

# winter 2008 touchstone

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



*Songs, letters and biographical stories were brought to life during "I Am You" at The Bloomington Playwrights Project on November 24. The evening included performances by L/R: Frank Porter, Babette Hall, Shirley Freeman, Tom Brantley, Joy McCune, Ron Dunigan, Steve Rock, Billy Setser and Sandy Gaskins. IU Senior Michelle Davenport (far right) created and directed the event. Read more on [Page 1](#).*

## Congratulations . . .

Find out who was honored at the Annual Celebrations. [page 5-6](#)

## Inspirational Art

A trip to San Francisco sparks ideas for new projects. [page 6](#)

## Election Poll Results

Learn about the voting behaviors of those with disabilities. [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.

# monologue performance i am you



**ron  
dunnigan**

A HAPPY GUY IN A HAPPY PLACE. I LIKE STONE BELT. I WORK HARD IN THE WORK SHOP. TAKE OUT THE TRASH WHEN IT GETS FULL. SEEING MY FRIENDS EVERYDAY. TALKING, LAUGHING, AND HAVING A GREAT TIME. THE WORKSHOP MAKES ME FEEL GOOD BECAUSE I ALWAYS GET A PAYCHECK.

November 24 was a night of firsts. The first time Stone Belt held a theatrical event. The first time the Bloomington Playwrights Project sold out a one-night performance. The first time many of the night's participants performed in front of an audience. The first time the Stone Belt cooking class catered an event. The first time the Stone Belt videography class filmed a live event. The first time a student volunteer created and directed a Stone Belt performance. The first time the community heard personal monologues from the clients of Stone Belt.

Songs, letters, and biographical stories were brought to life during "I Am You" at The Bloomington Playwrights Project. Performers included: Steven Rock, Joy McCune, Ron Dunnigan, Frank Porter, Shirley Freeman, Babette Hall, Tom Brantley, Sandy Gaskins and Billy Setser.

"The performances were filled with great emotion, much sincerity and often times wonderful humor," said Amy Jackson, Stone Belt Development Director. "All the performers were outstanding and the audience appeared moved by the experience."

"I Am You" was performed to a sold out house. Over 100 people attended, representing the general community and Stone Belt community. Many more people requested tickets, making it clear that the event could have hosted double the number of attendees if the space could have accommodated such a crowd.

In addition to the Monologue Performance, a handful of other Stone Belt clients were involved with the production offstage. Mark Summitt played the piano while attendees were being seated by usher Joe Tamewitz. The Stone Belt Cooking Class, including instructor Rose Bolander and chefs Brenda Ikerd, Karla Ficker, Cheryl Thompson, Jessie Van Buskirk and Wes Daniels, catered the post-show reception, and the Stone Belt Videography class, including instructor Pat McManus and camera operators Mary Jane Smith and Doug Davis, filmed the evening's activities.

"I Am You" was conceived, prepared and directed by IU Student Michelle Davenport, a Senior majoring in Therapeutic Recreation and Theater. She spent the last year working with clients writing their monologues and practicing their performances.

"Michelle shared a true gift with Stone Belt in bringing this amazing idea to our agency, with the belief that anything is possible," said Leslie Green, Stone Belt CEO. "It was a wonderful evening of firsts for our community."

▶ A video of the "I Am You" performance will be posted on the Stone Belt Web site, [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org) in the coming months. Look for more information in upcoming editions of Touchstone.



**tom  
brantley**

I LOVE YOU, YOU LOVE ME. I HOPE YOU ENJOY FISHING OR MOVING ON A PONTOON BOAT. IF YOU DO WE CAN GO OUT ON THE LAKE AND FLOAT. I LOVE YOU, YOU LOVE ME. I SEE THE SUN IS AS BRIGHT AND WARM AS IT CAN BE. IF YOU WANT YOU CAN COME OUT SWIMMING WITH ME. I LOVE YOU, YOU LOVE ME.

OFTEN PEOPLE TREAT ME AS THOUGH I HAVE A MENTAL DISABILITY BECAUSE I AM NON-VERBAL AND THEY AUTOMATICALLY BELIEVE I HAVE A LOW IQ. THIS DOES NOT LIMIT ME AND I BELIEVE THIS IS A DISABILITY OF OUR SOCIETY. I HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE TO ACCOMPLISH WHATEVER TASK I SET MY MIND TO.



**shirley  
freeman**

INDEPENDENCE MEANS BEING FRANK PORTER. FRANK PORTER MEANS BUSINESS ... INDEPENDENCE MEANS GETTING A JOB ... IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE I FEEL VALUED. I WANT TO WORK BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE WORKS AND I WANT TO DO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE DO BECAUSE I CAN.



**frank  
porter**

YOU WILL STOP LIMITING YOURSELF BECAUSE OF YOUR DISABILITIES AND START TO SEE YOUR TRUE ABILITIES. YOU WILL LEARN TO NOT FEEL SORRY FOR PEOPLE ... YOU WILL FEEL POWERFUL AND WILL ENCOURAGE OTHERS. TO MY BEAUTIFUL SANDY, ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF.



**sandy  
gaskins**

**steven  
rock**  
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT A SPECIAL PERSON IN MY LIFE. HER NAME IS ROBBIE DENNING, SHE IS A GOOD PERSON TO HANG OUT WITH. SHE'S A GOOD GIRL WITH A BEAUTIFUL HEART. I KNEW FROM THE FIRST TIME THAT I MET HER SHE WAS SPECIAL ... LOVE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO BE LOVED ON.



NO MATTER HOW BAD YOUR PATH HAS BEEN, TRUST IN GOD TO WIN. WHEN I COULDN'T TALK TO ANYONE, I TOOK IT TO GOD WHO UNDERSTOOD ... GO OUT AND TRUST AND GET CLOSER TO GOD BY GETTING IN A FLOWER FIELD, TREES OR SUNSHINE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I FEEL CLOSER TO GOD OUTSIDE.



**joy  
mccune**

**billy  
setser**  
I STARTED DRAWING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AS A WAY TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS. IT WAS A WAY TO GET AWAY FROM OTHERS AND BREAK INTO FANTASY. A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE CHALLENGING TO ME BECAUSE OF MY DISABILITY, SO FANTASY WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE DRAMA.



from the CEO

# Respect is the most important "R" word

*"Every human being, of whatever origin, of whatever station, deserves respect. We must each respect others even as we respect ourselves."*

I encourage you to go online to the YouTube Web site ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) and search the phrase "Respect Arc." You will be taken to a brief video that is being promoted by The Arc of the United States as part of their Respect Campaign. This campaign was undertaken as a response to the theatrical release of an inflammatory movie called "Tropic Thunder," which depicts an actor pretending to be a man with intellectual disabilities behaving in a very derogatory manner. In contrast, The Arc's public service video depicts the various roles and relationships people with disabilities have in the lives of their friends and families, proclaiming that Respect is the most appropriate "R" word to apply to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

We are pleased that the individuals we support have so many valued roles within their communities and it is our privilege to support them. However, it is

the ongoing support from our constituents — families, volunteers, board members, staff, community partners and contributors — that helps us to attain a degree of excellence in our programs that otherwise would not be possible. These programs of excellence help our clients attain full community inclusion as neighbors, coworkers, and friends and to be respected by all those around them.

This edition of *Touchstone* provides many examples of how the individuals that we support are respected and embraced by their communities. First among these examples is a review of "I Am You" (Page 1) — the monologue performance that featured the spoken stories of nine individuals with disabilities. No one in attendance went away untouched by these stirring and poignant performances.

There are also numerous examples of the mutual respect provided through our friendships, such as with the men of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity (Page 2). The feature on success in the workplace (Page 7) provides a wonderful illustration of the power of being a valued, respected employee and co-worker.

We are also celebrating the respectable accomplishments of many of our constituents through the awards bestowed at our Stone Belt Annual Celebration (Pages 4-5), by the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce's recognition of Stone Belt with the Nancy Howard Diversity Award, and by the outstanding awards received by Stone Belt clients, staff and community employers at the annual City of Bloomington Council on Community Accessibility Awards (Page 2).

Please enjoy this edition of *Touchstone*. As Stone Belt moves ever closer to our 50th Anniversary in 2009, I hope that you wait in anticipation, as do I, of many wonderful ways of celebrating 50 years of preparing, empowering and supporting individuals with disabilities to be full participants in community life.



**Leslie Green**, Chief Executive Officer

## upcoming events

**DECEMBER 24 & 25**

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY**

Day Programs & Administrative Offices Closed

**JANUARY 1**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY**

Day Programs & Administrative Offices Closed

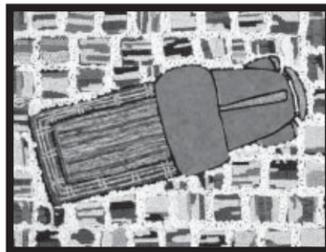
**JANUARY 13 / 5 - 6:30 PM**

**LENNIE'S ART OPENING RECEPTION**

1805 East Tenth Street, Bloomington

• Join us for an opening reception and benefit for Stone Belt's Art & Craft mixed-media mosaics. Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar while viewing our newest Art & Craft pieces.

For more information contact Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / [lpejeau@stonebelt.org](mailto:lpejeau@stonebelt.org).



**MARCH 4 / 2 - 3:30 PM**

**BUSINESS RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

Bloomington Convention Center, 302 S. College Ave.

• Help us recognize area businesses that have made outstanding contributions in the employment of persons with disabilities. For more information contact Bitta DeWees at 812-335-3507 ext. 273 / [bdeweess@stonebelt.org](mailto:bdeweess@stonebelt.org).

For the most up-to-date event listings and details visit our calendar online at [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org).

## quarterly donors

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

**CORNERSTONE SOCIETY LEVEL GIFTS (\$10,000 – \$24,999):** Robert Burton; Davee Foundation.

**BUILDERS SOCIETY LEVEL GIFTS (\$1,000 – \$2,499):** Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County; Pi Kappa Phi.

**ADVOCATE LEVEL GIFTS (\$500 – \$999):** David & Melissa Goodrum; Tim & Elaine Hines; Push America; T.I.S – Tichenor Endowment for Stone Belt Fund @ The Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County.

**STEWARDSHIP LEVEL GIFTS (\$100 – \$499):** Shane & Kacie Axsom; Fay Blackburn; Charles & Rhonda Burch; Arthur & Kay Dahlgren; Tim & Cheri DeBruicker; David DeVore; Eastside Bloomington, Inc; Doug Evans; Joseph & Mary Gajewski; Margaret Gilbride; Kappa Kappa Sigma Sorority, Iota Chapter; Jean Langbak; Bryant & AmyMarie Travis Lucas; James & Janice Lundy; P.E.A.C.E Meyer; Stuart & Cookie Mufson; Dennis Organ; Bonnie Smith; George & Barbara Sorrells; Stone Belt Shrine Club; Sun Trust Bank; The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce; Albert & Bonnie Tinsley; Cliff & Joan Travis; Unem Provident Corporation.

**FRIEND LEVEL GIFTS (\$1 – \$99):** Miriam Alpert; Mr. & Mrs. K. Edwin Applegate; Vicki Baker; Jim & Marge Belisle; Scott & Wendy Bowmar; William & Donna Boyles; Michael & Natalie Brewington; June Bush; Anita Calkins; Dixie Chaney; Diana Costello; P. Theodore & Jennifer Danielson; Scot & Bitta DeWees; Angie Ehlers; Donna Egan; Patsy Fell-Barker; Samantha Figley; Eric & Emma Ford; James & Leota Fulk; Beth Gazley & Carl Weinberg; Susie Gregory; John & Elizabeth Hall; Dan & Evelyn Harrell; David Higgins & Mary Green; Betsy Higgins; Kim Hodges; Debra Hoesman; Marian Hoffa; Betty Lou Horton; Don & Carol Anne Hossler; Elaine Hreachmack; Carol Hudson; Faye Jackson; Lia Kettenis; Iris Kiesling; Maureen Kipp; Randall & Rae Kirk; Neva Laraway; Keith Lundy; Patricia Lundy; Lila Massa; Mary McGrayel; Jerry & Jane McIntosh; Nancy Metcalf; John Miller; Ruth Miller; Lawrence & Brenda Mitchell; Michael Molenda & Janet Stavropoulos; Noe More; Mary Norman; LD & Dorothy Payton; Richard & Carol Pittman; Patrick & Sharon Robbins; Greg Roberts; Patty Rocco; Susan Sandberg; David Shafer; Nancy Smith; Peg Stice; Don, Jane & Mark Summitt; Don & Nila Sunday; Rory & Joanne Suomi; Kathy Thompson; Valerie Trinkle; Henry & Celicia Upper; Joseph & Tonya Vandivier; Melinda Weakley; Mr. & Mrs. Tad Wilson; Steve & Ann Worland.

**IN KIND GIFTS:** Geo-Flo Products Corporation; Yarns Unlimited.

# touchstone

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**Stone Belt**

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Touchstone is distributed free of charge to families, friends, business and community partners of Stone Belt. If you would like to receive our newsletter or require it in an accessible format contact Publications Coordinator Cheryl Paul at 812-332-2168, ext. 261 / [cpaul@stonebelt.org](mailto:cpaul@stonebelt.org).



### Pi Kappa Phi Connection

The gentlemen of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Indiana University continue to strengthen their relationship with the Stone Belt community.

In October, over forty of their members joined Stone Belt for the annual Fall-o-Ween celebration, providing music and dancing entertainment, and assisting with clean up of the large event. Also in October they hosted their second “dinner dance” at their fraternity house. They plan to make this a bi-monthly party for our clients. And they have already committed themselves to once again provide all of the volunteer power needed – approximately 75 people – to make the next Annual Run With Me 5K a success.

In addition to all of the outstanding volunteer power and friendship they are sharing with Stone Belt, the men of Pi Kappa Phi are also committed to raising funds to strengthen Stone Belt’s programs. They recently made a \$1,200 contribution to the general fund to support programs of excellence. Stone Belt is extremely grateful for their friendship and kindness.

### Milestones Newsletter Debuts

Milestones Clinical & Health Resources debuted a new quarterly newsletter titled “In Good Health” in October. This inaugural fall edition features a letter from Milestones Director Maureen Gahan, news briefs, a group therapy calendar and listing of staff members. This issue can be found online at [www.milestonesclinic.org](http://www.milestonesclinic.org). The Winter newsletter is currently slated for a February publication date.

✉ If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive this new publication contact Stone Belt Publications Coordinator Cheryl Paul at [cpaul@stonebelt.org](mailto:cpaul@stonebelt.org).

### IU Construction to Affect Central Region

This November construction began on IU’s new Life Sciences/Technology Incubator building which will be built on the ground in the parking lot adjacent to Stone Belt’s 10th Street facility in Bloomington. This new building is an exciting addition to the area, but will cause some disruption for Stone Belt’s Central Region in the months ahead.

A section of the parking area currently used by Stone Belt will be part of the site being built. This loss of space will be offset by the paving of a new parking lot in the current green space between Stone Belt and University Gym. At this time, we anticipate adequate parking to be available throughout the duration of this construction project. We are slated to receive as much notice as possible about road closings and will communicate widely as information becomes available.

There will be several times throughout construction that the main drive into Stone Belt will be closed. This will require the use of Stone Belt’s back drive for all traffic in and out of the area. We anticipate having all vehicles park in the front (or in the new lot) during this time to give as much room as possible in the back and side of the building.

Stone Belt’s circular drive in front will also be affected by this new building. The resulting drive will be shorter and will have a tighter turning radius for vehicles entering the drive. This should not affect any Stone Belt vehicles or Bloomington Transit vans, but can provide some challenges for the larger city buses that occasionally come up the drive. Once the drive is complete, they will be restricted to the parking lot.

As the project gets underway, updates will be provided. Visit [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org) for the most up-to-date construction information. Pictures and diagrams are also available for those interested in seeing the progress that IU anticipates for the surrounding area. For copies of these or more information email [bgalin@stonebelt.org](mailto:bgalin@stonebelt.org).

### Boys Next Door Performance

In August, the Indiana University Theatre Department presented, “The Boys Next Door.” written by Tom Griffin. It is a humorous and poignant portrayal of four gentlemen with developmental disabilities who live together.

When the cast began work on the production, they contacted Stone Belt to ask for an opportunity to learn more about the programs of the agency and lives of our clients. They came to Stone Belt for a presentation and tour, and then spent an evening having dinner at Hite House, one of Stone Belt’s group homes. The IU Theatre Department generously provided the residents and staff from Hite House with complimentary tickets to a performance of the play.

Their visit to Stone Belt had a significant impact on the cast. They acknowledged Stone Belt and the residents of Hite House and also listed Stone Belt’s Principles of Service in their program. They even utilized the Principles as a decorative element on the set. The production provided a wonderful opportunity for education of the community and empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

## people make the difference

### New ACE Joins Stone Belt Community

IU student **Crystal Alley** has been named Stone Belt’s ACE, (Advocate for Community Engagement) for 2008-2009.

There are more than 30 ACEs working at nonprofits in the Bloomington community. All are IU students employed through the Office of Service Learning. Each ACE is required to work ten hours per week as a liaison between their assigned organization and potential volunteers on the IU campus.

While at Stone Belt, Alley acts as a volunteer coordinator. She organizes two orientations a week where she educates volunteers about Stone Belt and the expectations the organization has for their volunteers. She then works with staff members to place volunteers within Stone Belt.

This year Alley has been able to recruit a handful of service learners who are using their volunteering experiences to participate in classroom discussions and write personal reflection papers.

Alley is the third consecutive ACE to be assigned to Stone Belt. She is a junior double majoring in special education and elementary education.

“Because of my passions and interests regarding individuals with disabilities, I especially enjoy my time at Stone Belt. This experience has provided me with the opportunity to encourage service work among IU students, educate students and others in the community about Stone Belt and about persons with disabilities, as well as to help me feel a sense of belonging to the greater Bloomington community.”

✉ If you have questions about volunteer opportunities contact Crystal at [calley@stonebelt.org](mailto:calley@stonebelt.org).

### Stone Belt Receives Nancy Howard Award

On September 24, the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Meeting and Community Awards celebration at the Bloomington Convention Center, with over 700 people in attendance. At the event, 13 individuals, business and organizations were honored in 14 categories for their outstanding contributions to the community. This year, Stone Belt was among the award winners.

Stone Belt received the **Nancy Howard Diversity Award**, recognizing those who commit to attracting a diverse workforce and who work to create an environment in which all can succeed.

The presentation included the following remarks on Stone Belt’s contributions to the community.

“For almost 50 years, Stone Belt has been making it possible for persons with disabilities to be productive citizens of our community through work and employment programs.

Currently, over 75 individuals with disabilities receive paid work training at the Stone Belt Manufacturing Center. 25 of these clients help create inspiring works of art which enables them to earn wages and commissions for their creations.

Stone Belt has a strong reputation in our local community for helping employers diversify their workforce. Stone Belt employment consultants are available to help facilitate the smooth integration of persons with disabilities into various roles, and their staff plays a key role in supporting Diversity Works, which is the business community’s initiative to promote employment for individuals with disabilities.”

### Council for Community Accessibility Recognizes Members of the Stone Belt Community

The City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility (CCA) held its annual awards ceremony on October 20. This year a number of awards were presented to Stone Belt clients, staff, volunteers and community employers:

#### Special Recognition Award

Presented to **Michelle Davenport**, IU Student Volunteer who organized the “I Am You” Monologue performance. Awarded to an individual who has helped bring about changes that benefit a person or a group with disabilities and thereby has benefited the entire community.



#### Professional Service Award

Presented to **Maureen Gahan**, Director of Milestones Clinical and Health Resources. Awarded to a professional making extraordinary efforts on behalf of people with disabilities and their families.



#### Self-Advocacy Award

Presented to **Rhonda Duzan**, Stone Belt Client. Awarded to a person with a disability who effectively uses resources to meet her individual needs including education, employment, housing, healthcare and human service programs.



#### The Mayor’s Award

Presented to **Leslie Green**, Stone Belt CEO. Awarded to an outstanding individual, business or organization who has improved the community for people with disabilities.



#### Business Service Award

Presented to **JoAnn Fabrics**, a Stone Belt Community Employer. Awarded to a business significantly employing people with disabilities or going beyond minimum requirements in having accessible buildings, parking and services.



**JULIE MILLER**  
Self-Determination is Essential

**CAROLYN ABBITT**  
Learning Creates Empowerment

**SARAH FOX**  
All People Have Contributions to Make

**TAMMY REUTER**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**JENNIFER JOHNSON**  
Positive Supports Provide the Best Long-Term Results

**IVO AUSTIN**  
Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life

**DR. MELINDA WEAKLEY**  
Social Life & Relationships Help Create Quality of Life

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**SELF-ADVOCATES OF MONROE COUNTY**  
Community Partner

**MICHELLE DAVENPORT**  
Volunteer

# Agency Awards

Each year Stone Belt is proud to hold Annual Celebrations across its four areas of service to recognize the wonderful clients, staff and community members who make a difference with the same categories recognized at each location. Client and staff winners from agency-wide awards for Employee of the Year and Client of the Year, presented at the

## CAROLYN ABBITT Client of the Year

About a year ago, the Stone Belt art program began growing at a rapid pace. As it geared up for holiday sales, clients who could join the forces of our artist community were sought out. Carolyn generously offered her skill and time, and quickly realized that she enjoyed working on art projects – especially laying the yarn on mosaics. She soon was a regular in the artists' studio, and those around her saw a boost in her self confidence with each project completed.

When Carolyn was first asked to submit drawings to be included in art production, she expressed hesitation. However, with some encouragement, she began drawing and became proud to see her work translated into magnificent works of art. Since then, Carolyn's art has practically exploded. She is one of only a few individuals who take control of the entire process. Several times each day she comes out of the studio, beaming with pride as she shows off the progress on her latest creation. It has been a joyful experience to watch her literally blossom as a confident woman who has learned that she IS an artist.

The change in her self-confidence is so visible to all those around her. Her personal growth throughout this discovery has been astonishing.



## NATHAN SANKPILL Employee of the Year

You never have to wonder what's happening with the clients Nathan supports. Regular communication is something you can count on. Wonderfully informative and descriptive emails, attached pictures and, if necessary, phone calls ensure connectivity. These messages are always timely, informative and caring.

You can count on him before, during and after a crisis. He offers unconditional assistance, taking a leadership role and making sure that clients, Direct Support Professionals and less veteran managers are supported to the best of his ability. When the flood waters in Columbus rose, Nathan was everywhere, making decisions, communicating with staff and management, and ensuring the safety of all.

If you want to see a beautifully decorated, comfortable home just stop by Matt and Martin's place in Columbus. Because Nathan and his team always go the extra mile, they turned a house into a cozy home.

When another manager needs to fill shifts, Nathan is there helping out. If another staff needs training or support, he is there to lend a hand. When a member of the management team is feeling stressed, he appears with chocolate and kind words.



**MIKE COLLINS**  
Self-Determination is Essential

**MIKE MCCLEERY**  
Learning Creates Empowerment

**SAM DURBIN**  
All People Have Contributions to Make

**CHARLIE YORK**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**GREG ROBERTS**  
Positive Supports Provide the Best Long-Term Results

**MELANIE HAYS**  
Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life

**LINCOLN MERCHANT**  
Social Life & Relationships Help Create Quality of Life

**BETH GRISSOM**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**MAYOR SHAWN GIRGIS & THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Community Partner

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
Volunteer



## central region

event held September 22, 2008



**TINA KHUZKIAN**  
Self-Determination is Essential

**ANN DISKOWSKI**  
Learning Creates Empowerment

**TERRY & CHRISTINA RAPP**  
All People Have Contributions to Make

**JODY DECKARD**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**JESSICA ANDERSON**  
Positive Supports Provide the Best Long-Term Results

**MARY LOPOSSA**  
Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life

**AMANDA HODGES**  
Social Life & Relationships Help Create Quality of Life

**MICHAEL LAMM**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**TRI KAPPA**  
Community Partner

**MIRANDA REECE**  
Volunteer

## east region event held April 9, 2008



**DUANE KEMPER**  
Self-Determination is Essential

**JESSICA REYNOLDS**  
Learning Creates Empowerment

**BRADLEY KIEL**  
All People Have Contributions to Make

**KIMBERLY CRAIG**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**BENET PEARL**  
Positive Supports Provide the Best Long-Term Results

**JESSICA ISON**  
Employment is a Fundamental Part of Adult Life

**CRICKET REA**  
Social Life & Relationships Help Create Quality of Life

**NATHAN SANKPILL**  
Home Life Must Be Self-Directed

**TJ MAXX**  
Community Partner

**BRIAN REA**  
Volunteer

# Awards Presented

These events are a time to reflect upon the previous year, discuss future plans and the lives of so many. This year, awards from all Stone Belt locations were unified, and the most recent awards ceremony in each region were all considered for this year's agency-wide celebration. Meet some of the special people that make up Stone Belt.

## SUSAN HOARD

Visionary Leadership Award

A good leader builds trust, inspires, models an example to follow, empowers their employees, develops innovative solutions, and aligns with the agency mission. Susan has demonstrated her outstanding capabilities as a leader in all of these areas and beyond.

Susan was given the daunting task of taking over a department of the agency that was strongly in need of an overhaul. With her promotion to this new role, she brought with her a passion for, and true belief in, the values of the agency – and she inspired those in her department to also embrace these principles. She instituted a customer-service centered approach to information technology supports, and developed a comprehensive plan for upgrading Stone Belt's infrastructure as a means to better serve every person touched by the organization.

Susan supports her staff with encouragement and positive motivation. She recognizes their strengths and abilities, and utilizes their talents. On top of everything else she does, Susan jumps in and helps with any project where expertise can make a difference.

Susan has a plan, a focus, and a will to make it happen. Because of her, we are all able to reach toward excellence.



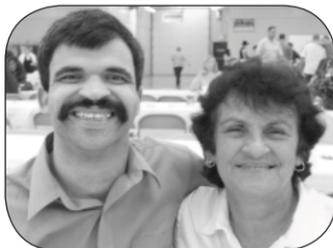
## VICTOR SARNO

Elbert Johns Self-Advocate of the Year

This award is newly created by the Stone Belt board of directors to honor the contributions former Stone Belt CEO, Elbert Johns, made to Stone Belt

Besides the tremendous growth that Elbert facilitated for the organization, he also strongly believed in empowering people with disabilities to speak for themselves and to embrace their own self-determination. Elbert emphasized the importance of self-advocacy and fostered the development of the Monroe County Self-Advocates. Today, Stone Belt supports this chapter of more than 25 members that meet monthly. Their success in self-education and fundraising to promote their activities, as well as to support important social issues, is unmatched by any other self-advocacy group in Indiana.

Victor has been involved in self-advocacy since the late 1980s. He was one of a few people from Bloomington who traveled to Washington, DC to advocate for persons with disabilities on Capitol Hill. He regularly participates in local and state self-advocacy events. He can be counted upon to speak up for his wants and his beliefs and he was an enthusiastic admirer of Elbert Johns.



south region  
event held September 11, 2008

## art

# Travelers gain inspiration from San Francisco trip

By Larry Pejeau  
Director of Business Development

Members of Stone Belt's art staff traveled to San Francisco in early September to visit five art studios that support artists with disabilities. The purpose of the trip was to gain insight and inspiration on how to implement successful art programming at Stone Belt.

Joining me was Art Teacher Karen Holtzclaw and Stone Belt resident artist Joe LaMantia as well as Linda Wisler from VSA arts of Indiana. We hit the ground running, visiting The Art of Possibility studio in Santa Clara the afternoon of our arrival. In the next two days we toured Creativity Explored in San Francisco, Creative Growth in Oakland, The National Institute of Art and Disability (NIAD) in Richmond and The Arc of San Francisco.

While the studios were all unique due to the individual vision of their Executive Directors and the realities of their locations and facilities, they each had many philosophical similarities that contributed to their success. One of these was their singular focus on implementing strong and effective day programs with art exploration as the central activity. Rather than offering residential, behavioral, community employment, manufacturing and transportation supports, these art programs worked closely with other agencies in the area that offered these services.

In addition, client artists were not expected to have artistic portfolios before entering these programs, but simply had to demonstrate an interest in creative arts. The reputations of these programs were widely known and each organization had a waiting list of client artists wanting to participate in the program as well as local artists wanting to teach in the program.

The studios offered drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, woodworking, sculpture, weaving, photography, video production, music, creative writing and acting. All of these media were taught by a working artist. Each studio motivated their artists to move between each media area in different ways. Client artists were encouraged to explore and find their own creative vision at their own pace.

We observed art activities that varied from formal life drawing classes to laid-back art exploration sessions. All pursuits were under the watchful eye and mentoring support of the instructor. We marveled at the creativity of the instructors and at the wonderful adaptations they created that allowed artists with physical limitations to accomplish creative tasks and express themselves in new ways.

The artists we met were focused on their work as we toured the facilities. It was inspirational to have artists offer to show us their portfolio of work and give insight into their personal life and artistic vision. The skill level of the work varies tremendously, but with the patient support and encouragement of the staff, some of the artists are achieving local and national attention. A few have even been featured in major museum exhibits.

Every program director emphasized the importance of having a location with a visible street presence and a professional gallery as an important aspect of the studio experience. These galleries offer a continuous stream of exhibitions which allow staff to schedule activities that create work for upcoming shows. The galleries also provide opportunities for artists to assist in the business side of art. They are involved in every aspect from promotions to hanging art to interacting with customers. It was obvious the galleries were an important place within the local business community.

All travelers came home inspired to increase art exploration activities at Stone Belt and within our community. We were challenged to try new media outlets and ways to create a studio environment and arts program that will encourage client artistic expression and build relationships and purpose within our community.

➤ For a list of upcoming Stone Belt art exhibitions see the calendar on Page 2 or visit [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org). For news on Stone Belt's recent B-Line Trail installation see back cover. To find out more about Stone Belt Art & Craft contact Director Larry Pejeau at 812-332-2168, ext. 229 / [lpejeau@stonebelt.org](mailto:lpejeau@stonebelt.org).

## development

# Make a Difference: Give to Stone Belt this holiday season

### Limited NAP Tax Credits Remain Available Through Stone Belt

Stone Belt is extremely pleased to have had such great success with the 2007-2008 NAP tax credit program. The State of Indiana awarded Stone Belt \$21,000 in NAP tax credits in July of 2008, and we were able to pass along these tremendous savings to our donors. Stone Belt donors utilized the entire allocation in only a six month period, raising \$42,000 in support of Milestones Clinical & Health Resources — a Stone Belt program of excellence that provides psychological and psychiatric services to individuals with disabilities and children. Because of this generosity, Milestones was able to provide approximately 2,000 more hours of clinical services during 2008.

Through NAP, a contribution to Stone Belt of a minimum of \$100, allows the donor to receive half of a contribution back as a TAX CREDIT when filing an end-of-year Indiana tax return. In addition, donors are also eligible to claim the total amount of the gift as a tax deduction on an itemized federal income tax return, extending the savings even further. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the essential work of Stone Belt while receiving an outstanding tax benefit in the process.

Stone Belt received an allocation of \$21,000 in NAP tax credits for 08-09. This established a fundraising goal of \$42,000. We have already reached more than 85% of our NAP fundraising 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 benefits, don't delay!

### Stone Belt Appreciates Its Donors

Because of the visionary giving of each of our donors, Stone Belt was able to remain an agency of excellence in 2008, providing quality supports to individuals with developmental disabilities as they strive to reach their full potential. Through generous contributions, Stone Belt

- offered support to over 180 individuals living independently and in group residential sites
- served over 600 clients in life skills educational programs
- supported over 200 individuals in employment positions within the community
- provided over 2,500 outpatient visits for psychological, behavioral & clinical support
- employed over 300 clients in agency-based manufacturing employment

Each day Stone Belt helps people with disabilities fulfill their dreams. For some, it is a career in the arts world; for others, it might be moving into their first apartment independently. Whatever the goals, Stone Belt's client-centered supports are designed to help people with disabilities realize their personal vision of success.

As the holiday season approaches, we hope that you will consider Stone Belt in your end-of-year giving. A gift to Stone Belt allows every aspect of our agency to flourish, including residential services, educational and employment opportunities, art and manufacturing programs, and Milestones Clinical and Health Resources. Through the work of Stone Belt, individuals are able to establish meaningful relationships, live independently, experience professional employment, contribute to the building of community, and development new life skills. Support for Stone Belt creates lasting impact and touches thousands of lives. With your help, we can stretch our diminishing funding much further and promote the highest quality of services. Your gift will go directly to programs of excellence that support people with disabilities in their quest for personal fulfillment.

Giving to Stone Belt is an investment in the future of our entire community — we all benefit when every individual is acknowledged as making contributions, is supported in a self-determined life, and is encouraged to reach her greatest potential.

➤ To discuss giving opportunities please contact Stone Belt Development Director, Amy Jackson, at 812-332-2168 etc. 314 / [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto:ajackson@stonebelt.org).

### learn more

To find out more about the studios discussed in this article log on to the Web sites listed below.

The Art of Possibility Studios  
[www.aopstudios.com](http://www.aopstudios.com)

Creativity Explored  
[www.creativityexplored.org](http://www.creativityexplored.org)

Creative Growth  
[www.creativegrowth.org](http://www.creativegrowth.org)

The National Institute of Art & Disability (NIAD)  
[www.niadart.org](http://www.niadart.org)

The Arc of San Francisco  
[www.thearcсанfrancisco.org](http://www.thearcсанfrancisco.org)

### online giving

Stone Belt now offers an easy and convenient way to support individuals with disabilities and excellence in programs. Donations to our general fund can now be made online using PayPal.

Log on to [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org) to make your gift today. All gifts help individuals reach their full potential.

## Stone Belt can earn a donation every time you search the Internet & shop online!

Search the Web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch and they'll donate a penny to **Stone Belt** each time you search!

[www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com)



Shop at over 600 GoodShop.com merchants like Amazon and Walmart and a percentage of each purchase will go to **Stone Belt**.

[www.GoodShop.com](http://www.GoodShop.com)

# Poll results reveal voting behaviors

On the heels of this year's November elections, a newly released 2008 Indiana Disability Poll weighs in on the voting behaviors and political activities of Hoosiers with disabilities, their family members and advocates.

According to the poll's results, the disability community constitutes a strong, active voting bloc:

- 90% of people with disabilities, their family members and advocates who responded are registered to vote
- Nearly 80% of the disability community voted in the last election and/or the May primary, including 8 out of 10 individuals with disabilities
- Nearly 90% of the respondents have a government-issued picture ID, and very few (only 8%) were challenged when they went to vote

Polling place accessibility is still a problem. While only half of the respondents encountered barriers, those who did reported the following as the most prevalent barriers:

- accessible entrances weren't marked
- main entrances were not accessible
- parking was not accessible
- paths to voting areas had obstacles

The annual Disability Poll, which is a joint project of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (IIDC) at Indiana University, the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, and Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS), highlights voting behaviors and participation in civic

## complete poll results

To see a fact sheet on the Disability Poll and its results, log on to: [www.indiana.edu/~iunews/DisabilityPoll/pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~iunews/DisabilityPoll/pdf)

and political activities of 367 people with disabilities, their family members and their advocates, as provided between November 2007 and July 2008. Responses came from 63 of Indiana's 92 counties.

With regard to civic participation, the disability community strongly participates in public policy and political activities — less than 10 percent do nothing at all. The most frequent activities include voting, signing petitions, writing to government officials, sending letters to the editor and attending political and town meetings.

The respondents did identify barriers to community participation, including:

- Work schedules
- Physical barriers
- Not feeling welcome to participate
- Lack of transportation (especially for individuals with lower income levels)
- Not knowing how to begin (especially for individuals with lower income levels)

Survey results also showed that the disability community is divided over how much they feel government officials at all levels care about disability

issues — 40% feel they do care and 35% feel they do not. Similarly, there was a 50-50 split of opinions about trusting their state or local governments to do what's right for people with disabilities. However, overwhelmingly, members of the disability community feel it is important to get involved in politics and believe that they can make their communities better places to live.

"What's especially significant about these results is the potential of the disability community to be active participants in policy making processes," said Vicki Pappas, Director of the Center for Planning and Policy Studies at IIDC. "They vote, they participate in public policy and political activities, and overwhelmingly, they believe they can have a positive impact on making their communities better places for everyone."

"Voting is fundamental to preserving our way of life as a democratic society," said Suellen Jackson-Boner, Executive Director of the Governor's Council. "This poll sheds light on a significant voting bloc in our population that elected officials must consider when making public policy decisions."

For copies of the full survey results or for alternative formats, contact Vicki Pappas at [cpps@indiana.edu](mailto:cpps@indiana.edu) / 812-855-6508. For more information about the Indiana Institute, visit [www.iidc.indiana.edu](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu). For more information about the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, visit [www.in.gov/gpcpd](http://www.in.gov/gpcpd). For more information on IPAS, visit [www.in.gov/ipas](http://www.in.gov/ipas).

## employment

# New friendships made on the job

Nick Parsley became a member of Dunn Memorial Hospital's well-respected team in September of 2005 as an Environmental Services Associate. In his past three years of employment there, Nick has shown tremendous growth both on the job and off.

As a part of the hospital's laundry department, Nick is responsible for running washing machines, folding laundry and traveling through the hospital gathering linens. His supervisors praise his attention to detail and dependability. It is not unheard of for Nick to wash linens multiple times. He can always be counted on to complete his day's responsibilities and doesn't complain if extra work is assigned to him.

What truly makes the relationship between Nick and his job special is the way he has folded himself into the Dunn staff family. Nick knows everyone at the hospital. When he travels to various departments, he greets everyone by name. He knows personal details about everyone, has nicknames for most and usually doesn't have any problems finding a lunch date. All these actions are appreciated and reciprocated by his coworkers. Nick finds time for this important social aspect of his job without getting behind in his work.

From the CEO, to the Vice-President of Human Resources, to his supervisor, to his laundry coworkers, Nick treats everyone in the same friendly, warm manner and he receives the same treatment back.

Recently Nick suffered a trauma that caused him to



Environmental Services Associate Nick Parsley is flanked by Dunn Memorial Hospital staff members Mike Cooper, Chief Executive Officer and Max Medlock, Director of Environmental Services.

visit Dunn's Emergency Room and then remain in the hospital's Intensive Care unit for weeks. During his stay, Nick was visited by almost every employee in the hospital. They all spent time sympathizing with his situation, raising his spirits and encouraging him to do the work that was necessary to get healthy. Nick's friendly, caring nature reaped rewards when he was in a time of need.

Dunn Memorial Hospital and Nick Parsley are truly one of the great matches in Stone Belt's Employment Services program. Finding clients jobs and having them succeed in their jobs is the basic mission of Employment Services, but another factor that is just as important, is having clients build social relationships on the job and in their personal lives. Nick is a perfect example of someone who has succeeded in this important part of life.

If you would like to learn more about Stone Belt's Employment Services program contact Director Bitta DeWees at 812-335-3507, ext. 273 / [bdewe@stonebelt.org](mailto:bdewe@stonebelt.org).

## first person

# Brad Gifford at the SRSC

By Brad Gifford  
Stone Belt Central Region client

My name is Brad and I work at Indiana University's Student Recreational Sports Center (SRSC).

I go early in the morning a couple of days a week at 8:00 am, right when people start coming in.

I clean the mats for them; so it will be clean.

All the students are nice to me. The workers are even nicer. They call me by name and know it because of my name tag.

This is my first job. It does not make me feel important, but it does always make me feel very good.

I am always happy and excited to go and never sad.

I love the SRSC and even get to ride on the bikes.

It is a good place to be. I love the SRSC.

Brad Gifford participates in Stone Belt's Employment, Residential and Manufacturing programs. He lives at Stone Belt's Miller House group home in Bloomington and has been affiliated with Stone Belt since the 1970s.



The Arc of Indiana

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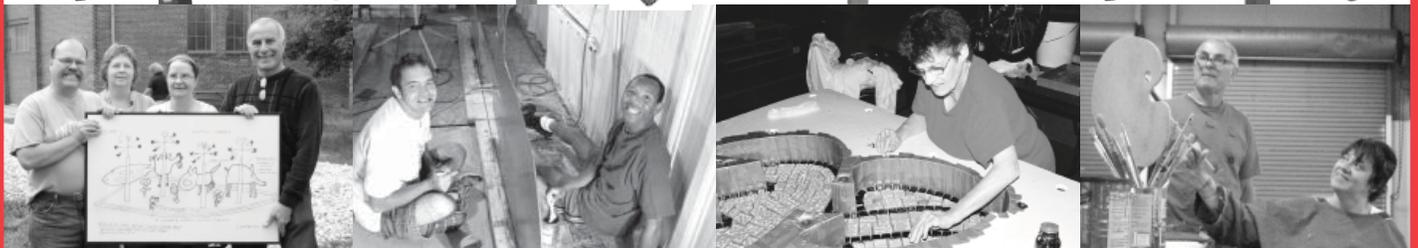
# Stone Belt

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## The Journey of Animal Island



*The project kicked off with a press conference announcing the B-Line Trail in May. Clients Bobby Pate and Mary Jane Smith were joined by Artists Karen Holtzclaw and Joe LaMania at the event where they revealed a diagram of the proposed sculpture garden. In the continuing months Stone Belt 10th Street was a frenzy of activity with clients diligently creating pieces of the sculpture. Michael Field & Robert Bing paint the chicken while Patsy Smitz creates a flower mosaic stepping stone and Shirley Freeman paints a weathervane.*



*Installation of Animal Island began in August. Bloomington City Workers placed the poles and the mosaic stepping stones first, then they poured the concrete and the base was complete. Next the steel animal pieces were welded to the poles. Finally clients helped with touch-up painting and placing the weathervanes. In October there was a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the completed project. Mayor Mark Krusan, pictured with artist Kelly Tate, dedicated "Animal Island" the first finished installation on the B-Line Trail.*