Stone Belt
2815 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47408
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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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.
Travis House

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.

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 this program the residents were moving toward turning a life-long dream of independent living into reality. Some successfully transitioned into independent living, while others were moving toward turning a life-long dream of independent living into reality.

In early 2003 the residents began considering moving into off-site rentals to Stone Belt every day and is proud of her new job at Arby's. She loves spending time with her friends. She loves going on road trips with her old roommates and enjoys decorating so much she has even bought several items for her parents' home. She has worked at IU for over 10 years, and enjoys swimming, riding classes with his girlfriend, participating in PALS horseback riding classes, and helping 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.

In 1999, Kirkwood House residents moved from their Bloomington homes to a new duplex on Burks Drive that had been converted into a single residence and named Travis House after recently retired residential director Joan Travis. April 2003 Kirkwood residents move to new duplex on Feb. 10-1999. Residents move from Travis House, he has become more involved in the PALS program. She also works as a custodian at Stone Belt on Bloomington's south side and has been with the same roommate since leaving Travis. He lives in an apartment on Bloomington's west side and has been with the same roommate she has lived with since their 5-year anniversary of their final transitions from Travis House to supported independent living. They met for their annual reunion when they reminisced about their old residence and celebrated their personal achievement in the years since they moved.

The Night Social Program. Laura is a hard worker and enjoys decorating so much she has even bought several items for her parents' home. She has worked at IU for over 10 years, and enjoys swimming, riding classes with his girlfriend, participating in PALS horseback riding classes, and helping 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.

Today all of Travis House's former residents live successfully in their own futures, and they embraced this responsibility. Meet these inspirational people in the stories at right and left.

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Colors of Stone Belt flourish with Spring

The whole light streams down to be broken up by these flowers, and the bees are all busy about them. They look at the picture and the pane too.

—Charlotte E. Brown

As the earth calls to her life and unfolds a ephemeral splendor, the entire garden is transformed. Art will emerge. Flowers bloom with their most expressive and vibrant nature. Freshness and nourishment are bestowed upon us with the bloom and the beauty of its color.

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

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.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Editor: Cheryl Paul

The Long Whore Sale

In June 2001, Stone Belt purchased the Michigan City L. Long Company and started the Stone Belt Long Whore Division. The purpose of the business venture was to provide an independent revenue stream to help offset Stone Belt’s dependence on third-party funding. The new division was formed with the assistance of the Indiana Economic Development Commission and the Granite City Development Corporation. Stone Belt will be the leading producer of high performance long whorls. The business will have a volume to revenue ratio of 1:1 and provide one of the most sophisticated and advanced manufacturing processes for the production of long whorls. The business will be a $25 million dollar/year operation.

During the early years the Stone Belt owned and operated Long Whore, the business was successful and the company continued to expand. The Long Whore Division was sold to a public company in 2005.

The Long Whore Division was bought by Stone Belt in 2001, and was sold to a public company in 2005. The company then decided to sell the business and began to look for a buyer. Stone Belt was interested in the business and began to negotiate with the company. In 2005, Stone Belt purchased the business and began to operate the business.

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Five staff members honored at Awards for Excellence

First person

Jessica Reynolds enters adulthood

By Jessica Reynolds

My name is Jessica Reynolds and I have been chosen as one of the award recipients for my outstanding accomplishments as a job coach. I believe that as a job coach, I have had the opportunity to offer this community and I give special thanks to my boss and all my friends and family who have been supportive of me on this journey. I wanted to do what I could to be a better self. I am 21 years old and will be attending high school this fall. I have always had a passion for helping those in need, and I have become very interested in the field of mental health services. I have always admired people who are dedicated to their work and have a strong commitment to helping others. I believe that being a job coach has provided me with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others and I am grateful for the chance to do so.

Chris Patton

Direct Support Professional, 10th Street

This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

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Requires certified emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to successfully complete a course of education and training on autism beginning January 1, 2009.

HB 1171: Autism Training for EMS Personnel

This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

Provides that a person who has made certain asset transfers is not eligible for residential care assistance. Requires the Department of Health to approve the transfer of an individual to a nursing facility; and (3) the annual review of Medicaid rates.

SB 315: Aging and Long Term Care Services

This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

Other Issues

Indiana State Legislature Ends Session

This is the major property tax relief package. This bill has many provisions. The significant one pertaining to Stone Belt addresses department issues such as lead and bilingual services, and provides for an extension of the service delivery.

Karen L. Thomas, House Bill Assistant Director of Stone Belt

This program is funded through the Stone Belt Foundation and is dedicated to funding the support of families and individuals who want to lead a life of independence.

Program Information

Case Management: A case manager can help you with a variety of services such as housing, employment, and medical needs. This helps to ensure that you have access to the services you need to lead a fulfilling life.

Community Employment: This program helps individuals with disabilities find and maintain employment. This provides an opportunity to gain skills and experience in the workforce.

Financial Assistance: Financial assistance is available for various expenses such as housing, transportation, and medical needs. This helps to ensure that you have access to the resources needed to live independently.

Linda Rushton

Payroll Coordinator, 10th Street

This Bill has been signed by the Governor.

For a complete summary of this year’s legislative actions log on to www.arcind.org/legislative_information_page.htm.

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 autism and how to live your life to the fullest. This is something we can all learn from. ”

Joyce Resler

Coordinator for Community Employment

One of the more unique qualities about Debbie’s teaching is her incorporation of music into many classes. This learning tool is extremely effective for making interpersonal connections with the 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.

Linda Rushton

Payroll Coordinator

Working in the payroll area has been a very fulfilling experience for me at Stone Belt. I am always given the opportunity to contribute to the success of the organization.

Debbie Jones

Direct Support Professional, 10th Street

“Autism is a complex condition that requires specialized intervention to improve outcomes. Stone Belt’s Autism Training for EMS Personnel program is a significant step in addressing this need and ensures that EMS personnel are prepared to effectively respond to incidents involving individuals on the autism spectrum. The program’s comprehensive curriculum and hands-on training provide EMS personnel with the essential skills needed to safely and effectively manage situations involving autism.

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One of the most unique parts of Debbie’s job is the fact that she works directly with the clients on a daily basis. She provides support and encouragement to help them achieve their goals and maintain their independence. Debbie is always ready to listen and provide the necessary guidance.

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### Community

#### Stone Belt fields co-ed softball team

Laura Henderson, head of softball at Bloomington Central High School, said she was surprised to see how many people signed up for the team. “I expected about 100, but we ended up with 300,” Henderson said.

This spring Stone Belt sponsored a team in the Bloomington Central High School Softball League, which is open to all genders. Lauren and Shari Blank, Directors of Creative Services and Developments at Stone Belt, respectively, joined the team’s efforts to help make it possible. Shari Blank said, “We met at the Stone Belt softball game and decided to support this team because it was important to us to be a part of our local community.”

Thanks to Stone Belt’s support, the girls were able to stay on the field throughout the season. “I’m so grateful for the people at Stone Belt who came out to our games and cheered us on,” said Blank.

The team played against other local high schools and did well in the league, finishing in second place. Blank said, “It was great to see everyone working together and supporting each other. We had a lot of fun!”

### Reunion

#### Family reunites at Run With Me

Stone Belt’s annual Run With Me event is truly important, not only for the dollars it brings to the agency, but also because it provides an opportunity for people to connect with others who share a common interest in the mission of the organization.

This year’s event, which took place on Saturday, June 14, attracted a record number of participants. “We had over 500 people registered this year,” said Lauren Blank, Director of Communications and Advocacy at Stone Belt. “It was amazing to see so many people come out to support Stone Belt.”

The event featured a 5K run, a half-marathon, and a 10K race. Participants were joined by staff members and clients of the agency, as well as supporters from the local community. “We had so much support from everyone,” said Blank. “It was a really special day.”

The money raised through the Run With Me event helps Stone Belt to continue its mission of providing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to live more independently and participate fully in their communities. “This event is crucial to our work,” said Blank. “We rely on the proceeds from the Run With Me to fund important programs and services.”

### Development

#### Gifts facilitate agency growth, success

Gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations help to support Stone Belt’s mission of providing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. “These contributions are essential to our work,” said Lauren Blank. “They allow us to continue to provide the best possible care and support.”

### Relationships

#### Fraternity partners with Stone Belt

Fraternity partner Pi Kappa Phi at IU has been a long-time supporter of Stone Belt. “We are grateful for their ongoing support,” said Blank. “It’s important to us to have partners who share our values and mission.”

This year, Pi Kappa Phi hosted an event at Stone Belt’s Bloomington facility, which included a social gathering and a speech by a Stone Belt staff member. “It was a great opportunity for our members to learn more about the work that we do,” said Blank. “We are looking forward to continuing this partnership.”

### Art on display throughout summer

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Throughout the summer, Stone Belt Art & Craft will be displaying a variety of artwork and craftwork at community events. “We are excited to bring our artwork to these communities,” said Blank. “It’s a great way to connect with people and share our mission.”

#### Community Art on display throughout summer

The community art exhibit will feature works by local artists and students. “We are proud of the talent and creativity of our community,” said Blank. “This exhibit is a celebration of that.”

### Tax credits

#### Tax credits

Stone Belt is excited to announce a new opportunity for donors who wish to support our work. Through the NAP tax credit program, donors can receive a tax credit for 50% of their contribution. “This is a great opportunity for those who want to give back to support Stone Belt,” said Blank. “We are grateful for the support of our donors.”

For more information on how to reserve your tax credit, please visit www.stonebeltartandcraft.org.
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