

touchstone

fall 2010

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



Stone Belt South Region clients Melinda Owens and Sam Durbin attended the Self-Advocates Indiana State picnic at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis on July 16. Sam Durbin is the President and Melinda a member of the newly formed Lawrence County Self-Advocates Building a Future. Stone Belt client members of the Lawrence and Monroe County Self-Advocates represented the largest contingent of any group across the State at the event. The Lawrence County group received an award at this year's Annual Celebration. Learn more on Page 5.

Lost & Found

A client and his dad reconnect through the Internet. **page 1**

Congratulations

Valuable partners recognized at Awards Celebration. **page 4**

Meet the Board

Who is the Stone Belt Board and what do they do? **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.



Brandon as a baby with his mother & father



Stone Belt client reconnects with family with the help of the Internet

After more than a decade of near isolation from his biological family, Brandon Ramos has reconnected with his father, thanks to the Internet and his Stone Belt community.

Following the divorce of his parents, Brandon lost touch with his father, who had relocated across the country. Brandon was just 10 years old when he came to live in Stone Belt's Deckard Group Home. His childhood wasn't easy. The strained relationships with local family and the disconnection from his father left Brandon almost entirely dependant on the Stone Belt community for support.

Throughout his life, Brandon has wrestled with questions about his absent family. "Brandon's lack of contact with his father was a source of major grief for him," said Stone Belt social worker Mary McKinney. "The open ended questions in his mind about why his father was no longer in his life haunted him and kept him from feeling settled in his current life."

Brandon craved a true family connection to help him understand himself and his place in the world. His advocate, Kari Brock, shared, "Brandon has wanted contact with his father for a long time. He wanted to find out who he was." Stone Belt staff struggled with how to reunite Brandon with his family amidst concern that Brandon would be hurt if a desire for reunion was not reciprocated by his father or his extended family.

As Stone Belt staff deliberated on how to handle this delicate situation, Brandon grew up. He graduated from Bloomington North High School and turned 20. It was at this time that a breakthrough occurred. Through some basic searching, Brandon and Mary found his father on the Internet. Together they wrote a letter and hoped for the best.

The first contact by Brandon's family after the letter was sent was made by an aunt and great aunt over the phone to Mary. Together they discussed how the family's separation occurred and the best way to proceed with a possible reunion.

"Initially Brandon's father was reluctant to have contact because he was scared Brandon would be upset because it had been so long since they had seen each other," said Mary. "He said he had not known where Brandon was for a long time and did not know how to find him." He was happy to receive the initial letter from Brandon, to see pictures of him on the Stone Belt Web site, and talk with his social worker. The family and his Stone Belt support team decided that a reunion would be a positive experience for all involved.

On May 15, 2010, Brandon's family drove from North Carolina to reconnect with him in person. For the first time in over 10 years, Brandon was reunited with his father, step-mother, sister and great aunt. It was an emotional gathering over lunch, with recollections of old memories and revelations about each other's current lives. The family took lots of pictures and strolled through the Bloomington's College Mall where Brandon's dad bought him a stuffed dog. Brandon named his new dog after his father's real dog. At the end of the visit, everyone said their goodbyes with positive hopes for the future.

Since then, Brandon and his father have maintained weekly contact by phone and over the Internet. Through Facebook, they often share photographs of recent life events and play Web-based video games. Brandon's Advocate, Kari, said, "Getting on Facebook has become a great motivator for Brandon. He gets his work done quickly so he can talk with his dad and see the latest family updates."

The individuals closest to Brandon have seen a meaningful improvement in his outlook on life now that he found the family connection that he craved. He now has an answer to his lifelong questions about who he is.

There are many families of individuals with disabilities that have experienced separation. However, Brandon's story shows that reconnection is possible and there is hope for desperate families still searching for their lost loved ones.

✉ If you are searching for a lost loved one, the Internet now offers a plethora of resources. One to consider is The ArcLink's relative-search database that has fostered more than 100 reunions. The ArcLink was started by former Stone Belt Executive Director, Elbert Johns. For more information, visit www.theardlink.org/findfamily.



"Like" us on Facebook to stay updated on everything Stone Belt.

You can share a Stone Belt moment with us, learn about upcoming happenings and join the conversation on our "wall."

We hope to see you there!

from the CEO



Celebrating Success

Our **Annual Celebration**, held on August 9, was once again a splendid event which celebrated the achievements of clients, staff, volunteers and community partners. It was reassuring to have so many people in one room celebrating the same thing – success. Several community leaders, such as State Representative **Peggy Welch** (pictured above with client Martha Hines), Bloomington Mayor **Mark Kruzan** and Arc of Indiana Director **John Dickerson** attended to show their support for the work we do. While so much of our daily life is inundated with discouraging news, this event highlighted the continuing positive aspects of our work. It served as a wonderful morale booster and a reminder of the importance of our efforts. The center article of this edition of *Touchstone* features this year's award winners. They have significantly helped facilitate our mission to prepare, empower and support people with disabilities.

Our mission also denotes the importance of working in partnership with the community. Now more than ever, our success as an organization is greatly enhanced through our many effective partnerships. This includes those with **United Way**, **The Arc of Indiana** and **Indiana University**. All of these organizations are extremely important to us and we could not have near the success we do without them. Read on to see how these vital partnerships make a difference for us all.

You can now view our **annual report** online (see page 2), which highlights many of the success stories of our past year. We enjoy the opportunity to look back over the past 12 months, but we also look forward to this upcoming year and to seeing new achievements throughout all of Stone Belt. We anticipate some growth in our supported living program and significant growth of **Milestones** services. We are working to enhance our **Lifelong Learning** curriculum and to maintain our high standards for manufacturing and employment services. We will continue to effectively utilize technology to improve our efficiency and will continue to empower our staff with valuable training sessions. These successes and many others will help us remain positive even in the face of challenges and set backs. Thank you for your continued support of Stone Belt and our important mission – now read on for interesting and positive news in this and upcoming issues of *Touchstone*. We will work hard to make certain that success is always celebrated.

Leslie Green, Chief Executive Officer

quarterly donors

Stone Belt extends appreciation to all our generous donors from July 1 through August 31, 2010. We are grateful for their continued support.

PILLAR SOCIETY LEVEL GIFTS (\$5,000 – \$9,999):

Mt. Gilead Christian Church; Edward & Mary Lou Otting, Donald & Caroline Snyder.

BUILDERS SOCIETY LEVEL GIFTS (\$1,000 – \$2,499):

Alexander & Virginia Buchwald; Charles & Rhonda Burch; Richard Hasler; Robert & Andra Klemkosky; Richard Sanders.

ADVOCATE LEVEL GIFTS (\$500 – \$999):

Barbara Gifford & Paula Freeman; David & Melissa Goodrum; Ken Gros Louis; Gary & Helen Ingersoll; Robert & Suzanne Mann; Leonard & Mary Phillips; Push America; Richard & Susan Stryker; The Selective Group Foundation; C. Kurt & Lisa Zorn.

STEWARDSHIP LEVEL GIFTS (\$100 – \$499):

James & Shirley Abbitt; Ann Armstrong; Sarah Baumgart & Bill Lozowski; Shirley Boardman; David & Penny Burris; Ruth Chesmore; John & Sara Davenport; Richard & Rosemary Dever; Doreen Devitt; Joe & Gloria Emerson; Paul & Karen Ficker; Margaret Gilbride & Claire King; Kyle & Kate Gilpin; Henry & Alice Gray; David & Judy Haas; Katrina Harder; Indiana Running Co.; David & Janet James; Miles & Marjorie Kanne; Gregory Lloyd; Russell Lyons; Edwin Marshall; Charles & Donna Martindale; Jerry & Jane McIntosh; Kathie Moh; Stuart & Ellen Mufson; Roberta Murphy; William & Phyllis Perkins; Rudy & Dorothy Pozzatti; Jill Robinson; Dick & Virginia Rose; Bertina Rudman; Harold & Sandy Sabbagh; Malcolm & Ellen Stern; Cliff & Joan Travis; Betty Turlinger; Albert & Marie Vendel; Edward & Donna Wenstrup, Jr.; James Williams & Deborah Allmayer; Paul & Charlotte Zietlow.

FRIEND LEVEL GIFTS (\$1 – \$99):

Charles & Carol Bentley; Nola Bloemendaal; Ervin & Louise Blish; Lee Buskirk; John & Susan Cronkhite; David Furr; Don & Carol-Anne Hossler; Nancy Metcalf; Don, Mark & Jane Summitt; Steve & Ann Worland.

upcoming events

September 2 – October 31

Stone Belt Art Exhibit @ the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center

Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center (122 S Waldron Street, Bloomington)

- Works by Stone Belt client artists will be displayed in the Flashlight Gallery on the 3rd floor as part of the Arts Center grand re-opening.

For more info call the Arts Center directly @ 812-330-4400

October 3 | 1:30 pm

DSFC Buddy Walk

Bryan Park • Bloomington

- The Down Syndrome Family Connection (DSFC) will host its 3rd annual Buddy Walk.

More info @

www.buddywalkbloomington.info

November 18 | 10 am & 5:30 pm

Accessing Disability Resources Seminar

IU Innovation Center

(2719 E 10th Street, Bloomington)

- Join us for the Stone Belt Empowered Learning Series as we discuss accessing disability resources for a lifetime of success. Free and open to all.

More info @ www.stonebelt.org

in brief

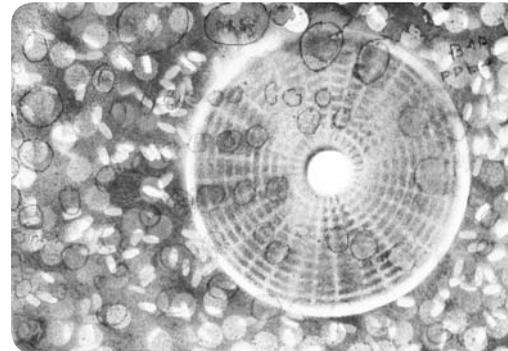
Fun Day Festivities

A team of 18 cyclists and six crew members visited Stone Belt on **Wednesday, July 28** and helped celebrate the agency's annual tradition of Fun Day. The cyclists, all members of **Pi Kappa Phi** fraternity chapters from across the country, partnered in a cross country trek called the **Journey of Hope** – a nine-week, 4,000-mile cycling event to raise funds and awareness for people with disabilities. Stone Belt clients from across the agency celebrated their arrival and had lunch together provided by **Kappa Kappa Sigma** sorority members. All attendees enjoyed an afternoon of music, games and fun, and at the end of the visit the cyclists gave Stone Belt a **\$750 check** to be used to buy new athletic equipment. Alex Masica, one of the cyclists and a student at Drake University, spoke of how much he enjoyed interacting with individuals with disabilities. "It's fun hearing their stories and learning about their abilities – not just the disabilities that society tends to focus on."



Dancing With The Celebrities Raises \$25,000

The final numbers are in! After tallying all donor contributions from this past spring's "Dancing With The Celebrities" event, and adding in the generous gift from the event organizer – **Arthur Murray Dance Studio** in Bloomington – we are pleased to announce that Stone Belt raised more than **\$25,000** to support programs of excellence through the Annual Fund. These dollars are essential in helping the agency retain its margin of excellence during difficult financial times. Stone Belt once again expresses its tremendous appreciation to all of our contributors, to Arthur Murray Dance Studio, and most especially to our 2010 winning dancers, **Gladys DeVane** and **Todd Leininger**. Congratulations to Stone Belt and our celebrity dancers for taking home the grand prize trophy two years in a row!



Stone Belt Client Art @ the Ivy Tech John Waldron Art Center

Current works of Stone Belt client artists will be featured in an art exhibit at the **Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center** (122 S Walnut Street, Bloomington). Works will be displayed in the Flashlight Gallery on the 3rd floor, as part of the Arts Center grand re-opening. All of the gallery spaces throughout the building will feature different artists. The exhibit will appear from **September 2** through **October 31**. Also featured at the exhibit will be information about the meaningful collaborations that Stone Belt has with Ivy Tech through Community Employment. On Friday, **October 1** from 5-8 pm exhibits at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center will be a stop on the gallery walk reception.

Congratulations to these outstanding artists whose work will be featured: **Brooks Smith, Bryan Hall, Carolyn Abbitt, Denise Hillenberg, Joe Tamewitz, Kelly Tate, Kimmi Bignell, Mary Jane Smith, Nikki Coffey, Sandy Gaskins, Jared Evans, Tasia Tanier-Gesner.**

Ivy Tech is responsible for organizing the overall exhibit and the reception. Questions should be directed to the John Waldron Arts Center @ 812-330-4400.

New Features @ www.stonebelt.org

Stone Belt's **Annual Report** is now online! This publication offers highlights of the previous year, including services, facts and financial information. Log on to www.stonebelt.org and click on the "Our News" menu at the top of the page and then select "Publications." You can view a PDF of the report online or download the PDF to print. We look forward to sharing the highlights of the past year with you.

Stone Belt's Web **multimedia gallery** has recently been revamped with new features. One of the most exciting new additions is a collection of videos from this year's I AM YOU monologue performances. Visitors can also find videos from recent media appearances by several members of Stone Belt's staff. You can become a fan of Stone Belt's Facebook page to keep up to date on the latest news and events, and also listen to audio podcasts and interviews with staff members. And as always, photos from various Stone Belt events can be viewed in our Photo Albums.

Connect with Stone Belt. Start experiencing more @ www.stonebelt.org.

Leadership Additions & Changes

There have recently been several changes and additions to the Management Team at Stone Belt. Our goal is to professionally organize our leadership structure in order to most effectively utilize available talents and resources.

Susan Russ, who has been the Director for the East & South regions, will continue to oversee programs in the South, but will also begin overseeing the Lifelong Learning program in the Central Region. Stone Belt recently made the exciting decision to rename its educational programs for individuals with disabilities. Formerly known as Life Skills Enrichment, our programs will now be named Lifelong Learning. The leadership of the agency believes that the move to this new title reflects the agency's mission and values in promoting self-determination and empowerment.

Ilese Sabelhaus, who has been serving as the Director of Lifelong Learning will be moving to the position of East Region Director. Her office will be located in Columbus and she will oversee all services in that region.

Matthew Minderman has joined Stone Belt's team as the new Central Region Assistant Director. He will be responsible for heading the Supported Group Living program. Matthew was born and raised in Vincennes, Indiana and graduated from IU Bloomington with a degree in Business. He began his professional career in the cable television industry in Vincennes and served in various management capacities for 15 years. Matthew has worked in this field of disabilities services since 1997 as the Director of Program Services for Knox County Arc.

Pat McManus has also joined Stone Belt's team as the new South Region Assistant Director, where he will be responsible for day-to-day operations. As co-developer of a startup company that grew from a handful of employees to nearly 150, over time Pat created and then supervised several company departments including Engineering, IT, and Human Resources. For the last nine years he has owned a multimedia production company. Prior to that, while at college at Indiana University, he drove a bus for Stone Belt and developed a strong connection to its community and purpose. Recently he was able to enjoy reviving that relationship by teaching various classes at Stone Belt, and by filming the "I AM YOU" events.

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Editor: Cheryl Paul

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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 request it in an accessible format contact Communications Manager Cheryl Paul at 812-332-2168, ext. 261 / cpaul@stonebelt.org.

shop the Web to support  Stone Belt

WWW.GOODSHOP.COM

Award Recipients Embody Principles of Service

the SELF DETERMINATION award



ROE SIMMERMAN & JUSTIN RICHARDSON

Self Determination is an expression of independence, confidence, and a desire to direct one's own life. It is a core principle for Stone Belt, and our belief in it guides all of the important work that we do.

the POSITIVE SUPPORTS award



LINDA WICKLE & SHAWNNA ARENSEN

Supportive words, unspoken encouragement, a cheerleader behind the scenes and an advocate on the front lines. All of these are expressions of positive supports that enable an individual to reach his or her full potential.

the EMPOWERED LEARNING award



MISTY LAWYER & BOBBI WIGLEY

We learn through traditional models, we learn through experience, and we learn from others. We become empowered learners when we choose learning to help us grow as individuals, and then use that learning to help others reach their fullest potential.

the SELF DIRECTED HOME LIFE award



RYAN PERRY & MUFSON-KING-GRUBB HOME

A happy home – what could be more important at the end of a long day? Home is the place where we each have the opportunity to take control; to create a space that brings us joy, comfort, and security. Home Life must be self-directed.

the OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS award



CHERYL PAUL & DAVID WERTZ

Each one of us has skills, talents, interests, passions and time to contribute to making our community a better place. Stone Belt believes in the power of helping people discover the ways that they can make outstanding contributions.

the EMPLOYMENT award



JEFF STRAUSER & SHERYL MYERS

Employment is a fundamental part of adult life. In our society, our identities are often tied to our careers. We believe that all adults have the right – as well as the skills and talents – to be employed, to earn a wage, and to contribute to the building of the economy.

Stone Belt's Principles of Service provided a perfect theme for this year's Annual Celebration.

The event began with a catered reception, followed by an auditorium-format awards ceremony during which excellence in staff, clients, volunteers and community partners was recognized. In addition to the awards, there were also several surprises throughout the evening.

Stone Belt Board President Margaret Gilbride led the event and guided attendees through an evening filled with live performances and multimedia presentations. Local celebrity Gladys DeVane and her Dancing With The Celebrities partner Todd Leininger were also on hand to perform a dance from their award winning debut. Five performers from this year's I AM YOU monologues were featured in video vignettes created from their participation in the event. Bloomington Mayor Mark Krizan and Monroe County United Way Director Barry Lessow also appeared and spoke passionately of Stone Belt's impact on the greater community.

Thank you to all who joined us for this wonderful opportunity for our entire Stone Belt community and our friends to celebrate our achievements throughout the past year.

the QUALITY OF LIFE award



ANN MAPLE & JOE HATTON

Many things go into creating our quality of life. Although there is not one singular way to evaluate the quality of life someone experiences, it is possible to recognize when quality supports enable others to develop and maintain fulfilling, independent relationships.

the VISIONARY LEADERSHIP award



KAREN FREEMAN

Presented to an employee in a management position who embodies the spirit of Stone Belt's mission, empowers those around him/her, has made exceptional contributions toward the leadership agenda and has gone above the call of duty.

the COMMUNITY PARTNERS award



THEATRE OF THE PEOPLE & TEXAS ROADHOUSE, COLUMBUS

Were it not for the community that embraces our purpose and joins us in promoting our principles, truly we could not be as successful as we are in supporting individuals with disabilities to fully participate in the life of the community.

the ELBERT JOHNS award



LAWRENCE COUNTY SELF-ADVOCATES BUILDING A FUTURE

Presented to a client(s) who have demonstrated commitment to advocating for him/herself or others to receive the support needed for success in life. This award was named to honor the memory of Elbert Johns, Stone Belt's second Executive Director.

the VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR award



BRANDON DUNCAN

Volunteers add a special touch to all we do – they bring energy, dedication and social opportunities to our clients in ways that truly touch lives. This award is presented to an individual or group that has made outstanding contributions during the previous year.

the STEVE WARREN HERO award



SARAH GINASCOL

Presented to a Stone Belt employee or client who took truly heroic actions that saved somebody's life. It was named in honor of Steve Warren, a Stone Belt staff member who was responsible for a very expedient decision that ultimately saved a client's life.

log on to our Web site @ www.stonebelt.org to view a photo gallery of the evening's activities and clips of I AM YOU videos which were shown during the event.

civic engagement

Service learning benefits everyone

Service learning is an integral part of Stone Belt's community engagement efforts. A partnership between a nonprofit, university faculty and university students, service learning is an important tool for increasing awareness of students and adding value to the client experience. Service learning is a method of teaching, learning and reflecting that combines academic classroom curriculum with meaningful service, throughout the community. Service learning teaches social responsibility, encourages lifelong civic engagement, and strengthens communities for the common good.

Stone Belt is honored to be considered a premiere non-profit location for service learning activities for the Bloomington campus of Indiana University. Our goal is to strengthen the relationship between Stone Belt and the Indiana University community through the formalizing of a structure and implementation of service learning within our agency.

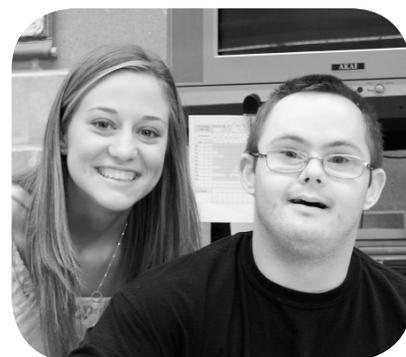
There are two types of service learning activities that take place at Stone Belt: direct service-based activity and project-based activity. A current example of direct service-based activity is the design and implementation of an adaptive physical education curriculum that is being undertaken by two Therapeutic Recreation classes from the IU School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Throughout this fall semester,

twenty undergraduate students, along with their two graduate level instructors, are developing experiential learning for our clients. They are then modeling for our staff how to put the learning into practice, so that the experience can continue for our clients into the future.

A current example of a project-based service learning activity can be seen in the work of a select group of MBA students from the prestigious Kelley School of Business. As Stone Belt makes strategic decisions about how to transition to electronic medical records and billing, these students are providing analysis and the development of a business model to enable the agency to most effectively serve our clients.

Stone Belt is fortunate to participate in the ACE (Advocate for Community Engagement) program through Indiana University. The ACE – whose salary is supplied by the university through the Office of Service Learning – is responsible for overseeing service learning within the agency, with supervision and direction given by the Community Engagement Director. Stone Belt has an ACE on staff during the fall and spring academic semesters of each year.

We'd like to introduce you to Stone Belt's current ACE, Gwyn Vicars (pictured above with client Brandon Williams).



A junior in the IU nursing program, Gwyn comes to our agency with a wonderful background in working with individuals with disabilities. She joined the Stone Belt community in January of this year, and spent the first six months of the position developing a new Service Learning model for the agency. Gwyn not only coordinates current service learning groups and projects, she is also responsible for establishing relationships with departments and faculty on campus who will collaborate with Stone Belt in the future.

We look forward to continuing to share stories of successful service learning in the future.

community engagement roundup

Making a difference

Thank You for Building Community

Our entire community is stronger when everyone is given the opportunity to experience success. For over a half century, Stone Belt has pioneered many important advances for people with developmental disabilities. We are honored to support 2500+ individuals to live self-determined and meaningful lives. We thank our donors for their on-going generosity, which makes it all possible.

Unprecedented cuts this summer to the state Disability Medicaid budget make it crucial to partner with visionary community members who recognize the value of quality resources. The drastic budget cuts, coupled with a decrease in individuals' funding, forced Stone Belt to reduce salaries and benefits, and eliminate key staff positions. The impact of all of these combined short and long term cuts is a stress on core programs and a decreased level of independence for our clients.

Stone Belt is determined to continue providing programs of excellence. Our dedicated staff remains some of the best trained in the field; our innovative clinical practice continues to provide cutting-edge mental health resources; our residential, employment and education programs are bustling

with life-changing activity.

Thank you for all you do to insure that Stone Belt remains at the forefront of the field, implementing substantive programs that change lives. Your friendship supports all core programs of our agency, and has a truly significant, lasting and direct impact in the lives of our clients.

Empowered Learning Series

Stone Belt is pleased to introduce our new Empowered Learning Series, an on-going offering of educational seminars to prepare, empower, and support individuals and their families to fully participate in the life of the community. Offered three times per year, our Empowered Learning Series provides invaluable information shared by knowledgeable experts in their fields.

We kicked off our series in April of this year with "Financial Planning for Families with Special Needs," presented by a certified financial planner who specializes in financial planning for families with members who have disabilities. We continued in August with a session entitled "A Guide to Disability Guardianship," presented by state-wide guardianship professionals. Both of these sessions were

attended by dozens of community members, who walked away with outstanding tools and resources for taking the next planning steps for their specific situations.

Our third session of the year will take place this November, and will introduce audience members on how best to access disability resources throughout a lifetime to achieve success. Please check the back cover of this issue of the *Touchstone* for topic, date and location details. The Empowered Learning Series is always free and open to the public!

Community Engagement Staff

Welcome to the newest member of the Community Engagement Team! Yolanda Toschlog joins us as our Community Engagement Associate. With a background in social work and community organizing, Yolanda brings a wonderful skill set to help us reach out to the community to share the story of this wonderful agency and the amazing people we support. Yolanda partners with both our Community Engagement Director and our Communications Manager to assist with fund development, public relations, marketing and special events. We're glad to have her as a member of the Stone Belt community.

spotlight

MEET THE BOARD



Stone Belt's Board of Directors. Back: Michael Fox, Charles Burch, Henry Upper, John Stephens, Bill Verhagen, Don Flossler, Phil Meyer, Bill Bartley, Tony Armstrong, Dan Harris. Front: Margaret Gilbride, Trish Ierino, Nola Bloemendaal, Betty Davidson, Patrick Robbins, Beth Gazley. Not pictured: Natalie Brewington & Jacqueline Hall.

Board Members work to support Stone Belt's mission

The Stone Belt Board of Directors consists of 18-21 elected members. There are five officers including a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President. There is also a representative from the Lawrence County Arc as well as a Stone Belt client representative. According to board by-laws, at least five members must be family or guardians of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Each year the Board of Directors adopts a written service plan identifying goals and objectives which promote Stone Belt's mission. They also evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of Stone Belt programs and policies.

Board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 pm in Stone Belt's main conference room at its 10th Street facility in Bloomington. The meetings are open to the public.

The Stone Belt Board oversees several important working committees, with membership consisting of Board Members as well as community members invited to participate because of their expertise in a specific area; executive staff members serve in an ex officio role. Committees include: Governance, Finance, Pension Trust, Nominating, Human Rights, Governmental Affairs/Legislative Advocacy, Fund Development, and the Executive Committee (comprised of the Board's officers).

Officers and Board Members are nominated each year in June prior to the start of the new fiscal year in July. Current board members and Stone Belt's CEO are responsible for recruiting new members.

Stone Belt would like to extend great appreciation to two long-serving outgoing board members, Tim Hines and Vicki Baker. Tim served on the Stone Belt board for a total of 13 years, filling the roles of President, Past President, Treasurer and Chair of the Human Rights and Governance Committees. He was also responsible for two sets of extensive by-laws revisions. Vicki served on the board for nine years, filling the roles of Vice President and Chair of the Human Rights Committee. Both of these outgoing board members beautifully represented the organization. They have left a lasting legacy in the agency through their good work.



Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT

Current President, immediate past Treasurer and past Vice President of Stone Belt Board of Directors, Margaret has served on the board for four years. She came to IU's Indiana Institute on Disability and Community in 2002 with nearly 15 years experience working in a variety of capacities for sister Arc organizations. Margaret is an attorney, a certified thanatologist and a former English and biology teacher. Her home and office are decorated with more Stone Belt Art products than are in the gallery on a given day.



John Stevens

John became a Board member in July 2010. He currently serves as Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington's Executive Director of Life Science Initiatives. Prior to Ivy Tech, John retired from Baxter Healthcare where he served in several management positions in manufacturing. John is also a retired Army Officer whose background includes both command and General Staff assignments. He holds a BS in Business and a Masters in both Education and Business.



Tony Armstrong

Tony joined the Stone Belt Board of Directors in 2010. Tony is a "neighbor" of Stone Belt. He serves as President and CEO of the Indiana University Research and Technology Corp., and manages the Indiana University Innovation Center (across the parking lot from Stone Belt's Bloomington offices). Prior to joining the IURTC, Tony was Executive Director/General Counsel for the Indiana 21st Century Research & Technology Fund, and later served in the Indiana Office of Management and Budget.



Bill Bartley

Bill has been working the last 15 years as an Electronic Technician and Data Acquisition Engineer for various Indy Car Racing Teams. In 2007 he and his family moved to Bloomington and opened the Indiana Running Company, a retail store in downtown Bloomington. The running store became a supporter of the Stone Belt "Run with Me 5K" event. That is how Bill became familiar with our staff and clients. Bill hopes to help Stone Belt raise community awareness and achieve its goals.

advocate

Looking forward: Building Pathways to Empowerment

By Cyndi Johnson
Arc of Indiana Family Advocate

When I first learned of my daughter's diagnosis of Down syndrome, I suspect my experience was not unlike that of many parents of a child with a disability — intense emotions running the gamut from the pure joy of nurturing a child to the fear and uncertainty that accompanies the unexpected. I spent months trying to orient myself to the news, pouring over books, articles, and just about anything else I could get my hands on. At the time, one might say I had tunnel vision, focusing all my time and energy on my daughter's needs.

Yet, it was not long before my vision broadened to include others who were trying to manage many of the same challenges. I wanted to get connected, so I began volunteering with a local parent group, attending seminars, contacting lawmakers about disability issues, and joining email lists. It was by way of an email listserv that I learned of The Arc Network, a project of The Arc of Indiana. In September 2009, I became a Family Advocate for The Arc of Indiana, and my viewpoint widened once again, as my eyes were opened to the needs as well as the possibilities that exist within the disability community.

Now, with one year of experience behind me, I can say that I truly love this work. Through the lens of a Family Advocate, I see opportunities nearly every day to walk alongside families and individuals as they navigate the ever-changing labyrinth of services. I assist people with completing Medicaid waiver applications and answer basic questions about things like Social Security, Medicaid and other health insurance alternatives, and guardianship. I make referrals to such programs as Vocational Rehabilitation

for people seeking employment support, or to trained educational advocates for families faced with special education challenges, or to independent living centers for people who require modifications to make their residence more accessible. I assist self-advocates and families seeking meaningful connections in their communities by identifying the support networks available to them at the local, state, and national levels. I let parents know that they have options as they plan for the financial future of their child with a disability by providing information about The Arc of Indiana Master Trust.

But I believe that my work involves far more than merely being a knowledgeable resource. When all the paperwork is finished, the phone calls made, and the referrals complete, it is my hope that the families and individuals come away from the experience with a new point of view and sense of empowerment. I want them to be energized by a vision of the possibilities that are within our reach, if together we can shift the focus to *ability* rather than *disability*.

For over fifty years, The Arc of Indiana and agencies such as Stone Belt have been the driving force behind the vision of a brighter future for people of all abilities. While we are closer than ever to seeing the dream of an inclusive community become reality, there is still a great deal of work to be done. Toward that end, The Arc of Indiana has launched the "Building Pathways to Empowerment" campaign—a new initiative that takes a fresh look at Indiana's system of programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The goal is to redefine and redesign that system into one that provides people with what they want and need in the most sensible way possible. It is not just the state that needs to change, or providers that



Cyndi Johnson and her daughter Rebecca.

need to change, but communities, families and advocates need to change as we all respond to the challenges before us.

So, while Family Advocates like me stand ready to help you, The Arc of Indiana is seeking your help as well. If you are ready to re-envision your future, I urge you to join the "Building Pathways to Empowerment" campaign today!

▣ The Arc Network consists of Family Advocates and Self-Advocates statewide, providing information, resources, and advocacy to families and people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. To request an Advocate, to learn more about The Arc, or to join the Building Pathways to Empowerment campaign, visit www.arcind.org, or call 800-382-9100.

connections

United Way & Stone Belt partner together

By Barry Lessow
Monroe County United Way Executive Director

United Way lives by the notion we call **The 3 Es**. To create opportunity for the people in this community, like you and me, United Way believes everyone needs a good Education, we need a chance to generate Earnings for ourselves and our family, and we need life's Essentials. In our own lives, we like to think we can do those things on our own, but we really can't. We each rely on a network of people who care about us, support us, guide us, and help us get better and stronger. It is part of our journey through life.

At United Way, we also rely on important partners to help us accomplish our goals of working for a community in which everyone has an education geared to our economic opportunities and life plans, where we have their best opportunity to have stable earnings and be self-determining, and where we don't have to worry about how to find life's essentials — food, shelter, medical care, and help during those inevitable crises.

To help us meet those goals, The United Way looks to many partners — including nonprofits, businesses and the government. Our strongest relationships are with the nonprofits that have met our certification standards and have become member agencies. Stone Belt has an honored place among those 24 agencies, and has been in that role since 1960.

Through virtually the entire history of the agency, established in 1959, Stone Belt has worked in partnership with United Way... and we are better because of that. The work of Stone Belt continues to be very important; it continues to occupy a special place in the hearts of this community, especially among the families it touches. Our community has benefited for 51 years as Stone Belt has paid attention to the research, talked with the

Create Opportunity with Your Donation to United Way!

When you donate to the United Way campaign, you are helping create opportunity for people in Monroe County. As we know at Stone Belt, the entire community wins when individuals succeed, our neighbors are financially stable, and all families are strengthened. To create that opportunity, United Way focuses resources on the building blocks for a better life — education, earnings, and essentials. With your help, United Way can invest in 24 certified member agencies, including Stone Belt, as well as collaborative initiatives that help local residents make lasting improvements in their lives.

Making a pledge to the United Way Campaign is easy! Call or email their office for a pledge card, or download one from their Web site. Once you've filled it out, simply mail or fax it back to their office:

United Way of Monroe County

441 South College Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47403
812-334-8370 (phone)
812-334-8387 (fax)
uw@monroeunitedway.org
www.unitedway.monroe.in.us

Take Action. Create Opportunity. Live United.

community, and developed services to meet the needs of the people it serves.

As Stone Belt has responded to change since 1959, the agency has learned and grown, and made us smarter in the process. Stone Belt has made us more aware of how we can make our community a place in which we all work to prepare, empower and support all people who live here... so we can all participate fully in the life of the community.

Stone Belt is a leader in entrepreneurship, in community

service, in economic development - in showing us how to **Live United**. We all owe thanks to Stone Belt's skilled and visionary staff, its dedicated volunteer leaders, and to the extraordinary clients and their families who model for us each day how to live life to the fullest. Everyone in this community comes from a unique background, has unique gifts and challenges, and thrives on the support of those in our lives who care. With those opportunities, our lives are improved. Stone Belt, for over 50 years, has been improving lives and building community.



Stone Belt

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2719 East 10th Street, Bloomington

offered twice

10:00 am – noon

5:30 – 7:30 pm

learn more @

www.stonebelt.org



Learn about **supports** that exist for individuals throughout their lifespan
Understand when and how **connections** should be made to fully utilize resources
Hear from **experts** representing early intervention, school age, adult and behavioral health programs

Space is limited. This event is free and open to the public. For more information or to **reserve a space** for the seminar contact the Stone Belt Community Engagement Department @ 812-332-2168, ext. 269 / communityengagement@stonebelt.org.