

# touchstone

A quarterly publication providing the latest news & information for individuals with disabilities, families, friends and our community.

## CLIENT SUCCESS

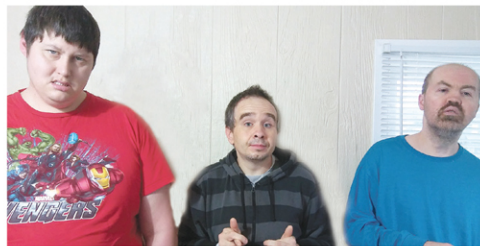
# Columbus roommates find new independence thanks to community, agency collaboration

New roommates Chase Himelrick, Justin Phillips, and Eric "EJ" Turner are discovering the empowerment and freedom of living independently in their own Columbus home.

"Stone Belt was very gracious and patient with the whole process," says Lori Bland, Chase and EJ's guardian.

Stone Belt's Supported Living Program (SLP) assists clients living in their own homes or with their families to gain the skills and supports to live independently – whether that requires a few hours per week or round-the-clock services.

Chase and Justin were already looking for a new home, and EJ started searching after being



Chase Himelrick, Justin Phillips, and Eric "EJ" Turner.

displaced due to a fire at his previous residence.

The guardians approached Stone Belt to help get an SLP site for the trio, and Housing Partnerships Inc. (also known as Thrive Alliance) had the perfect location available.

Ralph Childers, property manager at HPI, was instrumental in preparing the SLP site for the new roommates' arrival. "Ralph is a great landlord and a walking, talking billboard for Stone Belt," Client Support Coordinator Loretta Patterson says.

This new SLP placement represents the inspiring collaboration between these three organizations and our clients, which allowed them to have their own home as roommates and live independently in the community – the trio are living out Stone Belt's mission principles day by day.

"They are doing wonderfully," Lori says about Chase and EJ. "They both smile more often."

—Victoria Updike

## CINEMA CLUB

# Clients learn film appreciation, etiquette

The 10th Street Cinema Club offers an invigorating experience for clients, not only developing film appreciation and theater etiquette but also technical aspects of setting up and tearing down.

"Every year at Stone Belt we ask our clients, 'What is your dream job? What would you do if all barriers were removed?'" Lifelong Learning Coordinator Eric Ford says. "And, in that way, we are in the business of dreams. Our 10th Street Cinema Club exposes us to different worlds, different times, different colors, and sounds."

The club, which meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m., has come a long way since its beginning roughly a year ago. Members used leftover black plastic from a Stone Belt haunted house to cover the windows, but they have now upgraded to navy blue curtains.

Stone Belt purchased the material, but Jeanne Ford and Kenny Schlotter cut and sewed the curtains to perfect the movie experience.

Ability Experience Journey of Hope made it possible for the club to get a popcorn machine, and members have a Blu-Ray player for access to closed captions and an online scheduling system.

Club members are involved with the set-up, accessibility, popcorn-making and distribution, and tear-down after movies end. Club learning opportunities include movie-watching etiquette.

"There's the joy of laughing together, gasping together, and crying together," Ford says. "There's so much that is great about our cinema club."

—Victoria Updike



New curtains cover windows in the 10th Street gym so clients can better watch movies in Cinema Club.



# Annual celebration highlights agency successes, accomplishments, partners

Joy! Laughter! Exuberance! These words describe Stone Belt's Annual Celebration held September 25 at the Monroe County Center. This year was more positive than ever and broke attendance records. And it's no wonder; there is so much to celebrate.

## Stone Belt Success

In her opening comments, board president Catherine Gray spoke of the feelings of safety and support that Stone Belt provides to clients so they feel confident and able to thrive at work, at home, or in educational pursuits.

Mayor John Hamilton commended Stone Belt for its positive impact in the Bloomington community and beyond. He expressed his appreciation to artist Angie Deel, who recently completed his portrait in a mixed-media mosaic that now hangs in his office.

Kim Dodson, executive director of The Arc of Indiana, applauded Stone Belt for our role in successful efforts for increased state funding for DSP wages and our robust efforts to educate and engage constituents on harmful effects of Medicaid cuts in healthcare bills considered by Congress.

## Accomplishments

In awards named for Stone Belt's Principles of Service, seven clients and seven staff were awarded for achieving milestones, overcoming challenges, and/or making a difference in the lives of others. One highlight was the excitement of Jason Truelock, who received

the Empowered Learning award, jumping up out of his seat and with Rocky-style arm motions, showing the crowd the effect his YMCA program has on his physique.

In addition, we recognized outstanding contributions in volunteerism, self-advocacy and heroism. The winners in all of these categories, such as mother-turned-volunteer, Wendy Bowler-Travis, who brings her knowledge and enthusiasm to the Lifelong Learning program in Columbus, were inspirational to the almost 550 audience members at the celebration.

## Partnerships

The Bedford Knights of Columbus show their outstanding support of our operations in Bedford through their annual Tootsie Roll fund drive.

Author Jim Kenny donated his story, *Little Lost Monkey*, the funds to publish it, and the proceeds of the book that features the beautiful art work of artist Carla Mann

The Arc of Lawrence County commissioned an exceptional video of our operations in Lawrence County called "Meet the Arc" ([https://](https://www.stonebelt.org/meet-the-arc-the-arc-of-lawrence-county)



[www.stonebelt.org/meet-the-arc-the-arc-of-lawrence-county](https://www.stonebelt.org/meet-the-arc-the-arc-of-lawrence-county)).

Indiana University Police Department provides responsive, compassionate service to our 10th Street location and supports clients to be fully part of their workforce through employment opportunities in their department.

Our event and corporate sponsors helped to make the evening possible: Monroe Convention Center; Markey's Rental and Staging; Smithville Charitable Foundation; The Ability Experience; CFC Properties; IU Credit Union; Old National Bank; World Arts Printing; Big Red Liquors; Clendenen, Johnson & Bohrer; Crowder's Pharmacy; INTIMECO Productions, and St. John Associates.

I've always walked away from Annual Celebration with a great deal of excitement and happiness. This year was exceptional. The spirit of cooperation, sense of success, and highlights of so many positive stories will keep a smile on my face for many days to come.

Thank you for being a part of our success. With your support, we are on our way to another outstanding year of accomplishments. Look for highlights in this and future Touchstone editions, and make your plans to join us next September when we celebrate again.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Dodson".

# Advocacy efforts lead to increased wages for staff

Thanks to advocacy efforts that started several years ago and ramped up significantly this past year, the Indiana General Assembly added money to the state budget to increase wages for direct support professionals (DSPs).

Stone Belt's advocacy efforts played a significant role in helping this come about through writing letters, visiting with legislators, and reaching out via social media.

This new funding stipulates that 75 percent of the

increase in rates is to be passed to DSPs working with clients that receive the Medicaid Waiver.

However, Stone Belt has included all employees in the wage enhancement program that includes a retention payment and an increase in the base wage for DSP positions.

The retention payment provides greater rewards for employees with more years of service, which is hoped to increase recruitment and retention.

Stone Belt thanks the families, clients, staff, and other advocates that reached out to state legislators to stress the importance of this increase.

Kim Dodson, executive director of The Arc of Indiana, said there wasn't a legislator in the State House that didn't know what a DSP is. Our collective voices made a positive difference.

All agree that this is not the final solution to the workforce crisis, but it is a significant step in the right direction.



## Taking Action and Contacting Your Legislators

### In Washington:

To express your concerns about the changes in the Medicaid program or other federal issues, contact these federal legislators.

- Senator Todd Young  
202-224-5623 in Washington or 317-226-6700 in Indianapolis  
[www.young.senate.gov/content/contact-senator](http://www.young.senate.gov/content/contact-senator)
- Senator Joe Donnelly  
202-224-4814 in Washington or 317-226-5555 in Indianapolis  
[www.donnelly.senate.gov/contact/email-joe](http://www.donnelly.senate.gov/contact/email-joe)
- Representative Trey Hollingsworth  
202-225-5315 in Washington or 812-288-3999 in Jeffersonville  
<http://hollingsworth.house.gov/contact/email>
- Representative Luke Messer  
202-225-3021 or <http://messenger.house.gov/contact>

### In Indiana:

Every Indiana citizen has a state representative and a state senator. To find your legislators go to: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>. Contact these individuals for concerns at the state level, such as funding for the direct support professional workforce.

More information on how to effectively advocate in Washington and in Indianapolis is available in this Touchstone issue and on our website at [stonebelt.org/advocacy](http://stonebelt.org/advocacy).



**MILESTONES**  
CLINICAL & HEALTH RESOURCES  
*a division of Stone Belt | [milestonesclinic.org](http://milestonesclinic.org)*

## IU professor partners with Milestones for trauma training

The Milestones Outpatient Clinic is partnering with John Keesler, PhD, LMSW, an IU assistant professor of social work, on an exciting new project to train therapists in a new treatment modality called Progressive Counting.

An expert on Trauma-Informed Care, Dr. Keesler has published and presented widely on the topic, and he is lending his expertise to Stone Belt in a variety of ways. Dr. Keesler applied for a grant to fly trainers to Bloomington from the Trauma Institute ([www.childtrauma.com](http://www.childtrauma.com)) in Massachusetts, and they

will be here in mid-October. The training is designed to help therapists address underlying trauma with clients while controlling their in-session fears. Exposure to a person's fear is the best way to overcome its debilitating effects. Unfortunately, with trauma experiences, it is difficult to overcome fears associated with this exposure, so this technique



Dr. John Keesler

will help.

The best part is that this will be the first time the technique will be attempted with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), so Milestones has an opportunity to be a model program using this innovative and promising new practice. Therapists taking part in the training include Mary McKinney, LCSW LMFT; Melissa Hinkle, LCSW; Jennifer Halloran, LCSW; Pamela McCoy, LMHC, and Jim Wiltz, PhD HSPP. They hope to be able to help clients who have experienced trauma for many years to come.

## Behavior clinician takes on therapy duties in Columbus

Pamela McCoy, LMHC, has started working as a therapist out of the Milestones' Columbus office.

McCoy already is one of Milestones' most productive behavior

clinicians (BC), and now she will split time between outpatient therapy and community-based behavior support. McCoy joins Bloomington's Jennifer Halloran,

LCSW, as a "hybrid" therapist/behavior clinician. Splitting time between the two areas allows them the opportunity for better time management.

## BEDFORD

## The Arc of Lawrence County premieres 'Meet the Arc'

Stone Belt's partner in Bedford, The Arc of Lawrence County, held a video premiere reception for community leaders and partners on September 7 at the Shamrock Center of St. Vincent DePaul.

The video created by By the Glass Productions, which is viewable on our website, shares information about services provided in cooperation with Stone Belt Arc, celebrates The Arc as a community stakeholder and casts a vision for the future, and acknowledges the history of the partnership between the two organizations.



Judge Michael Robbins, center, and board members Cindy Elliott and Charles Edwards.

Premiere participants were moved by the video that beautifully portrays the daily lives of the clients served in our Bedford location — the Larc Center — a building provided by The Arc. Crystal Pitts and Chuck Moore were featured as they go about daily routines of working, learning

and engaging with friends at Larc and in the community. The Arc and Stone Belt plan to use the video to educate the community about the supports available and the positive impact individuals with disabilities have in Lawrence County.

The video was lovingly dedicated to Patrick Robbins, past president of The Arc of Lawrence County and past Stone Belt board member. His brother Judge Michael Robbins was there to accept the recognition in Patrick's honor. Since that time, Patrick lost his battle with a terminal illness, but his impact will live on for many years.



# Clients, staff honored at celebration gala

Stone Belt hosted its most popular event of the year—the 2017 Stone Belt Annual Celebration—on September 25 at the Monroe Convention Center.

More than 500 people attended the gala. Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton and Kim Dodson, executive director of The Arc of Indiana, were guest speakers at the event.



Client Self-Determination  
**Shannon McCoy**



Staff Self-Determination  
**Zachary Coleman**



Client Empowered Learning  
**Jason Truelock**



Staff Empowered Learning  
**Madeline Webster**



Client Outstanding Contributions  
**Carla Mann**



Staff Outstanding Contributions  
**Tim Boling**



Outstanding Volunteer  
**Wendy Bowler-Travis**



Client Positive Supports  
**Luke McAtee**



Staff Positive Supports  
**Jennifer Johnson**



Client Self-Directed Home Life  
**Rhonda Haley**



Staff Self-Directed Home Life  
**Vonnie Moore**



Client Employment  
**Amber Teulker**



Staff Employment  
**Karey Bauer**



Client Quality of Life  
**Steven Hubbard**



Visionary Leadership  
**Julie Miller**



Elbert Johns Self-Advocate  
**Jason Harris**



Steven Warren Hero  
**Johnathan Hyde**



Steven Warren Hero  
Room 100 Staff — Eric Ford, Marjorie Erwin, Hannah Peach, Shannon Walls, Beth Frye, Sophia Broyer, Angel Lowe, Allison Pack, Christy Roux



Staff Quality of Life  
Team Luttrell— Kenny Hays, Tim Reisinger, Kala Pheylan, Jeff Silvers, Carol Sproles, and Mari Shawcroft



## THANK YOU DONORS

Stone Belt extends appreciation to our generous first quarter donors (July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017). We are grateful for their continued support. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of this listing. If you think there has been an omission, please accept our apology and contact Leslie Green at (812) 332-2168 ext. 249 or [lgreen@stonebelt.org](mailto:lgreen@stonebelt.org).

**Pillar Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)**  
Old National Bank

**Limestone Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**  
Malcolm Brown, Richard Sanders, Donald & Carolyn Snyder

**Builder Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**  
Diana Baker & Tom Carter, Alexander & Virginia Buchwald, Kay Dahlgren, David & Jane Dunatchik, Winston & Sue Shindell, The Ability Experience, Kurt & Lisa Zorn

**Advocate Society (\$500 - \$999)**  
Venus Abbitt, Charlotte Daniel, Lori & Preston Garraghty, Victor Harnack, Edwin Marshall, Mary Phillips, Trish Sterling, Sandra Taylor, Charlotte Zietlow

**Steward Society (\$100 - \$499)**  
James & Shirley Abbitt, Bill & Michelle Bartley, Carol Bentley, Victoria Borrelli, Brad & Karen Braun, Doris Burton, James & Carol Campbell, Susan Cote, Betty Deckard, David & Kim Deckard, Richard & Rosemary Dever, Mary & Joseph Gajewski, Tom & Shirley Goodman, Catherine Gray & John Turner, Henry Gray, Leslie Green & Ed Maxedon, David & Judy Haas, David Hamilton & Inge Van der Cruysse, Justin & Emily Harrison, Anne Higley & Eric Benson, Miles & Marjorie Kanne, James & Mary Kenny, Robert Agranoff & Susan Klein, Gregory Lloyd, Dan & Beth Lodge-Rigal, James Major, Robert & Suzanne Mann, D. J. Masson & Betsy Gersin, Stuart & Cookie Mufson, Charlie

## Consider Stone Belt in Your Will or Estate Plan

A will is one of the simplest ways to make a gift to a charitable organization. By making a bequest to Stone Belt in your will, you help insure our service to individuals with disabilities for years to come. For more information on how to make a bequest, contact your financial advisor or call Leslie Green at 812-332-2168 ext. 249.

Nelms, William & Phyllis Perkins, Richard Rose, Harold & Sandy Sabbagh, Kathleen Sidel, Susan & Albert Velasquez, Albert & Marie Vendel, Wayne & Vivian Winston, Anonymous (2)

**Friend Society (\$1 - \$99)**  
AmazonSmile Foundation, Kathryn Trout Anderson, Basil & Jane Bennett, Paul & Lana Eisenberg, Steven Floyd, Douglas & Pamela Hausmann, David Hossler, David & Janet James, David & Anne Johnson, Iris Kiesling, Scott & Mary Mapes, Larry & Brenda Mitchell, Robert & Bridget Morgan, Terry & Dixie Patterson, Chester & Celeste Skoczylas, Sue Stillions, The Irish Lion Restaurant & Pub, Steve Neda Tucker, Todd & Rebecca Willis, Anonymous (7)

**In Kind Donors**  
Carol & Michael Bodnar, Cook Medical, Larry & Betty Davidson, Donny & Sharon Disque, Matthew Elliott, Justin & Emily Harrison, Anne Higley & Eric Benson, Mike & Barbara Horvath, Don, Carol-Anne, & Jonathan Hossler, Robert Houle, Jeff Huffman, Trish & Louie Ierino, James & Lara Keith, Joe & Meridee Lamantia, Dan & Beth Lodge-Rigal, Markey's Rental & Staging, Monroe Convention Center

## Highlighting our community partners



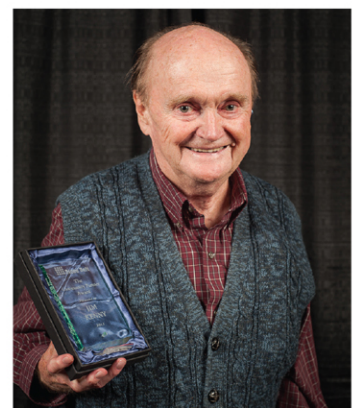
### The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus raises money for Stone Belt and devotes time to our clients in Bedford. Members of this group visit Larc, hold Bingo games, and regularly interact and have fun with our clients. Each year, this group donates money from its largest fundraiser, the Tootsie Roll Drive, to enrich the lives of our Bedford clients. This organization truly is interested in bettering the lives of our clients.



### IU Police Department

IU Police Department protects and helps our clients to be independent, active members of the community. If there is ever an emergency, this organization is the first to respond, whether it's for support in a medical emergency, or merely a safety issue, members of this organization always arrive quickly and ready to help. We appreciate the caring and warm attitude of all the staff, no matter what the circumstance. This organization also has employed our clients, providing an environment of support, demonstrating the value of a job, and maintaining competitive employment. Mayor John Hamilton helped present the award.



### Jim Kenny

Jim Kenny partnered with Stone Belt artist Carla Mann to illustrate his foster-to-adopt children's story. Through a generous donation from Kenny, Stone Belt Press was created to publish the book. He also donated all proceeds from book sales to Stone Belt. Through this community partnership, Kenny's legacy will live on for many generations through the empowerment of clients whose work will be featured.

**MARKEY'S**  
RENTAL & STAGING





# Looking for unique holiday gifts? Shop the Holiday Art Show

Stone Belt will host its Holiday Art Show from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, December 2, at its Bloomington location. Artwork and craft items created by clients throughout the year will be available for purchase, as well as the first publication of Stone Belt Press, *Little Lost Monkey*, and the 2018 Art Calendar. Books and calendars are on sale now at the front desk.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCT. 28

SGL Fall Ball  
1 to 4 p.m.  
10th Street Gym

### NOV. 23

SGL / SLP Thanksgiving Dinner  
Stone Belt Central

### DEC. 2

Holiday Art Show  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Stone Belt Central



If you would like to receive our publications, please  
contact Linda Margison at [lmargison@stonebelt.org](mailto:lmargison@stonebelt.org).

[www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

Stone Belt Arc @StoneBeltArc 812.332.2168

An affiliated  
chapter of



PREPARE EMPOWER SUPPORT

[www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

2815 East Tenth Street • Bloomington, IN 47408



NONPROFIT ORG  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Bloomington, IN  
Permit No. 310