did you know?
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 make your gift today. All gifts help individuals reach their full potential.

make your online gift today @
www.stonebelt.org

East Headquarters Move
Columbus clients and staff move into new offices. page 3

Award Winners
Annual Celebration honors outstanding individuals. pages 4-5

Open for Business
Revamped 10th Street Manufacturing Space opens. 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.

Stone Belt will present Belt Out Laughing, an evening of comedy celebrating Stone Belt’s 50 years in the community. This fundraiser will feature comedian Josh Blue, winner of Last Comic Standing Season 4. Find out more about Josh and the event on Page 1.

www.stonebelt.org
Perhaps best known as the comedian who puts the cerebral in Cerebral Palsy, Josh Blue exploded onto the national comedy scene by capturing the attention and endearment of the country as the winner on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing.” Season 4, which aired May through August 2006. Having already established himself as one of the most sought after comedians on the college circuit, his weekly appearances on “Last Comic” in the summer of 2006 expanded his fan base exponentially.

Blue starred on the fourth season of the NBC reality series, usually garnering standing ovations after each short set. Blue appeared on Last Comic Standing to “make people aware of the fact that people with disabilities can make an impact.”

Faced with the challenge of making young, impressionable audiences smile, he continues to break down stereotypes of people with disabilities one laugh at a time. He’s able to create in a constant state of evolution and has offset the stuffy image of the quintessential disability comedian that so many viewers believe to be true. But Blue has also become an internet sensation with his top two YouTube videos receiving over 1 million plays.

“I have the common sense to know that my disability is what makes me stand out,” the 26-year-old explains. “But I don’t want to be thought of as ‘just the comic with cerebral palsy.’ I want people to think of me first, and make them laugh. A lot of times I think about being different, but it just isn’t an addition — it just means that I’m not normal and that’s fine. I don’t talk about it. I try to blend in and not stand out.”

Blue got his start in comedy doing open mic sets while attending Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Audiences reacted enthusiastically to his self-deprecating humor and Blue started making a name for himself on the comedy circuit.

Josh has appeared as a regular guest star on Comedy Central’s “Mind of Mencia,” and his story has been featured on Fox, CBS, ABC, and MSNBC. He was the first comedian to perform stand-up on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” which was named “Best Appointment Show” and “Best Appearance” on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” by TV Guide. He also appeared as a regular on the NBC’s “TheEllen DeGeneres Show,” which was named “Best Magazine Show” by TV Guide. He has also performed on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, and has been featured on numerous print publications including “People Magazine” and “The New York Times.”

Blue is also known for his skills in soccer, which included traveling to Athens in 2004 as part of the U.S. Paralympics soccer team. Blue grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and currently resides in Denver with his wife, Yoko, and their baby boy, Simon.

Blue Belt Out Laughing is an evening of comedy celebrating Stone Belt’s 50 years in the community. Join us . . .

Thursday, October 15 @ 7:30 pm
Buskirk-Chumley Theater
114 E Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington
Opening Act by Local Comedy Favorite, Brad Wilhelm
A limited seating, pre-event dinner will be held . . .
Thursday, October 15 @ 5:30 pm
Uptown Cafe
102 E Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington
Tickets are $25 for the comedy show and $25 for the optional pre-event dinner. Tickets are now on sale @ the Buskirk-Chumley Box Office.

In Person:
114 E Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington
By Phone:
812-323-3020
Online:
www.buskirkchumley.org

Cerebral palsy is a term used to describe a group of chronic conditions affecting body movement and muscle coordination. It is caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain, usually occurring during fetal development; before, during, or shortly after birth; or during infancy. Thus, these disorders are not caused by problems in the muscles or nerves. Instead, faulty development or damage to motor areas in the brain disrupts the brain’s ability to adequately control movement and posture. “Cerebral” refers to the brain and “palsy” to muscle weakness or poor muscle control.

Cerebral palsy is not progressive, secondary conditions may get better over time, get worse or remain the same. Cerebral palsy is not communicable. It is not a disease and should not be referred to as such. Although cerebral palsy is not “curable” in the accepted sense, training and therapy can help improve function.

Cerebral palsy is characterized by an inability to fully control muscle function, particularly muscle control and coordination.
From the CEO

A place where everyone knows your name

Most people would agree, and numerous studies have shown, that the quality of one’s relationships is more important to the quality of life and the other factors, such as wealth, than the ratio of physical and mental health. One way to ensure that the social capital is retained, Social capital can be found in friendship networks, neighborhood contacts, school, book clubs, civic associations, and more. The more you create, “volumes” lower your emotions, options and opportunities. For those who are positioned at the lower rungs of a social structure, it can be stressful to change their positions or even to maintain them, and this may lead to medical problems. A strong sense of community is a cornerstone for their wellbeing.

Art Blooms

Stone Belt has recently been host to an interactive art exhibit at the City of Bloomington. The piece entitled Fragments by artist Tomi Sturzenegger has been displayed at the People’s Convention Center, where it has been open to the public to view and enjoy. The exhibition showcases an array of contemporary art and is a testament to the creativity and talent of the artists involved.

Cheers,

contributions to their community. As an organization, we also seek ways that we can strengthen social networks and therefore help the community to work together to address common issues while fostering inclusiveness. It is in our core.

In the same vein you will read of several awards of social capital building. Many of these awards are given at the annual American Sociological Association’s Annual Meetings, where a group of scholars and activists reflect on the importance of social capital building. For example, N. T. T. M. T. A. (National Teachers Association) has awarded social capital building awards to several scholars and activists.

Are you building your wealth so that you have a social capital building to your assets? Are you building your wealth so that you have a social capital building to your assets? Are you building your wealth so that you have a social capital building to your assets?

Stone Belt extends appreciation to all our generous donors and donors who give on a regular basis.

Strengthening social networks and therefore help the community to work together to address common issues while fostering inclusiveness. It is in our core.

The mission of the foundation is to help make the health care system more responsive to unmet needs and to reduce the barriers to access to care. As part of this mission, the foundation supports the development of new and innovative programs that address the needs of the uninsured.

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Stone Belt • Touchstone • Fall 2009

Awards Ceremony Celebrates 50 Years

The SELF DETERMINATION award

Supportive work, residential management, a philosophy behind the need to advocate on the front lines. All of these are key elements that have helped Stone Belt to be a leader in the field and to remain a leader.

CENSEE HILLEYBROOK & JAVA RAVINS

The EMPOWERED LEARNING award

We learn through traditional modes, we are open through innovative experiences, we become empowered through our willingness to help us achieve our goals, and then use our newfound strengths to make even more incredible changes in the future.

PHILLIP SMITH & MEGAN POLEY

The SELF DIRECTED HOME LIFE award

A happy home – what could be more important or more of a challenge? When we let others make the decisions for us, we make ourselves vulnerable to a lack of self-esteem. Take charge! Make your home a happy one.

ARCHIE HERRON & DEBRA HIGGINS

The OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS award

Each one of us has skills, talents, interests, passions and time to contribute to making our community a better place. Stone Belt works with people to show that they can make these contributions.

MARY GRIFFITH & PATTIE ROSSO

The POSITIVE SUPPORTS award

Supportive work, residential management, a philosophy behind the need to advocate on the front lines. All of these are key elements that have helped Stone Belt to be a leader in the field and to remain a leader.

BILLY SETTER & SHARON GILBERT

The EMPLOYMENT award

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The QUALITY OF LIFE award

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BETTY JO TERRILL & PATRICK SEBREE

The VISIONARY LEADERSHIP award

Presented to an employee who embodies the spirit of Stone Belt’s mission, empowers those around them to inspire others, has made significant contributions to the mission, and exhibits a strong commitment to diversity.

LARRY PEJEAU

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LARRY PEJEAU
Bedford client employer wins national honor

More than twenty years ago, Stone Belt began a relationship with Cook Medical, a local, emerging life sciences company. "Who could have guessed that more than two decades later the relationship would continue, and that Stone Belt clients would participate in the manufacturing of medical products that save lives?" said Karen Freeman, Manufacturing Director for Stone Belt. "The success of our internal facility is due to the hard work and dedication of our Bedford client employers and staff. From the very beginning, their commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities has been critical in our success."

Always the leader in innovation, Stone Belt has been able to adapt to the ever-changing needs of their clients and their employees. "During the recession, some of Cook Medical’s clients had to lay off their workforce, but there was a need to keep working with those individuals with disabilities," said janice Hill, President of Stone Belt. "Stone Belt is the model for what successful, meaningful work can be, and we are proud to be a part of that success story."

"It is wonderful to see the growth and success that Stone Belt has had over the past twenty years," said Steve Hill, President of Cook Medical. "Stone Belt has been a true partner in our success, and we are grateful to have them as a part of our team."

For more information on Stone Belt's business development program, contact Amy Jackson at 812-322-2168, ext. 314 / ajackson@stonebelt.org.

artists-in-residence

Classes encourage clients’ inner creativity

The goal of the arts-in-residence program is to connect community artists with individuals with disabilities to share their talents and encourage creative expression. "Experiences begin with individual sessions, but can easily bifurcate as the possibilities of the individuals and their abilities require. I think the clients have achieved both their goals and mine, and remain interested in the Dr. Pepper and photography projects," Daniel Novak said. "The balance between art and work space at Stone Belt allows me to offer the clients more flexible experiences to continue the work they are engaging in on their own.

Stone Belt envisions "the arts" very broadly — including visual, performing and life sciences. "With the arts, we are able to offer a range of experiences so that there is something for just about everyone. Classes offered to date have included videography, photography, drawing, painting and sculpture. Upcoming classes include hula hoop dancing, origami folding and knitting. Classes are being offered at Stone Belt’s facilities in both the Bedford and Monroe County, and will continue to offer a wide variety of opportunities for individuals with disabilities to engage in meaningful and fulfilling experiences," said Amy Jackson, Stone Belt’s Employment Consultant.

More than twenty years ago, Stone Belt began with a focus on connecting community artists with individuals with disabilities, to share their talents and encourage creative expression. "Experiences begin with individual workshops, but can easily bifurcate as the possibilities of the individuals and their abilities require. I think the clients have achieved both their goals and mine, and remain interested in the Dr. Pepper and photography projects," Daniel Novak said. "The balance between art and work space at Stone Belt allows me to offer the clients more flexible experiences to continue the work they are engaging in on their own.

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