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 fully participate in the life of the community.
recent Stone Belt community awards

Left: Board Member Emeritus, Henry Upper, and
Right: Pi Kappa Phi
received “Be More Awards” from the City of Bloomington for excellent community volunteer efforts at Stone Belt

Left: Shannon Gilbert, Stone Belt employee, won an INARF award for excellence as a direct support professional

Right: client Shawn King shows off a bag of food that he collected for Hand in Hand. Stone Belt’s Hand in Hand program received a service award from Community Kitchen in Bloomington

Left: Cindi Winegardner, Milestones Therapist, was named Region 6 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers

Right: Maureen Gahan, Milestones Director, was awarded the Hugh Laughlin Volunteer Service Award from Amethyst House in Bloomington
You are helping to make everybody’s life much richer because you support people with disabilities who live, work and make many contributions in the community.

I’m happy to be writing good news about Stone Belt to you. Overall, we have done very well at meeting our goals for this past fiscal year. Today I want to share a few highlights with you:

- Clients are making progress toward their individual goals in all programs, and it is especially notable that the work services clients are seeing achievement in 94% of their goals. We also received our Dock to Stock certification from Cook Inc., which indicates their high degree of confidence in our production quality in the Life Sciences area.

- The Employment program has helped 52 people find jobs in the community, exceeding our goal of 50. Project SEARCH, an ongoing adult internship program that partners with Ivy Tech Community College and Cook Inc., graduated 6 interns in April, 3 of whom are now working. The project will soon start with 7 new participants.

- The Supported Living program has been helping clients fully utilize their budget allocation and has been facilitating successful transitions as people move into three person households. We have referrals for several new clients, who may be good housemates for existing clients.

- The new STEP program in Bedford, which focuses on work and community skills, is off to a very productive start while our Lifelong Learning program in Columbus has recently outfitted a multi-sensory space that provides a therapeutic environment for people with significant disabilities.

- Volunteer and community activities are continuing in the Bloomington Lifelong Learning program, benefitting countless community residents with food donations, recycling assistance, and meal distribution.

- Milestones services continue to grow, providing families with tools and resources to give their children the emotional and structural support they need. Our Columbus office is well established and is adding new clinicians to meet demand.

- Group homes have seen much continuity and stability, which has helped the clients thrive in their homes. Many clients participated in Sports Night, a partnership with IU student service learners that provided weekly activities with IU students. A visit from IU Varsity basketball players on one of these evenings was a special highlight.

- Self-Advocacy groups are flourishing in Bloomington, Bedford and Columbus, giving many clients the opportunity to become more empowered by learning leadership and advocacy skills.

- Our recent client survey shows that clients have high levels of satisfaction with the Stone Belt programs. They gave our agency an average rating of 4.43 out of 5 for all programs. Comments from the survey indicate that jobs and the ability to work more are really important, so we are doubling our efforts in our employment and work services programs.

As a supporter of Stone Belt, please know that what you do makes a difference in our accomplishments. You are part of something much bigger than you may ever be able to imagine. You are helping to make everybody’s life much richer because you support people with disabilities who live, work and make many contributions in the community. This stands as a sharp contrast to life in past decades when segregation and institutionalization were the norm. Even with the challenges that we face, you should feel accomplished for the part you play in creating social justice and life fulfillment.

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upcoming events

- Love Spring Things art exhibit
  July 1 - 31
  The Love Spring Things art exhibit will be displayed throughout July at Bloomingfoods east and near-west side www.bloomingfoods.coop

- Stone Belt Annual Celebration
  Monday, August 22 at 6pm
  Stone Belt will hold its annual celebration at the Bloomington Convention Center.

- August Empowered Learning Series
  Thursday, August 25 from 10am - noon
  Adult Sibling Responsibilities in Families with Special Needs
  IU Innovation Center. Free and open to the public;
  To reserve a seat contact Yolanda Toschlog: 812.332.2168, ext. 269 | communityengagement@stonebelt.org

- 1st Annual Hoosier Buddy Run
  Saturday, October 1 from 10a-noon
  Morgan-Monroe State Forest, Martinsville, IN
  www.downsyndromefamilyconnection.org

- 4th Annual Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome
  Sunday, October 2 at 3pm
  Fun for the whole family. Registration begins at 1pm. The walk begins at 3pm, with refreshments, prizes, and a concert to follow.
  www.buddywalkinbloomington.info

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Stone Belt was honored to have been included in this important program which encourages girls to be strong, smart and bold. We always love having our students participate in Sports Night, a partnership with IU student service learners that provided weekly activities with IU students. A visit from IU Varsity basketball players on one of these evenings was a special highlight.

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Board Officers
Margaret Gilbride, President
Tish Jarino, Vice-President
Tony Armstrong, Treasurer
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Beth Gidley, Past President

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Matthew Minderman, Director of Group Home Program
Susan Rues, Director of Lifelong Learning / Director of South Region
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Nancy Smith, Director of Support Living Program

Summer 2011, Issue 33

Stone Belt 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 Andrew Ashton | aashton@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext. 261
As part of the program, interns spend 2 hours per day in the classroom at Ivy Tech, learning work skills such as resume development, interviewing skills, team building and work ethics. They then spend 4 hours each day working at real-world internships at either Cook Inc. or Ivy Tech. Upon completion of the program each intern will have worked at 3 different internships, developed a polished resume and a set of skills, and ideally have secured professional employment in the community.

To learn more about the program contact Bitta DeWees, Stone Belt Community Employment Director, at 812-335-3507, ext. 273 | bdewees@stonebelt.org

A New Look for The Arc

June 14 of this year marked the official launch date for The Arc (of the United States) re-branding campaign. Their new logo, displayed below, was designed to unify the image of the community and regional Arc chapters and to create national attention for, and recognition of, disability advocacy efforts.

Through effective mental health supports, Stone Belt and its Milestones Clinic create a broad and lasting benefit for the entire community. Individuals with disabilities – who do not have access to mental health services from any other community resource – avoid crisis, therefore living more successfully in the community and also alleviating pressures on hospital emergency rooms and other emergency-response services; children and families are provided with critical early interventions and supports which lead to a reduction in trauma, parent lost-work time, increased academic success, and healthier home environments.

Stone Belt is currently seeking grant funds to assist with the $250,000 cost of the EHR implementation. To date the agency has secured $7700 toward this goal, with much fundraising work yet to be done. Implementation of the EHR will now allow Stone Belt and the Milestones Clinic to provide even more far-reaching, extensive and effective strategies in order to create a mentally healthy community for everyone.

By 2016, all medical and mental health providers accepting Medicaid reimbursements will be required by federal law to fully utilize an EHR. Stone Belt and Milestones are eager to get ahead of the curve by beginning to fully utilize the EHR in our mental health practice as quickly as possible. We recognize the tremendous benefit both to our agency and most certainly to the individuals and families whom we support.

A comprehensive cutting-edge Electronic Health Record (EHR)...

The electronic health record:
stepping into the future of quality care

Follow Stone Belt on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date Stone Belt news and information
STONE BELT’S 2011 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE WINNERS

BOBBI WIGLEY
QUALITY OF SERVICE

As one of the nurses for Stone Belt, Bobbi Wigley provides outstanding service to clients and staff throughout all of Stone Belt’s service areas. Since starting with the agency in June 2006, Bobbi has not only coordinated nursing and other medical services to the clients of the organization, but has also trained numerous staff in medication administration and CPR. This teaching quality extends to clients as well, as she enjoys educating clients about their own health and wellness needs.

CASSIE MIX
POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Recognized for her role in promoting positive outcomes, Cassie Mix was a key motivating force behind the "Food for Thought" food cart, a client operated business operating in the United Way Center in Columbus, IN. This business allows a client to run his own business and build social capital with people who work throughout the building while promoting healthy snack choices. Cassie has been an Employment Consultant with Stone Belt since December 2009.

EMILY MORGAN
OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

A Home Manager in a Bloomington Supported Living site, Emily Morgan has been providing direct support to Stone Belt clients since April 2008. Emily’s site is highly regarded for its effectiveness in not only the way it operates, but in the support each of the clients receive. Emily is regarded by her coworkers as someone with maturity, enthusiasm, and a healthy sense of humor!

JENNY AUSTIN
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Having held various roles at Stone Belt since starting in October 1993, Jenny Austin is in a lead role for the agency in Project SEARCH. This role, a perfect fit for her skills and personality, places her as an instructor for a group of young men and women as they complete internships at both Ivy Tech and Cook Medical. Her communication and collaboration with partners are an asset to Stone Belt and the clients served by Project SEARCH.

MICHELE SHEPHERD
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

A model of efficiency who is often called upon by others to share her tips on being organized and effective, Michele Shepherd has ascended through the HR Department since starting in September 2008. Michele has been a guiding force in ensuring that every “i” is dotted and “t” crossed when completing accreditation processes through CARF and Praesidium. Even as she practices this efficiency, she remains accessible and easy to talk to for employees when they have questions about HR policies and benefits.
The allure of performing is so prevalent that most of us, at one time or another, swing our hearts out into a hairbrush, or strum a power chord on a tennis racket. Sometimes we recite soliloquies to the mirror, or twirl the coat rack around the room; our minds filling in the stage, the costumes, and the adoring spectators. The difference between most of our private fantasies and the dreams of Lennon Beasley is that while we instinctively dose the blinds, Lennon proudly hits the record button on the camera.

Lennon Beasley was born in Indianapolis in 1981 and grew up in Indy and Martinsville. He moved to Bloomington in 2002 and became a client of Stone Belt. Lennon quickly began producing for CATS after seeing a flyer at the downtown Monroe County Public Library; where CATS is located, inviting locals to create programming. His first efforts included a talk show with his friend, and an episode called Rehearsal Pint Show.

Lennon has now produced over 1400 separate episodes across 40 distinct series, making him the most prolific producer in CATS history and earning him the title “Senior Legend Executive Producer” of Community Access Television. In honor of his 1000th episode on CATS, Bloomington Mayor Mark Krusean officially declared September 24, 2010 as “Lennon Beasley Day.”

Some of Lennon’s projects have been short lived, with only a handful of episodes. More often his projects are long-running, such as The Lennon Beasley Drum Show, now nearing its 400th episode. Other examples of his diverse and vast output are: Drum Lines LIVE! (drum show with added live audience), Drum Instruments Today (drums only without accompaniment), Musical Showcase Concert (featuring horns, keyboards, and drums), One Man Stand (a split screen with Lennon playing both piano and drums), Organ Studio, Percussion Studio, Piano Department, Piano Instruments Today, and Rock Around the Clock. The Lennon Beasley Drum Show is perhaps the most popular of his output. Any one of the close to 400 episodes of the show is essentially the same premise: Lennon sits at his drum set in his apartment. He puts on a CD (usually popular, easily recognizable, and enjoyable music) and he drums along - to the entire album. When the CD ends, so does the show. Lennon has simple criteria for his playlist: “I play whatever I like.” The same thing could be said of his guitar show, Party Rock, his Bowling Show, or his dance show, Dance Floor.

This is the artistic world of Lennon Beasley - a musician, writer, actor, and filmmaker who continually creates humble yet mesmerizing productions out of the everyday creativity of his ceaseless imagination. Lennon’s output is so vast that he has created four different series, each with multi-episode seasons, a feature length film, and several shorts. But trying to separate Lennon’s film output, once you have seen some, is to miss the larger point. Each episode is a piece in a larger creative work: that of the free form community video artist.

Lennon takes the community aspect of Community Television quite seriously. He is known and loved around the CATS studios, where he spends at least 40 hours a week, by hieutatination. When asked if there was any other community member who produced as much as Lennon, one CATS staff member chuckled and said, “No one even comes close.” His production also extends outside his own talents. Lennon produces Tuesday Night Live Music, which documents the Player’s Pub (a local favorite in Bloomington)Tuesday Blues Jam. Additionally, he has created the Lennon Beasley Monthly Report, wherein Lennon details the monthly events of Bloomington.

Clearly Lennon is at home at CATS (he celebrates his birthday every year with the staff) and he should be. Two long shelves in the video archive labeled “The Lennon Beasley Collection” are a clear testament to an artist who has found a home to exercise his creative impulses.

In preparation for the writing of this article, I learned much about Stone Belt’s guiding principles: the essential nature of self-determination; the belief that all people have contributions to make; the recognition that social life and relationships create quality of life. I became a fan of Lennon Beasley and his works of art because of his creative vision and his unique perspective on the world. What I have now come to understand is that Lennon embodies not only this creative spark, but also the self-determination to exemplify the values which make our entire community more complete. I’ll be following the work of Lennon Beasley for a long time to come.

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www.GoodSearch.com

Shop at over 1,500 GoodShop.com merchants like Amazon and Walmart and a percentage of each purchase will go to Stone Belt.

www.GoodShop.com

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celebrating client contributions

Eric Ford, Lifelong Learning Coordinator

Mark Summit’s audience sits in the sun drenched room at the Richland Bean Blossom Health Care Center, some with feet propped in recliners, some in wheel chairs, and a few passing in the tiled hallway to catch a piece of the song. Some men and women sing with Mark, others listen quietly, and everyone who is able claps.

“Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me,” Mark sings, while his slender fingers seek out the piano’s keys, and his voice rises above the grand instrument as the last piano note fades into Friday afternoon’s air. Mark concludes his nearly two hour long set and quietly contemplates the applause before giving an earnest “thank you” to his fans. Mark then reaches down for his cane under the bench and gently takes the arm of a Stone Belt direct support professional and bids his friends farewell.

Mark performs as a volunteer for the nursing facility every second and last Friday of the month. “He’s been coming [for] several years, very faithfully,” remarked Activator Director Cheryl Jacque. “It’s amazing that he’s blind. Our residents love him; they really appreciate him so much.”

“Mark never ceases to impress with his encyclopedic knowledge of piano tunes that he shares so joyfully and humbly. He’s always glad to grant requests and recently even gave an impromptu performance at an unexpected talent show to great applause,” explained Stone Belt employee Josh Gilius.

Mark volunteers through Stone Belt’s Lifelong Learning Program. Stone Belt supports clients in a variety of volunteer settings including Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Monroe County Humane Association, Area 10 Agency on Aging’s Meals on Wheels, Community Kitchen, and YMCA (just to name a few). Volunteer positions are a great source of social capital for individuals with developmental disabilities, yet another valuable opportunity to make friends, build peer groups, while showcasing personal talents and personality gifts.
People We Remember

Two Wonderful Women

Early this year, our Stone Belt community lost two special members, mother and daughter, Mary Ann and Martha Hines. The Hines family began their relationship with Stone Belt when their daughter, Martha, enrolled in the Stone Belt day program and then moved into one of the agency’s group homes (Miller Home) in the late 90’s.

Tim and Mary Ann, Martha’s parents, have for years been major supporters of Stone Belt’s mission through their work service, advocacy, and visionary giving. Tim shared, “Martha has had a great impact on our family in so many positive ways. Because of her, the entire family is passionate about supporting individuals with disabilities.” Tim has been very involved in this cause by giving many years of service at multiple Arc Chapters, including Stone Belt, where he served on the board of directors from 1998-2010. His service was recognized publicly when he was honored at the Arc of Indiana 2010 Annual Appreciation Luncheon by receiving their highest award, the Swanmore Award. Mary Ann gave her time by participating along with Tim and Martha in various fundraising events and social activities at Miller Home and Stone Belt.

Sadly, Mary Ann passed away in January of 2011. Two weeks later, while the family did their best to cope with this loss, Martha suddenly passed away as well. Amidst the Hines family’s grief they continued to demonstrate their ongoing support for Stone Belt. The family requested that Mary Ann and Martha’s memories be honored through contributions to Stone Belt. When asked about how the family made this decision, Tim reflected, “It was a natural conclusion for us. We didn’t even need to think about it. Stone Belt has done so much for our family.”

As a result, Stone Belt received more than $7,000 in memorial donations from more than 100 donors.

Mary Ann and Martha touched the lives of everyone they met. As a result, many people responded with a tremendous show of generosity, positively impacting the whole of our Stone Belt community. Mary Ann and Martha will be remembered for their kindness, openness and warmth.

A Visionary Community Leader

Bill Cook was a well known local philanthropist and entrepreneur who passed away in April of this year. Throughout Indiana and beyond, people mourned the loss of such a prominent community leader. Mr. Cook was well known as the founder of Cook, Inc, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of medical equipment. At Stone Belt he was also known as a powerful advocate, employer, and friend. He partnered with the agency to actualize its mission to prepare, empower and support individuals with disabilities to participate fully in the life of the community. Mr. Cook helped make this possible by contracting with Stone Belt’s manufacturing services to provide work opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

Nearly everyone understands the vital role that employment plays in the lives of the general population. Yet many don’t recognize that it is equally important for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Cook understood. As a result of his visionary partnership, more than 400 Stone Belt clients have received meaningful employment in the life sciences industry.

Working in such an important industry has been a real boost for many clients. “They and their families have a true sense of belonging to the community and that what they do is very important. While making money is always a plus, to be proud of what you do and know that it is changing lives is even better,” said Karen Freeman Manufacturing Director. Stone Belt has been so grateful for this partnership, that the agency has awarded several recognitions to Mr. Cook and Cook, Inc. over the years, honoring their commitment and dedication to individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Cook’s visionary partnership and friendship to Stone Belt will always be remembered, and his legacy will continue on through the agency’s strong partnership with the company he founded.

Stone Belt brings in more than $47,000 to support programs

Praesidium Accreditation

Stone Belt has been awarded accreditation by Praesidium, Inc., the leader in risk management. Praesidium accreditation is a prestigious honor that publicly demonstrates to clients, family members and the community—as well as insurance underwriters—that Stone Belt has worked to achieve the highest industry standards in abuse prevention.

To attain accreditation, Stone Belt underwent a rigorous risk assessment to review and scrutinize eight primary operational areas within its operations, including: policies, screening and selection, training, monitoring and supervision, client participation, feedback systems, responding and administrative systems. Assessment results were benchmarked against The Safety Equation—800 best practice standards and empirically based data collection methods. Stone Belt will now be accredited for three years.

“We are pleased to send the message that we will not compromise the safety of those we support, for any reason,” said Leslie Green CEO. “As an entire organization, we are dedicated and committed to proactively keeping those we support safe.”

For more information on Praesidium accreditation, visit www.praesidiuminc.com

Stone Belt is pleased to have once again been awarded $15,000 for 2011 NAP tax credits—creating a fundraising goal of $30,000. The credits go quickly, so please be in touch with the Community Engagement Department as soon as possible if you are interested in taking advantage of this wonderful giving program.

Stone Belt has recently received 2 exciting grants: $7700 from the City of Bloomington Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund to support the implementation of our transition to an Electronic Health Record. This is the first of what we hope will be many grants to fully fund this important new project. This grant will fund the purchase of some of the hardware required to transition to an Electronic Health Record through Miller Home and Stone Belt. We have also received $10,000 from the local Rotary District to purchase a set of therapeutic drums and a drumming curriculum for use in our multi-region Lifelong Learning Program.

Donating with the Celebrities Recap

On Saturday, May 21, Stone Belt participated for the third year in the community-wide fundraising event, “Dancing with the Celebrities.” Fashioned off of the hit TV show, “Dancing with the Stars,” six local celebrity dancers each learned dance moves and partnered with their favorite charity to raise dollars to support programs.

Our dancer this year was Michael Fox, general manager of Lennex’s restaurant in Bloomington and a Stone Belt Board Member. Michael worked diligently for 4 months to master his dance moves. During those 4 months, Stone Belt and Michael partnered together to hold a variety of fundraising events, including a client dance, private donor-hosted parties, mailings, dinner-to-donate nights, and more. Through our fundraising efforts this year, Stone Belt brought in more than $47,000 to support programs of excellence—this is twice as much as last year, and more than the combined total of our first two years of participation.

We are tremendously grateful to Michael and all of the generous donors who supported Stone Belt in this effort. And Michael and his dance partner, Tiffany, looked amazing on the dance floor!

Recent Grants

Donate $15,000 for 2011 NAP tax credits – creating a fundraising goal of $30,000.

For more information on any of the programs described above, please contact Amy Jackson, Community Engagement Director, at 812-332-2168 ext. 314 | ajackson@stonebelt.org

For more information on praesidium accreditation, visit www.praesidiuminc.com

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Every gift to Stone Belt makes a significant difference. Contributions go directly toward achieving excellence in client support, innovative staff training and development, and the creation of substantive programs that impact thousands of lives.

Our community is stronger when every individual experiences success. Visionary donors help empower people with disabilities to form meaningful relationships, live independently, experience professional employment, contribute to the building of community, and develop new life skills.

Help Stone Belt make our community a better place for us all. Consider a gift to our Annual Fund today. Gifts can be made online through our secure website, at www.stonebelt.org, or by using the enclosed envelope.
Join Stone Belt for the **2011 Empowered Learning Series**, designed to educate the community about disability issues. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Questions? Contact the Stone Belt Community Engagement Department at 812-332-2168, ext. 269 | communityengagement@stonebelt.org | [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

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**Adult Sibling Responsibilities**

*In families with special needs*

**Thursday, August 25**

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**Grief & Loss**

*In families with special needs*

**Thursday, November 17**

Follow us on our website, twitter and facebook for events, news and updates