Holiday Art Sale
celebrating the artistry of individuals with disabilities from our community & around the globe

The sale will feature framed and unframed original works by Stone Belt client artists, our beautiful new 2013 Art Calendars and new holiday note cards featuring client art.

There will also be global crafts for sale, hand-selected by Global Gifts (a local non-profit fair trade store) to highlight and celebrate the artistry of people with disabilities from around the globe.

Saturday, December 8
10 am - 4 pm
Stone Belt Art Gallery
107 West 9th Street in Bloomington
www.stonebelt.org | artgallery@stonebelt.org

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 presents news & information for individuals with disabilities, families, friends and our community
Q&A with O’Connell McKeon Case, Milestones’ New Associate Director

What brought you to Milestones?
In June, I married Mark Case, who was hired at IU as the Director of Career Development at SPEA (School of Public and Environmental Affairs), here in Bloomington. I was living near the Chesapeake Bay of Virginia and working for a community mental health agency that had great values and was known for being creative and innovative. I was looking for an agency with similar values and innovation with a real commitment to the people they serve. Stone Belt and Milestones fit the bill.

Where have you worked?
I have done a variety of different jobs over the years, but they all have given me tools that assist me today. After undergraduate school, I moved back to Richmond, Virginia and managed a cardiology practice with 5 physicians with supporting nurses, medical assistants, and office staff for three locations. After my daughter was born, I worked part-time for my father in his consulting engineering business where I installed industries for special populations, including individuals with developmental disabilities and visual impairment. I assisted my father in writing proposals, creating programs, marketing and bookkeeping. I then added another part-time job as the Director of Commonwealth Parenting Center at Henrico Doctors’ Hospital where we grew from one workshop for parents with children with ADD/ADHD, to 15 workshops and numerous presentations on a variety of parenting issues from new mothers to gifted children’s special needs.

When I moved to the Chesapeake Bay area, I was a Probation Counselor for ASAP (Alcohol Safety Action Program), and worked with individuals who had been convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs. After 4 years, and my return to school for a Masters in Social Work, I went to work with the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board, in emergency services. Then, my career path began to make sense. Since I already had the management, financial and marketing experience, when I completed my MSW degree, I was promoted to Intensive Community Services (managing crisis services and case management for the agency). In that position, I conducted substance abuse groups, had a small therapy caseload and assisted other departments with program development. About 9 years ago, I was hired to be the Director of Clinical Services, which covered mental health and substance abuse services for all populations, in the 10-county, 2200 square mile catchment area.

Where are you from?
I was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, when my father was in Engineering School at the University of Virginia. We then moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, from age 2 to 12, then moved to Richmond, Virginia. So, I would say I am from Virginia. My undergraduate degree is a BA in History from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. 21 years ago, I moved to a small town on the Chesapeake Bay, called Urbanna, with a population of 600. In 1999, I graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Masters in Social Work.

What do you consider your greatest strength?
I think my leadership skills are my greatest strength. I love to empower both staff and clients and I enjoy finding and implementing solutions to challenges. “Can’t” is not in my vocabulary. I believe and appreciate that everyone brings contributions to this world. Working with staff and clients to access these is my greatest joy.

What is one thing you would like readers to know about you?
I am always looking for possibilities and opportunities in any situation. I discourage a right/wrong conversation and instead flip the conversation to what is working or not working.

Tell readers about yourself outside of work...
I love the beach and like to go to Nags Head, N.C. each summer. The hardest part about living in Indiana is being so far from the beach and water. My husband has promised me a week at the beach each year. On the other hand, I love college basketball and Indiana has great basketball.

Has anything surprised you in your time with Stone Belt / Milestones so far?
I knew that Stone Belt/Milestones were very committed and creative in their programs. I am surprised by the variety, creativity, and quality of the programs/staff was beyond my expectations.

Stone Belt • touchstone • FALL 2012

FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Thursday, November 29
10 am - noon

Have you created a will or trust which leaves funds to support a dependent with special needs?

Have you identified a guardian for the future needs of your dependent?

Have you named your dependent as the beneficiary of life insurance or a retirement plan?

live in Bloomington
@ the IU Innovation Center
2719 East 10th Street

video conferenced in Columbus
@ the Doug Otto United Way Center, 1531 13th Street

Space is limited. This event is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a space contact rsvp@stonebelt.org or call 812.332.2168 ext. 269

for more information, visit www.stonebelt.org

THE Stone Belt EMPOWERED LEARNING SERIES PRESENTS

Stone Belt                        Touchstone Reporter sat down with O’Connell to get to know her a little better.
By the time you read this, the elections of 2012 will be concluded. Regardless of who wins which races, the need for advocacy and education on disability issues will be more important than ever. We spent the fall doing voter education to encourage clients, staff and families to vote for the candidates of their choice. Now we will spend time educating constituents on the various issues that impact people with disabilities and the services they receive. For example, the fate of Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security, now being debated in Washington, will directly impact citizens with disabilities who depend upon them for health, safety and community-based services. The Arc, the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and of which Stone Belt is an affiliate, provides excellent resources to educate you on the impact of potential changes in the Medicaid system. You can read more about it at www.thearc.org on the “All Policies Issues” link. You can also sign up there to receive action alerts when significant issues are being debated. This will be especially important in the upcoming months as Congress wrestles with budget issues. The same goes for our State legislature, The Indiana General Assembly. They will be in session in Indianapolis from January to April deciding upon the State Budget as well as other policy issues important for people with disabilities. The Arc of Indiana will keep you up to date on the activities of the General Assembly if you sign up for their action alerts at www.arcmd.org.

Personal contact between constituents and lawmakers is the most effective form of advocacy and education. If you have not done so already, now would be a good time to write or call your lawmakers to let them know about the issues that are important to you. Let them know how you or your loved one is positively supported through the services received. Emphasize the positive contributions made by people with disabilities who work and live in the local community. If you need assistance determining who your current representatives are, both The Arc and The Arc of Indiana websites listed above can guide you to finding their names and contact information.

As we move from the election season into the holiday season, we take the time to thank those who have made a difference to us over the past year. As you will see in this issue of Touchstone, we have many things to celebrate including outstanding accomplishments by clients and staff alike, the success of our art programs and the engagement by donors and supporters in helping us to fulfill our mission. We thank you for strengthening Stone Belt. In these challenging times, we continue to see progress being made on so many fronts because of the broad-based support we receive from clients, families, employees, public officials, volunteers and donors. We hope the upcoming holidays are a joyful and rewarding time for you and yours.

Front Cover: Leslie Green pictured second from right with Stone Belt clients & staff

From the CEO

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Regards,

Leslie Green, Chief Executive Officer

upcoming events

- **November Empowered Learning Series - Financial Planning for Families with Special Needs**
  - Thursday, November 29, 10 am - noon
  - Live in Bloomington @ the IU Innovation Center (2719 East 10th Street)
  - Videoconferenced in Columbus (@ the Doug Otto United Way Center (1531 13th Street)

- **Stone Belt Art Gallery Holiday Sale**
  - Saturday, December 8, 10 am - 4 pm
  - Stone Belt Art Gallery
  - 107 West 9th Street in Bloomington
  - www.stonebelt.org | artgallery@stonebelt.org

- **Stone Belt Holiday Day Facility Closings**

- **February Art Opening**
  - Friday, February 1st, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
  - The Stone Belt Art Gallery (in the lobby of the Bloomington Playwright’s Project)
  - 107 West 9th Street in Bloomington
  - www.stonebelt.org | artgallery@stonebelt.org

This is a QR Code. What is this? If scanned with an iPhone or Android device it will direct you to Stone Belt’s Facebook page where you can “Like” us and share our great work with your friends!

Stone Belt Clients Melinda Owens and Alan Barrett pictured with the Mt. Pleasant “Friendship Garden” provided by the church for church members to manage.

end
in brief

On October 9th, eight Project SEARCH interns celebrated their participation in the program. (Above pictured L/R): Anna DeWitt, Matthew Wol gast, Iain Vollman, Tyler Flynn, Kameron Breedlove, Michael Morrow, Kegan Epperson and Amanda Wilson.

Project SEARCH is a 7 month internship program which provides training and education leading to the employment of young adult individuals with disabilities. Project SEARCH is a partnership between Stone Belt, Cook Inc, Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana Family and Social Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Indiana University’s Institute on Disability and Community.

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 or visit www.stonebelt.org

Creating Community Impact
by Barry Lessow, Executive Director of United Way of Monroe County

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 26 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 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.

for more information about contributing to the United Way campaign, visit www.monroeunitedway.org
2012 Annual Awards Winners

Community Partner Award
- Bloomington Pediatric Dentistry
  - Best Buddies & Brittany Glaze, President
  - Chris Rohrig

Self-Determination Award
- Mindy Lutichka
- Loretta Patterson
- Mandy Ratazzi

Empowered Learning Award
- Amanda Wilson
- Carrie Elkin
- Misty Lawyer

Outstanding Contributions Award
- Betty Higgins
- Jennifer Hammond
- Pat Baker

Home Life Award
- Chris Rahrig
- Cynthia Wolff
- John Thayer

Quality of Life Award
- Marcus Dobson
- Eric Roemer

Volunteer of the Year Award
- Mandy Ratazzi

Hero Award
- Carolyn Abbitt

Self-Advocate Award
- Loretta Patterson

Empowered Learning Award
- Amanda Wilson
- Carrie Elkin
- Misty Lawyer

Outstanding Contributions Award
- Betty Higgins
- Jennifer Hammond
- Pat Baker

Home Life Award
- Chris Rahrig
- Cynthia Wolff
- John Thayer

Quality of Life Award
- Marcus Dobson
- Eric Roemer

Employment Award
- not pictured: John Hanlon
- Terry Smith
The Arc of Indiana, the primary advocacy organization speaking out for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Indiana, honored several employees and programs of Stone Belt and Milestones Clinic at their annual awards ceremony on October 3, 2012. Stone Belt is the local chapter of The Arc in Monroe County.

Maureen Gahan, Director of Milestones Clinical and Health Resources, a division of Stone Belt, was awarded the John Dickerson Executive Renewal Grant.

Melanie Hays, a direct support professional who has been employed by Stone Belt since 2004, received The Arc’s Cathleen Clark Professional Service Award.

Milestones Clinical and Health Resources and its clinical director, Dr. Melinda Weakly (pictured right), were honored with The Arc’s newly established Health Care Award.

The Bloomington Lifelong Learning Arts Education Program, led by Stone Belt Arc’s Karen Holtzclaw (pictured left; back row) and Michelle Davenport (pictured right), received The Arc’s Innovation Award, honoring innovative programs and services provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

did you know?

Stone Belt offers an easy and convenient way to support individuals with disabilities and excellence in programs. Donations to our general fund can now be made on the Stone Belt website. All gifts help individuals reach their full potential.

make your online gift today @ www.stonebelt.org
For me, the question of why I give to Stone Belt would be better phrased, "Why don’t I give a whole lot more?" Because Stone Belt gives so much to our community and to my family.

Parenting a child with disabilities is often lonely and isolating. There are certainly joys and rewards, but the daily challenges create a world that can be difficult for others to share or really even believe. As a parent you learn to keep quiet and just smile when others proudly announce their child’s milestones and achievements, ones your child will most likely never accomplish. And you try to nod sympathetically when someone describes a difficult morning, knowing you’ll never have one that easy. I know there have been many times and locations when others would have preferred my family stay home after witnessing my daughter’s very public meltdowns.

Stone Belt, however, offers to all of us a bountiful source of acceptance, understanding and opportunity. It is not the physical spaces of the agency, alone, that specifically provide this warm welcome; it’s the collective spirit of compassion and generosity offered by the staff members who work there. This spirit pervades our community with each piece of client artwork purchased, each job offered to a client by a local business, each inclusive field trip organized, each letter written by a board member or friend to a policy maker to advocate for quality services. Stone Belt’s work continues to open and widen the hearts of everyone in our community to those of us with disabilities. And when my daughter encounters this spirit of compassion and generosity, she becomes Katie – not merely her Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or her behavior, or her special needs. By providing opportunities for Katie and others with disabilities to be the absolute most and best they can be, Stone Belt raises the bar for all of us to do the same. I think it’s time to dig a little deeper and write another check. I’m grateful that I can, when so many cannot. Thanks, Stone Belt, for all you do for us all!

Another check. I'm grateful that I can, when so many cannot. Thanks, Stone Belt, for all you do for us all!
Art Gallery Update

If you have not had a chance to visit The Stone Belt Art Gallery (in the lobby of the Bloomington Playwrights Project), you are missing out on a colorful, eye opening experience. Exciting new works are hung regularly, so stop by and see what Stone Belt artists have been up to!

The September opening reception introduced the first exhibit to include Bedford and Columbus client artwork. Now all three Stone Belt service regions are represented by beautifully showcased artwork in the Bloomington community. This exhibit, themed “Taking the World by Storm”, empowered Stone Belt artists to explore new cultures and artistic techniques from continents around the world. Artists created an array of unique new works specifically for the show. Ten pieces sold in the three weeks following the opening, which is a tremendous testament to the artists’ abilities and creativity. All of the contributing artists, as well as each region’s art instructors, should be very proud of the artwork produced this year.

The gallery is also excited to announce its new auxiliary partnership with the Downtown Bloomington Gallery Walk beginning in 2013. While the gallery has participated in Gallery Walk Fridays in the past, it will now be added to the official Gallery Walk map and included in their marketing materials distributed throughout the community. This is an excellent stride towards increasing awareness of the artistic abilities of individuals with disabilities.

This new affiliation will come with some changes to the 2013 schedule. The gallery will still occasionally have special exhibits to showcase a large selection of new works created for a theme. The next exhibit will open on Friday, February 1st, and will introduce a new crop of Stone Belt’s signature mixed media mosaics. The gallery will also now highlight the work of a single artist (on our new Featured Artist wall) on Gallery Walk Fridays - the first Fridays of even numbered months. Additionally, the gallery will be open to the public in the evenings on first Fridays of odd numbered months. These will be open house opportunities to view the current collection, after business hours and without the crowd of an opening reception. Check Stone Belt’s online calendar (at www.stonebelt.org) for individual event details and updates.

Be sure to swing by the last gallery event of 2012: a Holiday Sale with Global Gifts on Saturday, December 8th, 10 am-4 pm. The gallery is partnering with Global Gifts (a local non-profit gift store associated with Fair Trade Bloomington) to showcase arts and crafts from the worldwide disabilities community. The sale will feature framed and unframed original works by Stone Belt client artists, our beautiful new 2013 Art Calendars, and new holiday note cards featuring client art. There will also be global crafts for sale, hand-selected by Global Gifts to highlight and celebrate the artistry of people with disabilities from around the globe.

The 2013 Art Calendars are now available for purchase at the Stone Belt Art Gallery, Global Gifts, By Hand Gallery, any Stone Belt regional office and by contacting the Community Engagement Department at communityengagement@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext 314.

To learn more about The Stone Art Gallery contact Jana Lashbrook, Community Engagement Associate, at artgallery@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext 269.