \$2,000 for the Hand in Hand Project. These dollars will go far in assisting Stone Belt with an expansion of the project to all regions of the agency. Stone Belt congratulates the Hossler family for this outstanding recognition, and thanks them for bringing this exciting opportunity to the agency.



### REMEMBERING MYRA HAWKINS

Stone Belt sadly marks the passing of long-time client and friend, **Myra Hawkins**. *Kim Hodges, Senior Director of Programs, had the opportunity to have a special relationship with Myra for many years, and she shares her thoughts and memories here:*

It was in the mid 1960s, as a young teenager, that Myra Hawkins began a 30-year plus relationship with Stone Belt. Myra started attending school at what is now Stone Belt's Central Region in Bloomington, and she took part in Stone Belt's Special Olympics basketball program beginning in 1980. Myra's coach at that time, now CEO Leslie Green, shared that, "Myra, because of her stature, had problems making the basket, but she was an expert at stealing the ball. She was able to get close to the ball because she was short enough, they didn't even see her coming!" Myra always spoke fondly about her years in Stone Belt's Bloomington school, and she was proud to have been one of 19 clients to assist in the opening of Stone Belt's West Region facility in 1989.

When I first met Myra, she was very excited that the agency was opening a new facility closer to her home in the Spencer area, as she would have a much shorter commute. It was important for her to get home earlier in the evening to have more time for "homework" — Myra greatly enjoyed doing math problems on a nightly basis. Once the new facility opened, she loved being at what was then known as Sweet Owen Industries, most especially because she was able to work on Cook Inc. (pictured at left in her Cook uniform) machinery, punching tubes for their medical business. Myra also worked in the community at both a pharmacy and inn. She loved bowling with her Special Olympics and Stone Belt friends, going out to eat, and being a part of her community.

After her father passed away and her mother became ill, Myra joined Stone Belt's Supported Living Program. At first Myra continued living at home with her family, but within a short time she had gained so much independence that she was ready to live on her own. Myra moved to a duplex with her long-time friend and housemate, Terry Corns. She resided in this home until her death in April of this year.

Myra will live on in the memories of so many people at Stone Belt and beyond, all with special stories to share of her energy, enthusiasm, and kind spirit.



### CLIENT PLACES FIRST IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONTEST

**Angie Deel**, swam her way to first place in the Special Olympics Areas 7 & 10 swim meet held April 26 in Evansville, IN.

This meet was one of the first contests in which Monroe County Special Olympics was represented. Swimming was only recently added to the group's sports line-up.

Angie was joined by her coach Maria Fajardo (pictured below) as she received her medal.

Swimming has been a part of Angie's life since she was a young girl. As a child, she participated in meets organized by the Special Olympics in Lafayette, IN. When Angie moved to Bloomington, she was disappointed to learn that the Monroe County chapter of Special Olympics did not offer swimming, so when the opportunity presented itself for Angie to join the Management Team for Monroe County Special Olympics in 2003, she jumped at the chance to participate and advocate for swimming to be part of their sports line-up.

In April, swimming officially became a sport offered by Monroe County Special Olympics largely because of Angie's influence.

Angie trains at the Monroe County YMCA in Bloomington and will next participate in the Special Olympics Summer Games June 6, 7, 8 in Terre Haute, IN.



# touchstone

### SUMMER 2008, ISSUE 23

Touchstone is published quarterly by: Stone Belt  
2815 East 10th Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47408  
812.332.2168  
[www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

Editor: Cheryl Paul • Public Relations: Stacey Ryner

Stone Belt is a member of:



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Phil Meyer  
Vice President: Beth Gazley  
Secretary: Vicki Baker  
Treasurer: Stuart Mufson  
Past President: Don Hossler

### BOARD MEMBERS

Ryan Bass, William Beyer, Natalie Brewington, Charles Burch, Margaret Gilbride, Doug Giles, Babette Hall, Dan Harris, Tim Hines, Stuart Mufson, Patrick Robbins, Amy Travis, Henry Upper, William Verhagen.

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

Leslie Green: Chief Executive Officer  
Ward Brown: Chief Financial Officer  
Kim Hodges: Senior Director of Programs  
Maureen Gahan: Director of Milestones Clinical & Health Resources  
Brad Gall: Senior Director of Human Resources & Corporate Compliance  
Amy Jackson: Director of Development

### DEPARTMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Bitta DeWees: Director of Community Employment  
Susan Hoard: Director of Management Information Systems  
Larry Pejeau: Director of Stone Belt Art & Craft Division  
Shawn Halter: Director of Stone Belt South  
Susan Russ: Director of Stone Belt East  
Tonya Vandivier: Director of Stone Belt Central

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](mailto:cpaul@stonebelt.org).

# Five staff members honored at Awards for Excellence

Five employees who have made outstanding contributions to Stone Belt in five categories were recognized at the third annual Awards for Excellence luncheon March 26 at Terry's Banquet & Catering. Winners are pictured at right.

"It's the work of our dedicated employees that gives Stone Belt the success it has today," said Brad Galin, Director of Human Resources. "It is a pleasure to recognize some of our truly outstanding employees with these awards."

Award recipients were chosen through an internal nomination process by Stone Belt employees and board members. A team consisting of Stone Belt CEO Leslie Green, Stone Belt Human Resources Director Brad Galin, Board President Phil Meyer and Board Vice President Beth Gazley then determined the winners.

Recipients received a \$1,000 cash award, a leather portfolio, and were assigned as a "reverse" mentor to a member of the senior management team for one year. Their purpose as a mentor will be to provide ongoing insight to the executives on the employees perspective, the quality of services and opportunities for organizational improvement. This program is funded through Stone Belt's development activities.

For more information on contributing to Stone Belt's staff recognition program, contact Development Director, Amy Jackson, at 812-332-2168, ext. 314 / [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto:ajackson@stonebelt.org).

## QUALITY OF SERVICE



**CHRIS PATTON**  
Day Aide, Simpson House, Bedford

Described as an unsung hero, Chris Patton excels in his support of the six male residents of Simpson House as they build and live their lives.

Chris is a constant and stable presence in the lives of the men he serves. He joined Stone Belt in April 2002 and moved to Simpson from another Stone Belt house, Elliott, in July 2004. His role as Day Aide includes many responsibilities such as making and attending medical appointments, checking that house medications are correct, and ensuring that new or substitute staff are comfortable with the tasks they need to complete.

It is not unusual for Chris to go above and beyond his job duties. During a time when the house was significantly down staff members, Chris worked with his manager and co-worker to ensure that everything still flowed properly for the guys and that no duties were left unfulfilled. Whether it was grocery shopping, training new staff, or simply providing solid, insightful advice, Chris accomplished things in a quality manner, always keeping the clients' needs met.

Chris' dependability is another positive trait. His presence over the past 4 years at Simpson House has resulted in him developing close relationships with the clients of the home. They have gotten to know him like they might a close family member.

One nomination described Chris as a model of how a staff member should engage with clients and their co-workers and complete their job. Chris' example can encourage others to learn from his valuable experience and his incredible work ethic.

## POSITIVE CLIENT OUTCOMES



**DEBBIE JONES**  
Direct Support Professional, 10th Street

The nomination form for Debbie Jones stood out among this year's other Awards for Excellence submissions. It was presented by not just one person, but by her entire team of co-workers, each of whom signed it.

Since starting at Stone Belt in August 2000, Debbie has been a steady presence for Day Program clients at Bloomington's Central Region facility. She can often be found in a classroom leading clients with varying abilities. Whether she is teaching music, history, or creative fitness, the clients supported by Debbie can always rely on her preparation, enthusiasm, and willingness to engage everyone.

One area in which Debbie is invaluable is her knowledge of issues involving the medical and nutritional needs of clients. She can be relied on to ensure healthy calorie counts and serving sizes, as well as additional medical needs, are taken into consideration when preparing lunchtime meals.

Another area in which Debbie excels is in the tracking of required documentation. She is meticulous at completing necessary forms and she personally adds small progress notes for each individual she supports. Over time she also tracks trends of her clients to improve their overall standard of care. This level of commitment and passion goes beyond what is required and results in positive outcomes for the clients she serves.

One of the more unique qualities about Debbie's teaching is her creative incorporation of music into many classes. This learning tool is extremely effective for making interpersonal connections with clients. She plays guitar and the accordion and can always be relied upon to ensure that the environment in her class is comfortable and inviting to all.

## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



**DONNA KAST**  
Janitorial Crew Leader, 10th Street

As the driving force behind Stone Belt's Janitorial Crew at Bloomington 10th Street offices, Donna Kast takes great pride in not only her own work, but in the work of those she supervises. Donna shows great respect to all she comes in contact with and her crew runs like clockwork even when needing to perform extra duties they are not familiar with. Any visitor to 10th Street can see and appreciate her work as they walk down hallways where the floors are shined, and sit down to meetings in clean conference rooms.

Donna is a 7-year veteran of Stone Belt who started her career in March 2001 as a Manufacturing Supervisor at the organization's South Region in Bedford. In 2004 she transferred to the Central Region in Bloomington as the Janitorial Crew Leader, the position she still holds today.

One of the most unique parts of Donna's job is the fact that her crew is composed entirely of clients who are also employees of Stone Belt. Donna works to not only ensure that the building is kept clean, but to also accommodate and work with her team to ensure many of their goals and objectives are met. She is a patient teacher and approaches situations from a strength-based perspective. Donna is never afraid to adjust duties among workers or try something new to ensure that the best possible outcomes can be achieved for both Stone Belt and its employees.

Donna's best trait is her positive and helpful attitude. She is the first to jump in and assist staff if they need extra support, and will involve clients in special events. Through all of her duties she maintains a smile.

## RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



**LINDA RUSHTON**  
Payroll Coordinator, 10th Street

There are only a handful of positions within Stone Belt that impact everyone in the agency. Linda Rushton, Stone Belt's Payroll Coordinator, holds one of these roles, and she respects the importance of her job. Her fastidious attention to detail and her dependability ensure all employees and clients are paid in a timely and correct manner.

Linda started with Stone Belt in the Supported Living Department in January 2005 and moved to her current position in payroll in December of that year. As Payroll Coordinator, she takes her duties very seriously and has two goals: timely and correct payroll.

This seriousness is evident in the way Linda goes about her job. She takes the time to confirm that every employee has submitted a timesheet. If not, she takes the effort to notify the employee and their supervisor so that a timesheet can be submitted. She frequently works with the MIS department and Ceridian, the agency's payroll processor, to fix issues that arise through the process. Her flexibility is appreciated and she avoids overtime by keeping her processing schedule as consistent as possible.

Linda also always checks for issues that require others to investigate and fix. She works closely with Human Resources on all aspects of benefits. This ensures that an employee's needs or insurance elections are accurate and that an employee's pay is correct or made to be correct, should an adjustment be needed.

These efforts and her efficiency in payroll processing ensure that both the clients and staff of Stone Belt are paid correctly and on-time. All who work for Stone Belt are especially appreciative of Linda's commitment.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**JOYCE RESLER**  
Coordinator for Community Employment

One of Stone Belt's many areas of excellence is its Community Employment Program, which is frequently recognized as a leader and trendsetter in its field throughout the State of Indiana. A significant reason for the program's success over the years has been the hard work and dedication of Joyce Resler, Coordinator for Community Employment. Joyce, a 16-year veteran of Stone Belt, consistently uplifts individuals to meet their full potential and become more involved citizens within their communities.

An example of Joyce's outreach can be traced back to one of her first placements. Phillip Smith started working at the Indiana Memorial Union Hotel's Housekeeping Department 15 years ago. Today, he is still employed there, and this year his employers were recognized at Stone Belt's Business Recognition Award ceremony in March for their support of Phillip over the years. Joyce not only placed Phillip in this position, but coached him as he learned his job responsibilities. Phillip was the first of many successful placements she would make during her career.

Joyce is always the first to advocate for the clients on her caseload. She supports these individuals in every aspect of their employment, from learning specific job tasks to forming important social bonds with co-workers.

In addition to great consumer-related outreach, Joyce is also an important role model for other staff members. Joyce exudes professionalism, as well as a positive and caring attitude, and she has high expectations for everyone she works with. These high expectations apply to everyone, regardless of ability. She encourages her employees to face the tough challenges they meet in the workforce with dignity and confidence.

## first person

### Jessica Reynolds enters adulthood

By Jessica Reynolds  
Stone Belt East Client

My name is Jessica Reynolds and I have been chosen as an outstanding example of a personal success story by my job coaches, Robert Jordan and Jessica Ison. They both say that I am a young lady we can all admire. I do have a lot to offer this community and I give most things my best effort.

I think one reason why my job coaches asked me to do this article is because I always try to learn more and better myself. I am 21 years old and I will be exiting high school this year. I currently attend a transitions class which teaches independent living skills when I am not working. I have done this class for two years now. My transitions teacher says that I always come to class prepared and ready to learn something new. Some things we do in the class are budgeting, looking for apartments, independent shopping, health and safety issues and job interviewing.

One of my main goals is to move in with my friend someday. My best friend's name is Valerie and she would like to be roommates with me. We are interested in a nice apartment that we can call our own. I look forward to

decorating my own place someday.

My supervisor, Mr. Hunt, says that I am a hard worker. I currently work at the TJ Maxx clothing store in Columbus, where I help unpack and display merchandise. As of last month, I have been employed at TJ Maxx for one whole year. I work about 15 hours a week and I will be gaining more hours soon. I will be working one more day per week with longer hours and also learn four new tasks. I am excited because I get bored sitting at home.

My job coaches tell me that I have grown in many ways from having this employment opportunity. For example, I was too shy to ask questions when I first started my job. In fact, I rarely talked to anyone besides my job coaches. Now, I have made many friends and I am not scared to ask anybody anything. I really like my supervisor and he jokes with me.

Sometimes people ask me questions on how to do things and I will tell them nicely if they are doing something the wrong way. Losing some of that shyness has opened many doors for friendships to develop, not only at work but outside of my job as well. Now I am less shy everywhere I go. Mr. Hunt says that some of the greatest characteristics that

shine for me at work include being punctual and having great attendance.

I also love my family and enjoy doing things to help, like cooking, to help take care of them. I have a sixteen year old sister named Amber and I make her Mac and Cheese sometimes. We like to hang out.

Robert Jordan, Job Coach: "Jessica has tasted real success in a lot of areas in her life, despite the obstacles she has overcome. She has learned to deal with living with a seizure disorder and that she needs extra time and practice to learn new things. Thankfully, her seizures are now under control and her newfound confidence in asking questions has allowed her to learn things easier and faster than before. Her personal strength and ambition has helped her jump through many of life's hurdles. She will let nothing keep her from reaching her goals. This is something we can all learn from."



## legislative watch

### Indiana State Legislature Ends Session

The 2008 State of Indiana Legislative Session adjourned Friday, March 14. As expected, property tax relief consumed most of the time and energy of Legislators this session. An agreement was not met until late the night before the deadline of the session. Leaders of the House and Senate, along with Governor Mitch Daniels, had a public signing of the bill on Wednesday, March 19. Below is a brief outline of other measures The Arc of Indiana followed during the session:

#### Developmentally Disabled Related Bills

• HB 1266: Priority for Receiving Services Under Medicaid Waivers  
Requires the Office of Medicaid Policy & Planning to apply to the Department of Health & Human Services to amend certain waivers to allow specified individuals to be given priority in receiving services. Situations include: (1) when someone in a group home no longer qualifies for the level of care in that setting; (2) when someone is at risk in a group home and needs immediate placement in a setting that provides confidence to the family; (3) someone who lives in a large Intermediate Care Facility for persons with Mental Retardation and wants to move to a community setting; (4) someone who ages out of services and needs placement in another setting to continue services; (5) someone has a caregiver who is no longer available to provide care; (6) a child who has been diagnosed with a genetic disorder that shortens their projected life span significantly. This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

#### • SB 143: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Specifies certain requirements for laboratories, the state department of health, local health departments, and retail establishments related to childhood lead poisoning prevention. Provides for certain actions by the state department of health for noncompliance with certain provisions. Establishes the childhood lead poisoning prevention fund for outreach and prevention activities. Establishes a lead-safe housing advisory council to make recommendations related to lead poisoning prevention. This bill is important since lead poisoning can cause developmental delays for children. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

#### • SB 258: Duties of Department of Corrections

Makes committing an offense against a person with a disability an aggravating circumstance for sentencing purposes if the defendant knew or should have known that the victim was a person with a disability. This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

#### Autism Related Bills

• HB 1171: Autism Training for EMS Personnel  
Requires certified emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to successfully complete a course of education and training on autism beginning January 1, 2009. This Bill has been signed by the Governor.  
• HB 1288: Behavior Analysts  
Makes it a misdemeanor if an individual professes to be a certified behavior analyst and the individual does not hold and maintain the certified behavior analyst credentials administered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

#### Tab Issues

• HB 1001: State and Local Finance  
This is the major property tax relief package. This bill has many provisions. The significant one pertaining to community developmental disability centers still allows for centers to receive funding outside of a property tax levy. However, it states that if money is not received in 2008, it cannot be received in the future. This is problematic as we want to have every opportunity for centers to receive money from their local governments in the future. We will be working closely with the budget leaders next session to get this language removed. This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

#### Other Issues

• SB 315: Aging and Long Term Care Services  
Provides that a person who has made certain asset transfers is not eligible for residential care assistance. Requires the adoption of rules to implement: (1) a screening and counseling program for individuals seeking long-term care services; (2) a process of prior approval for certain individuals seeking admission to a nursing facility; and (3) the annual review of Medicaid rates. This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

For a complete summary of this year's legislative actions log on to [www.in.gov/legislative/](http://www.in.gov/legislative/). For a complete summary of bills of importance to The Arc of Indiana log on to [www.arcind.org/legislative\\_information\\_page.htm](http://www.arcind.org/legislative_information_page.htm).

arts

# Art on display throughout summer

Throughout the summer Stone Belt Art & Craft will be showcasing a variety of client art pieces at several community venues.

The festivities kicked-off June 7 and 8 in the parking lot of Elements (2901 E. Covenant Drive) in Bloomington. The store hosted a truckload sale of adirondack furniture and selected artwork.

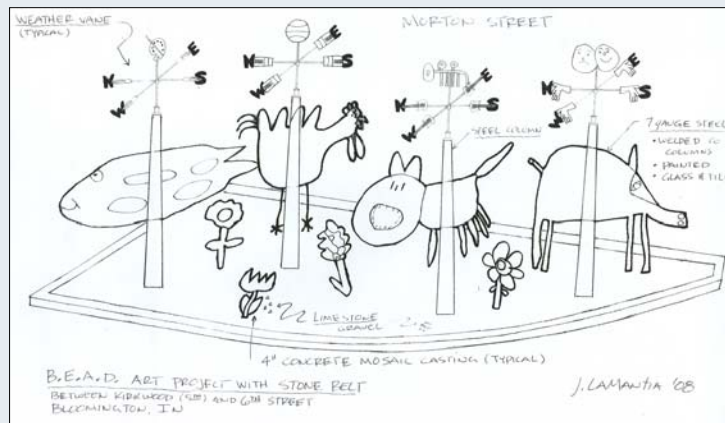
June continued with Art & Craft being represented for the first time in a number of outdoor weekend craft fairs. The Stone Belt booth appeared at the "Fair on the Square" outside the Monroe County Courthouse in Bloomington on June 21 and at "Arts in the Park" at McCormick's Creek State Park (250 McCormick's Creek Park Road) in Spencer June 27-29. July brings with it a sampling of the newest mosaics on display at the People's State Bank (304 East Morgan Street) in Spencer from July 8 through July 31.

Throughout the summer Art & Craft's line of outdoor, Adirondack-style furniture will be on display every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm at the Bloomington Community Farmer's Market in the Shower's Common next to City Hall (401 N. Morton Street).

All Stone Belt products can always be found for sale at the Art & Craft Gallery in the Central Region Offices (2815 East Tenth Street, Bloomington). Featured this summer is a line of greeting cards, some created from hand-made paper crafted by the clients of Stone Belt South. Cards can be purchased individually or in bundles, and custom card orders are always welcome. The gallery is open from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Stone Belt artists are not only promoting their art throughout the summer months, but working on several exciting new ongoing projects, as well.

One of these is a 36 x 36 mosaic that is one of the featured items in the Monroe County Courthouse



Stone Belt artists are collaborating with Bloomington artist Joe LaMantia on a public installation that will be located along the B-Line Trail on Morton Street between 5th and 6th streets in downtown Bloomington. A sketch of the project is seen above.

100th Birthday Exhibit sponsored by the County Commissioners and the Bloomington Area Arts Council (BAAC). This historical exhibit can be viewed at Monroe Bank's (210 East Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington) and will run through September 20. The piece recently received the Best in Show award in the Amateur Adult Category.

Stone Belt artisans have also been awarded the opportunity to be one of six groups to transform one of Bloomington's unassuming city traffic boxes into gateway public art for the city's Entertainment and Art District (BEAD). Stone Belt has been assigned the traffic box at Third and Morton Streets. The box will depict client images of shoppers moving throughout a landscape of recognizable Bloomington landmarks.

Finally, in an exciting collaboration, artists are once again working with Bloomington artist Joe LaMantia on a public installation that will be located along the B-Line Trail on Morton Street between 5th and 6th Streets in downtown Bloomington. This large scale project will consist of a number of client animal images cut from recycled 1/4" plate steel. Each animal image will be welded with artistic detail and attached to four columns, each topped with a weather vane. The columns will then be embedded into concrete footers and surrounded by a number of whimsical

stepping stones. The images and poles will be painted by clients and the stepping stones, based on client designs, will be completed by clients using ceramic tile.

This project began in February with a public proposal at Bloomington City Hall, facilitated by LaMantia. The City approved the project and Stone Belt was awarded a total budget of \$35,000 to complete the installation by October 15. Many Stone Belt clients and staff members are involved with its creation and installation. Work started in mid-April. Log on to [www.stonebeltartandcraft.org](http://www.stonebeltartandcraft.org) for pictures of the process and to find out the date of its unveiling.

Stone Belt Art & Craft is an agency-wide initiative designed to spark client creativity and maximize client involvement in all agency activities. Clients benefit financially through the sale of their art and craft items, gaining self-confidence and building self-esteem by showcasing their creativity and unique vision of the world. Revenue generated by sales are utilized to support Stone Belt programs of excellence and to help clients live more independently.

Contact Art & Craft Director Larry Pejau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / [lpejau@stonebelt.org](mailto:lpejau@stonebelt.org) if you are interested in learning more about Stone Belt Art & Craft or any of the projects listed here.

development

# Gifts facilitate agency growth, success

Our community is stronger when every individual experiences success. Visionary donors help empower people with disabilities to form meaningful relationships, live independently, experience professional employment, contribute to the building of community, and develop new life skills. Help Stone Belt make our community a better place for us all. Consider a gift to our Annual Fund today.

The Jewel Society: Stone Belt's Planned Giving Program

Stone Belt's Jewel Society is an honorary society that recognizes those who have named Stone Belt as a beneficiary in their estate plans. The Jewel Society provides visionary donors with the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in support of individuals with disabilities. Jewel Society members are listed in Stone Belt publications, according to the wishes of the donor.

You can join the Jewel Society through several planned giving options, including: bequests, certificates of deposit, charitable gift annuities, private retirement plans, gifts of insurance, charitable lead trusts, and charitable remainder

trusts. Stone Belt encourages donors to speak with a professional estate advisor when making decisions about planned gifts.

NAP Credits Are Back!

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.

Stone Belt has submitted an application for NAP credits for 2008. Tax credits will be available for donors beginning July 1 of this year. Reserve your 2008 tax credits prior to the official start of the new NAP season by contacting the Development Office.

For more information on the NAP tax credit program and the Jewel Society, or to apprise Stone Belt of your planned gift arrangements, please contact Amy Jackson, Development Director, at 812-332-2168 ext. 314 / [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto:ajackson@stonebelt.org).

reunion



Don (left) and Jim Penney flank their cousin George Kirles at Stone Belt's annual Run With Me 5K. The cousins were reunited for the first time in 43 years at the race.

# Family reunites at Run With Me

Stone Belt's annual Run With Me event is truly important, not only for the dollars that it brings to the agency, but also for the opportunity it provides to bring clients together with members of their families and the community to educate and advocate for inclusion and a recognition of the abilities of everyone to contribute.

This year, Run With Me took on special meaning for Stone Belt client George Kirles (59) and his cousins Don and Jim Penney, who were reunited for the first time in 43 years. The race served as a unique family reunion and bonding experience and allowed Don and Jim to gain insight into George's life.

George, Don and Jim are related through their mothers who were sisters (and best friends), in a family consisting of 13 children. As children in Richmond, Indiana, George, Don and Jim saw a lot of each other, but in 1965, Don and Jim's mother, Virginia, moved the family to California. This was the last time the cousins saw each other until this past April.

The cousins' path did not intersect again until George's mother passed away in 1990 and Virginia assumed an unofficial role of guardianship for George. Don and Jim learned more about their cousin during this period, but still did not personally reconnect with him. Their true relationship began once again when Virginia passed away in June of 2007 and Don assumed an unofficial role of guardianship for George's oversight. Since this time, Don and Jim have called George often to learn more about his life and how they could become a part of it.

Don and Jim still live in California, so the logistics of a visit remain challenging to plan. The cousins learned of Run With Me and made immediate travels plans to attend this special event. They thought it would be the perfect opportunity to reunite, see George's home and meet the special people in his life.

In the weeks leading up to the race, George spread the word that his cousins were coming. Everyone was excited to witness the reunion of a family. Race day arrived and Don and Jim participated in the 1-Mile Walk with George. Following the race George took them on a tour of Bloomington stopping at Lennie's Restaurant for lunch, the YMCA, the Greek Orthodox Church and Oliver Winery. George also shared other aspects of his life with them, such as his job at the Indiana Institute for Disability and Community (IIDC) Early Childhood Development Center and his involvement in the Self-Advocates of Monroe County. He also told them a lot about Stone Belt, where he has been a client since 1993.

"I was most impressed with the friendly community of Bloomington and the warm caring nature for George from all the staff at Stone Belt," said Don. "I loved the way George has personally integrated himself with Stone Belt and the larger community."

Don and Jim already have several future visits planned to see George, including a trip to the Arc of Indiana Conference this coming fall and the 2009 Indianapolis 500. "It made me happy to see them. I want to get to know them better and build a relationship," said George.

relationships

# Fraternity partners with Stone Belt

Relationships help create quality of life. This is one of the principles of service that Stone Belt subscribes to in the creation of a standard of excellence, and in the nurturing of meaningful experiences for clients. When individuals and organizations open their doors and hearts, people with disabilities are empowered to fully experience the community. The members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Indiana University provide one such example.

Pi Kappa Phi participates nationally in a fund-raising program called Push America, raising money to support individuals with disabilities. Each year they sponsor three legs of a trans-national fund-raising bike ride — all undertaken by teams of riders representing individuals from chapters of Pi Kappa Phi from around the county. For the last three summers, Stone Belt has been privileged to be a stop on the bike tour; one of the teams has come to Bloomington and spent the afternoon with clients during Stone Belt's Central Region "Fun Day" party. The riders participate in lunch and activities, and get to know clients. During each of the previous two years, Push America has also awarded Stone Belt grants of \$750 to support physical education and therapeutic programs.

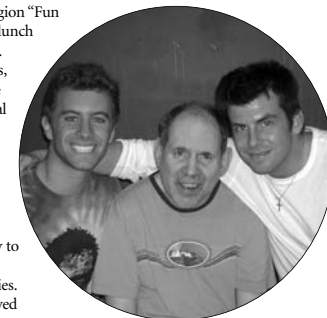
In the fall of 2007, Stone Belt was contacted by the local leadership of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at IU. In addition to their efforts to raise money nationally for Push America, the gentlemen were looking for a way to connect to a local agency providing supports to individuals with disabilities. Their first service to Stone Belt involved volunteering at the Fall-o-Ween celebration, an annual agency-wide festivity for clients, staff and their families.

After this successful first encounter with Stone Belt, the leadership of Pi Kappa Phi indicated their intention to create ongoing meaningful ways for Stone Belt clients and members of the fraternity to socialize and get to know one another. In March of this year Pi Kappa Phi hosted its first party for Stone Belt clients. Close to thirty clients plus staff attended the evening, which included dinner, games and dancing. The evening was such a success that the fraternity has indicated that they intend to host these events regularly with the start of the upcoming academic year.

In April of this year, the members of Pi Kappa Phi at IU provided hundreds of hours of combined volunteer service through the staffing of Stone Belt's 3rd annual Run with Me 5K. In the weeks leading up to the event, fraternity members promoted the event throughout the university campus, hanging posters, distributing registration brochures, speaking to student organizations and chalking sidewalk signs. On the day of the Run, more than sixty fraternity members handled volunteer positions including set-up, clean-up, registration, race coordination and catering. The event was a huge success, thanks in large part to their energy, enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication.

Stone Belt is honored to have friends and partners in the IU chapter of Pi Kappa Phi. Through the friendships they are establishing with clients, these students are truly creating quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

For more information on Pi Kappa Phi/Push America log on to [www.pushamerica.org](http://www.pushamerica.org). This year's Journey of Hope riders will stop at Stone Belt's 10th Street in Bloomington on Tuesday, July 29.



community

# Stone Belt fields co-ed softball team

Lauren Harding's love of softball started as a young girl playing tee-ball. Through the years she honed her skills on many different competitive teams and today, as an Instructional Associate at Stone Belt, she shares her passion for the sport with fellow staff members and clients.

This spring Stone Belt is represented in the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department's co-ed softball league. Lauren, and Shawn Halter, Director of Stone Belt South, jointly captain the team which consists of 10 members, made up of both Stone Belt staff and clients.

Lauren, along with co-worker and team member Christy Roux, came up with the idea for Stone Belt to field a team while they were teaching a gym class.

"The clients were playing wiffle ball and we were talking about sports and thought it would be fun to start a team," said Christy. "We mentioned our idea to a few other co-workers and the response was so overwhelmingly that we thought this was something that could really happen."

First Lauren went to CEO Leslie Green to see if Stone Belt might be interested in sponsoring a team. "I immediately thought the team would support Stone Belt's principle of service, 'social life and relationships help create quality of life.' It would also be a great way for our staff and clients to be involved in the community," said Green.

It was agreed that Stone Belt would sponsor half the



Team Members from Top L/R: Mark Roux, Shawn Halter, Tim Arnold, Christy Roux, Lauren Harding, James McFarland. Bottom L/R: Amber Fields, Destiny McFarland, Samantha Gregory, Stephen Rock and Michael Fields.

team and the other half would be sponsored by Lauren's family-owned company, Awards and Screen Printers. They split the \$675 entry fee.

Once the go-ahead was given, a sign-up sheet made its way across the agency and a call for players was sent out via e-mail. The response was overwhelming.

"At first we had 30 people signed up and I thought we might have to make two teams, but in the end we had a group of 10 that showed up consistently for practices and I knew that was our team," said Lauren.

Games are held once a week on Sunday at Twin Lakes Park in Bloomington. The team practices once a week, usually for an hour on Sundays sometime before their scheduled game.

Stone Belt's team is competitive; most members have prior playing experience. In fact, other teams in the league are surprised by their level of skill. "I thought it was funny that Stone Belt had a team when I saw them listed on the schedule. Then we played them and lost, and I realized I shouldn't have judged a book by its cover," said Andre Rush, member of the Coolers team.

Stone Belt stands out among other teams in the league with their massive cheering section, usually consisting of Hite and Deckard Group Homes and several Supported Living sites. Deckard House resident, Ryan Jones, even serves as the team's bat boy.

The spring season started on April 13 and continues until June 22. Lauren hopes to register the team for the summer and fall seasons.

"This has been a great activity. It's a relaxed environment for us all to get to know each other out of the confines of work," said Lauren. "We aren't staff or co-workers or clients to each other, just friends. It has really brought us together."

Cheer the team on at their next game! Find their schedule online at [www.bloomington.in.gov/parks/](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/parks/). Stone Belt will also be participating in the Lawrence County Parks & Recreation Co-Ed Softball League starting in July. To find out more contact Shawn Halter at 812-279-3229 / [shalter@stonebelt.org](mailto:shalter@stonebelt.org).

# Stone Belt

2815 East Tenth Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47408

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bloomington, IN  
47408  
Permit No. 310



### Run With Me

Stone Belt's third annual Run With Me 5K on April 28 was a huge success, thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors and to the hard work of many members of the Stone Belt community. Over 500 people were in attendance. This year Stone Belt partnered with IU Fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. There were more than 60 group members on site to provide volunteer support. Run With Me netted over \$12,000 in support of programs of excellence at Stone Belt.

