Employment

What Can Community Employment do for Your Business?

Stone Belt Community Employment Services assists individuals with disabilities to choose, obtain and retain employment in integrated settings. Stone Belt Employment Services operate out of all three of Stone Belt’s regions: Bloomington, Bedford and Columbus.

Employed

Rosie Fitzpatrick works part-time at the Indiana University Motor Pool as a custodian. She has been there 10 years. Her job duties include sweeping, washing dishes, mopping floors, and keeping the facility in tip-top shape. Rosie does a terrific job with all of her tasks; but if one were to ask any of Rosie’s coworkers about her employment there, their responses would not focus on her job duties, but on the camaraderie they enjoy as a team. Every single employee at the IU Motor Pool takes time from their day to say hello to Rosie or to exchange friendly jokes back and forth. The IU Motor Pool staff makes it a priority to include Rosie in all company events and holiday parties. Rosie’s supervisor, Mike Hardisty, says, “Rosie is absolutely a pleasure!! When I retire I will miss her. I have told her I would need to come and share her “breaks” with her!”

Seeking Employment

Rhonda Duzan currently works at the Stone Belt Life Sciences Workshop four days a week, but has been seeking community employment since January 2011. Previously, Rhonda had worked at O’Charley’s Restaurant in Bloomington for nine years as a utensil “roller”, where she enjoyed the active atmosphere of co-workers and patrons. O’Charley’s unfortunately had to eliminate her position due to the economic downturn, but this setback did not deter her tenacity for seeking new employment! Rhonda now is looking for a career change leading her to pursue positions in retail; specifically places that specialize in women’s apparel. She is looking for a job that is 10–15 hours per week.

Employed

Sam began working at Elliott Stone in December of 1996 through Vocational Rehabilitation. Accommodations were made with his employer so that Sam could perform the duties they needed him to do. Sam cut metal bands to go around stone. These had to be a certain length. The employer made a wooden box the length they needed so Sam would roll out the band in the box and then knew where to cut them. Sam worked there until November of 2009. There were lay offs at the time due to the economy. Sam went back into Vocational Rehabilitation seeking employment. He worked two jobs - Father Forever & Habitat for Humanity Restore - until they had to make cuts, also. Sam went back into Vocational Rehabilitation and is currently working at D&D Star Stop. He just started in May of this year. Sam is doing great and they love that he is such a stellar employee.

Employment is a fundamental part of adult life in our society. Holding a job not only provides the ability to purchase life essentials; it also improves self image, self-esteem and the perception of one’s worth in the community.

In the past year Stone Belt’s Community Employment Program has helped 47 people find jobs, and has supported 113 people who are working, as well as 41 who are seeking. The clients we support earn an average of $7.81 per hour, and work an average of 18 hours per week. The average job retention of clients who receive support from our program is 4.5 years!

We invite the community to partner with us to build upon this success! Help us make connections between Stone Belt and the business community, and inspire more people to join us in successfully employing individuals with disabilities.

Together we can change the world, one job at a time!

Manufacturing

What Can Manufacturing do for Your Business?

Stone Belt Manufacturing Services has a wide range of reasonably priced services. All services are provided with an unrivaled level of excellence. Manufacturing services operate out of Bloomington & Bedford, with the following capacities:

Product Packaging
- Shrink Wrap
- Heat Seal
- Poly Bagging
- Electronic Weight

Document Destruction
- Collating and
- Document Destruction
- Collating
- High Volume Shredding
- Disposal

Light Fabrication and Leather
- Hand Tool Assembly
- Machine Assembly
- Drilling
- Sanding
- Riveting
- Leather Product Creation:
  - Bookmarks
  - Coasters
  - Key Fobs
  - Belts

Light Assembly Line Work
- Assembly
- Kitting
- Labeling
- Cartoning

Work Services strives to help participants learn work skills, habits and attitudes that will lead them to success in community employment. These skills include getting along with co-workers, handling disagreements, producing quality work, learning to request time off and demonstrating good attendance and punctuality. This program allows individuals to experience earning a paycheck and the pride that comes with it. Currently 40 clients are employed in Bedford and 83 are employed in Bloomington through Stone Belt’s Manufacturing Program.

To find out more about prices, services and programs please contact Karen Freeman, Director of Manufacturing, at kfreeman@stonebelt.org or call 812.332.2168 ext. 355

to find out more about Community Employment Services please contact Bitta DeWees, Director of Employment, at bdewees@stonebelt.org or call 812.335.5907 ext. 273
Happy New Year! Yes, for Stone Belt this is the New Year – Fiscal Year 2013. Beginning this year, we have started a new 3 year Strategic Plan. Visit our website to view the plan and the goals we will undertake in FY 2013.

**Highlights of the plan include:**

- Creating an Employment First culture in all of our programs. In keeping with our principle that employment is a fundamental part of adult life, we want to increase the emphasis we place on all adults in our programs having career goals and seeking community employment. Several initiatives will be going on to support this outcome.

- Increasing the number of people we serve in Lifelong Learning programs. This might include having additional people in the current programs or offering additional options such as evening and week-end activities.

- Offering services to youth with disabilities. Many more families will begin to receive services for their sons and daughters living at home. We will be exploring what types of supports these families may want and need, as we feel we have the expertise and resources to serve them well.

- Supporting families with in-home behavioral supports. Again, we want to use our current expertise to serve children in their family home. We feel that offering behavioral supports can prevent some of these children’s issues, while they are still young, from becoming more severe in the future.

There are many other organizational objectives related to financial performance, fundraising, advocacy, training and use of information technology. I hope you’ll take a few minutes to review the document.

State Plans – several of the objectives we have for this year are made in response to some changes the state is developing. Much of their focus is on trying to reduce the size of the waiting list for services – currently at about 19,000 people. In the near future a Family Support Waiver will be offered to clients whose names come to the top of the list. For most people the Family Support Waiver will not be sufficient to provide full-time residential services, but it will help individuals get some in-home support services, day services and respite, among other things.

Election Season – Our elected leaders influence, or in some case determine, much of what we do at Stone Belt and, in fact, some of our lives in general. I hope you are paying attention to local, state and national races for office. It is important to learn about the candidates and what they endorse or oppose. If elected, they will have an influence on services to people with disabilities, as well as on our dedicated workforce. I encourage you to get informed on the issues related to disabilities by going to www.arcind.org and clicking on the legislative action button.

I wish you all the best this summer, and I thank you for your ongoing support of Stone Belt. You help us to do important and life-changing work, both for the clients we support and for the community that is enriched through our efforts.

Best regards,

Leslie Green, Chief Executive Officer
A Partnership to be Proud of: Stone Belt and the Arc of Lawrence County

Stone Belt is proud of the many significant partner-agency relationships we have built throughout the communities we serve. One of the longest standing positive partnerships we have is in Bedford, Indiana, with the Arc of Lawrence County (also known as LARC).

LARC is a local disabilities advocacy organization, serving as the voice for individuals and their families in the Bedford area. An all-volunteer group, LARC is a non-profit (like Stone Belt) with a board of directors. Although not a service provider itself, LARC has for many years owned a wonderful building in Bedford, suitable for education programs, on-site manufacturing employment, and administration. The partnership between Stone Belt and LARC began in the 1970s, when LARC reached out to our agency to invite us to become a service provider within their facilities. Today, Stone Belt supports more than one hundred individuals in the Bedford area, with the LARC building serving as its home base.

The collaboration between Stone Belt and LARC is long standing, substantive and meaningful. LARC generously provides its building free of charge, making it financially possible for Stone Belt to operate in this regional location. In return, Stone Belt provides programs of excellence for the Bedford community, including lifelong learning, on-site manufacturing and educational opportunities for individuals. The two organizations share a common vision and mission - to create the highest quality outcomes in the lives of individuals with disabilities. For decades now, the partnership has enabled hundreds of individuals and their families to experience success, self-determination and community inclusion.

Stone Belt is pleased to have two members of the LARC board serve on the Stone Belt board of directors, as well. Patrick Robbins and Angie Timan share their enthusiasm, expertise and dedication with both organizations; by doing so they also strengthen them both. The arrangement of shared board members has insured that communication between the two organizations is always open, clear and effective.

Both Stone Belt and LARC serve as their county’s Arc chapter. The Arc is a national advocacy organization that unflinchingly works to ensure that the rights and abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities are acknowledged and respected. All donors to either Stone Belt or LARC automatically receive membership in The Arc, lending their voices locally, regionally, and nationally to advocacy on behalf of the disabilities community.

Stone Belt recently hosted a group of surveyors from our accrediting body, CARF. During this visit, nearly every aspect of the organization was examined to ensure conformance in the areas that lead to quality services for the clients and families served by the organization. The official report was overwhelmingly positive and provided Stone Belt with a three-year accreditation (the highest possible) for the seventh time in a row!

As the Human Resources Director for Stone Belt, one of the highlights in the report was the tremendous affirmation of the good work being done by our employees. They summarized their observations by saying:

“The staff members are motivated, responsive, enthusiastic, and passionate in serving clients. Staff member retention is extremely impressive. The staff are highly dedicated to the persons served and are knowledgeable of all available community resources. A strong team feeling is evident throughout all service areas.”

Later, the surveyors also commented on the Stone Belt staff and their pursuit of excellence:

“Staff members believe that excellence comes not only from the mastery of knowledge, but also from compassion, dedication, and respect, and that understanding each person’s individual needs is the staff’s first step toward excellence.”

CARF standards are continually evaluated and updated to maintain the highest possible level of quality in the programs that choose to go through CARF for accreditation. Many of the services provided by Stone Belt require accreditation by an outside entity in order to qualify for funding. Stone Belt is proud to continue to show CARF survey teams that we are committed to our mission to prepare, empower, and support those we serve and help them achieve the best possible quality of life in the communities where they live, work, and play.

For more information on CARF Accreditations visit http://www.carf.org or contact Senior Director of Human Resources, Brad Gallin, at bgallin@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext. 274

For more information about the Stone Belt Art Gallery exhibits and hours of operation, contact Community Engagement Associate, Jana Lashbrook, at argallery@stonebelt.org | 812.332.2168 ext. 200

| A Partnership to Be Proud of: Stone Belt and the Arc of Lawrence County |

Stone Belt Art Gallery is switching things up! We have restructured our calendar of events to best showcase and celebrate the outstanding works of our client artists.

Starting this summer, the gallery will hold three new exhibition openings per year, coinciding with opening night receptions for ground breaking new plays at the Bloomington Playwright’s Project — where our gallery lives and thrives. These exhibitions will debut new original works by talented artists from all three Stone Belt service regions, featuring fun and thought provoking themes. Art patrons are invited to join us for refreshments while discussing their favorite pieces.

In addition to these exhibit openings, the gallery will regularly hold smaller scale receptions, coinciding with Bloomington’s First Friday Gallery Walks, showcasing works currently in the gallery’s rotation. Art on display will include current exhibition pieces as well as seasoned favorites, all available for purchase.

The Stone Belt arts program empowers artists with disabilities to develop their capacity for creative expression, increasing their sense of personal identity and dignity. The gallery’s exhibitions offer clients artistic validation, enhancement of their self-esteem, and opportunity to work as a professional artist. Since the opening of the gallery in October of 2011, more than sixty pieces of original art have sold; with each sale comes increased community awareness and understanding of the exceptional artistic vision of people with disabilities.

Stone Belt Art Gallery 2012-2013 Exhibit and Reception Schedule

(All receptions take place on Friday evenings, 5:30-8 pm)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th align="left">Taking the World by Storm</th>
<th align="left">Winter Show</th>
<th align="left">Spring Show</th>
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<tr>
<td align="left">September 28th - January 25th</td>
<td align="left">February 1st - May 10th</td>
<td align="left">May 17th - August 30th</td>
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<td align="left">Reception: Sept. 28th</td>
<td align="left">Reception: Feb. 1st</td>
<td align="left">Reception: May 17th</td>
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Also join us for First Friday Gallery Walk receptions: 8/3, 10/5, 12/7, & 4/5
Website Redesign!

The Stone Belt Website has been redesigned to attract more Web traffic and improve efficiency. The most noticeable change is the new mosaic tile design that appears at the upper middle of the front-page.

This redesign was in response to many requests from Stone Belt programs to have more prominent “real-estate” on the most noticeable place of the Website. The hope is that people will be able to find where they want to go on the Website much quicker than they could before the redesign (previously it took visitors, on average, nearly two minutes to find what they wanted to click on!).

Another great update to the Website is the creation of a “front-and-center” area for Stone Belt event announcements. The Website will continue to have the news boxes at the bottom, but the “Upcoming Stone Belt Events” box allows us to market current events more prominently. The last addition is the social media boxes at the bottom of the page. These boxes will hopefully drive more followers, readers and posters to our social media outlets (we need as many as we can get to raise awareness!).

Social Media

As of the printing of this issue of Touchstone, Stone Belt now has 425 “likes” on Facebook, 82 “followers” on Twitter and over 100 views on the Stone Belt Blog. This means that we are consistently reaching 600+ people on a daily basis with important news, information and events. Following Stone Belt through social media provides the community with a fast, effective and easy way to stay on top of all things Stone Belt, and important timely happenings in the disability community.

Online Giving

As a non-profit organization, Stone Belt relies on the generosity of donors to support our programs of excellence. Gifts of any size have a profound daily impact on the lives of our deserving clients. However, many of our friends and supporters are not yet aware of the easy, convenient and secure option of online giving and electronic support.

Through Stone Belt’s Website, donors may make a one-time or recurring gift using a credit card. We partner with a company called PledgeConnect, which facilitates online philanthropy. No donor information is stored on the Website by Stone Belt, making it secure and confidential. We hope that donors will check out the intuitive giving page to see how easy and satisfying it is!

What if Stone Belt earned a donation every time you searched the internet? How about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? All of this is possible with GoodSearch.com and Goodshop.com! Goodsearch is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! For those who shop online, you can do your shopping through Goodshop and they will donate up to 30% of your purchase directly to Stone Belt! Goodshop partners with thousands of online businesses to direct a portion of your purchase to the charity of your choice – Stone Belt!

Lifelong Learning Newsletter

Our clients are amazing journalists! The Stone Belt Lifelong Learning Newsletter is now produced and distributed by a committee of Stone Belt clients and staff. The newsletter features pictures, stories and a calendar and is distributed monthly throughout the agency. The newsletter gives clients the ability to be a part of the agency’s communication process and helps develop valuable and rewarding life skills. Check out past issues of the newsletter on the Stone Belt Website in the “Publications” section, along with electronic versions of all of our other past and current publications.

We are so pleased to be able to add client-created media to the mix!
One of the most popular technologies in America has proven useful as an assistive technology for the disabilities community. Software developers have started offering software to aid in communication for people with disabilities on devices such as the iPhone, iPad, iPod and Android Marketplace. Much like the typical speech and communication devices (see below), the applications have provided a new platform to provide assistance to individuals with communication impairments. These applications can be purchased on the Apple marketplace for less than what a typical communication device would cost. A few communication applications are searchable by name: Taptotalk, Voice4u and JabTalk.

There are applications that are also providing behavioral assistance. Model Me Going Places™ is a great visual teaching tool for helping individuals learn to navigate challenging locations in the community. Each location contains a photo slide show of individuals modeling appropriate behavior. Locations include: Hairdresser, Mall, Doctor, Playground, Grocery Store, Restaurant” (taken from blog.Friendshipcircle.org).

The applications and future developments for smart phones and tablets have endless possibilities for the disabilities community. Make sure to keep your eye out for the newest applications.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices have been in use for a long time. But with the introduction of new technology they are seeing an upswing in usefulness and exposure. These devices are typically programmable picture books that provide audio prompts and visual aids to provide individuals with the ability to communicate outside of vocalization. These devices can be used in many different ways and provide a great learning tool for individuals with communication impairments. Often times these devices are paid for through Medicaid funding. Unfortunately these devices are often much more expensive than the alternative, smart phone and tablet device applications.

Night Owl Support Systems is a blend of many technologies wrapped into a service to support mostly independent individuals with disabilities. The system uses sensors, cameras and audio devices to monitor the safety of individuals who spend a majority of their time without staff support. The sensors include, but are not limited to: stove, door/window security, flood/moisture, carbon monoxide and smoke sensors. These sensors relay emergency information back to live support so that the client’s safety can be closely monitored. Although this technology will not work for everyone, it is easy to recognize its potential for creating greater levels of independence in the lives of individuals.

Gaming consoles, such as the Nintendo Wii, can provide invaluable opportunities for not only entertainment, but also exercise. The Wii is a gaming console that uses a sensory remote that can detect movements and recreate them on the T.V. screen. The Wii has many games that are based on exercise and activity. Almost all of these games track daily activity and provide verbal/visual prompts. The Wii’s ease of use easily outpaces other gaming consoles making it a great choice for individuals with disabilities. From Bowling to calisthenics, the Wii can offer a significant learning and exercise experience. According to Stone Belt Supported Living Coordinator Tiffany Hanner, “about 50% of the clients I support use the Wii daily.”
advocacy in action

Stone Belt was recently visited by 9th district Congressional candidate, Shelli Yoder. Yoder is pictured on the right with Charlotte Ziellnow (left) and Stone Belt Client, Betsy Higgins. We love when our elected officials, and those running for office, recognize the importance of connecting with service providers. Stone Belt CEO, Leslie Green, in partnership with the Stone Belt Advocacy Committee of the board, regularly invites our public officials to join us to learn more about the programs of excellence we offer - and about the needs of the disabilities community. Together we have a powerful and important voice!

Engaging with the Community

Every gift to Stone Belt makes a huge difference. Contributions go directly toward achieving excellence in client supports, innovation in 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 utilizing the enclosed envelope.

NAP Tax Credits are Back!

Stone Belt is extremely pleased to have had such great success with the 2011 NAP tax credit program. The State of Indiana awarded Stone Belt $16,000 in NAP tax credits in July of 2011, and we were able to pass along these tremendous tax savings to our donors. Stone Belt donors utilized the entire allocation in only a 1 week, raising $36,000 in support of Milestones: Clinical and Health Resources - a Stone Belt program of excellence that provides much needed psychological and psychiatric services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Because of this generosity, Milestones was able to provide hundreds of pro bono hours of clinical services, enhancing individuals’ efforts to become more independent and active members of our community.

Through NAP, a contribution to Stone Belt of a minimum of $100 makes a donor eligible to receive 50% of the total contribution in tax credits – allowing the donor to receive half of a contribution back as a TAX CREDIT when filing an end-of-year Indiana tax return. In addition, donors are also eligible to claim the total amount of the gift as a tax deduction on an itemized federal income tax return, extending the savings even further. Therefore, a gift to Stone Belt goes more than twice as far! Not only does a donor earn a significant break on taxes next April, the gift also provides funding for a much-needed program serving individuals with developmental disabilities. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the essential work of Stone Belt while receiving an outstanding tax benefit in the process.

Stone Belt is pleased to have once again been awarded $18,100 in NAP tax credits – creating a fundraising goal of $36,200. 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.

The Jewel Society – Stone Belt’s Planned Giving Program

Stone Belt’s Jewel Society is an honorary society that recognizes those who have named Stone Belt as a beneficiary in their estate plans. The Jewel Society provides visionary donors with the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in support of individuals with disabilities. Jewel Society members are listed in Stone Belt publications, according to the wishes of the donor.

You can join the Jewel Society through several planned giving options, including: bequests, certificates of deposit, charitable gift annuities, private retirement plans, gifts of insurance, charitable lead trusts, and charitable remainder trusts. Stone Belt encourages donors to speak with a professional estate advisor when making decisions about planned gifts.

Building Relationships through the Arts

Stone Belt is pleased to announce that the Indiana University Kelley School of Business has purchased twenty original pieces of Stone Belt client art for a permanent display in their academic buildings. The Kelley School is renowned for its extensive and beautifully-curated art works. Stone Belt is truly honored that they have selected the works of our talented artists to become the latest of their acquisitions. Art works will be displayed in two of the Kelley Business School classrooms. A reception with the artists and members of the Kelley community has been scheduled for the fall of 2012.

Recent Grants

Stone Belt has recently received a wonderful grant from PUSH America – the national philanthropy organization of our partner agency, Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. The grant will enable the agency to complete the Drum Therapy project in all of our region’s lifelong learning programs. Drum therapy is an exciting opportunity for our clients to gain new skills and confidence, while exploring and expressing their feelings. We thank PUSH America and Pi Kappa Phi for all of their visionary support!

For more information on Stone Belt’s giving programs, contact Amy Jackson, Community Engagement Director, at 812.332.2168 ext. 314 | ajackson@stonebelt.org
Angie Timan,
Stone Belt Board Member

Angie, who serves as a LARC representative on the Stone Belt Board of Directors, is the Family and Consumer Science Instructor at North Lawrence Career Center in Bedford, Indiana. She has over 28 years in education, and is the FCCLA Advisor.

The question is not why I give, it is what can I give. My father gave me some sage advice as I moved away from home. He said, “there are three things in life you have the ability to manage: time, money, and relationships.” As I listened to him in my 20’s I did not truly understand what he meant. However, as I gained experiences over the years, I came to realize that I do have the ability to help others in all three ways.

Volunteering my time to serve others has proved to be full of bounties. Teaching others and serving on management boards help so many. My time became a gift that I budgeted to show my support for the causes I have a passion for.

As my income increased, I also realized that if I chose to invest money into causes that make an impact on people, places, and things to better the world, I felt a part of something that is long lasting. Monthly deposits, occasional larger gifts and endowments help programs like Stone Belt plan for their future. I get to see the direct impact of my financial support both daily and in the long term.

Building relationships with clients, their families, Stone Belt employees and community members is very rewarding. When I attend Stone Belt events, wear agency t-shirts or carry a logo bag, I am a walking, talking advocate of the interpersonal relationships between donor and recipient promoting life long support for programs.

My relationship with Stone Belt involves my time and my money – and I do this because of the honor I have for my father. I love you dad. Thank you for teaching me what giving is all about.
Stone Belt presents news & information for individuals with disabilities, families, friends and our community

**Stone Belt / LARC Partnership**
a look at a wonderful long-term collaboration  
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**Technology Update**
an overview of innovations for the disabilities community  
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**Why I Give**
Stone Belt Board Member Angie Timan shares her story  
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**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

for more information, visit  
[www.stonebelt.org](http://www.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.