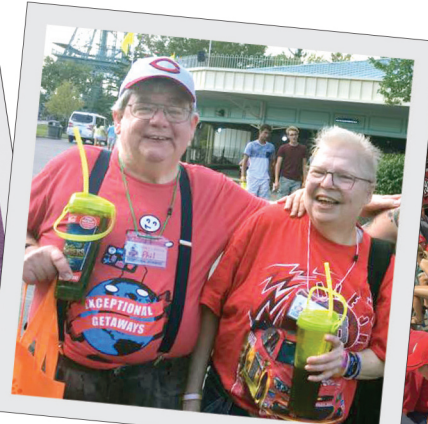


touchstone

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



Tommy Cunningham, left, in Brown County; Dale Mullins, middle left, at Universal Studios; Phil Smith and Sheila Boyles, middle right, on a day trip; Jason Harris, right, at a Cincinnati Reds baseball game.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Out-of-state and day-trip vacations increase independence and fun

Many Stone Belt clients enjoy the adventure and independence that comes from traveling to places like Disney World and Gatlinburg, Tennessee, as well as day trips to Cincinnati to see the Reds play baseball or to Brown County for a hike.

Dale Mullins keeps a photo book from Universal Studios to show to anyone who asks. He says he enjoys traveling and the chance to "get away for a while," explaining that last fall he flew to Florida and stayed in a hotel on his own.

Misty Lawyer recently took

a guided tour to Florida and would love to visit Washington, D.C. "I enjoy being around other people from all around," she says. "I get along with them and go without staff."

Jacqueline Hall has been on both out-of-state vacations and day trips with Exceptional Getaways. Others, including Jason Harris, Phil Smith, Sheila Boyles, and Thomas Phillips, have also used that organization to plan and take trips.

"The people I've traveled with are kind of fun," Hall says, adding she has made friends

because of the trips. "I was able to be independent. It's very important to be independent."

Recently celebrating its first anniversary, Exceptional Getaways executive director Tim Stout says, "We have enjoyed making lifelong memories with all the travelers... It is very exciting that individuals are now helping to make suggestions on where to travel next."

Clients have used other travel companies and have vacationed with their families as well.



Jacqueline Hall, middle, and Thomas Phillips, bottom, have both used services like Exceptional Getaways for day-trip and extended vacations.

Overheard this month...

Having the opportunity to interact with clients, staff, and other constituents is one of the great pleasures of my job. People are often eager to tell me what's going on for them, what they are excited about, and how they are doing. In addition to the innumerable things going on in the daily lives of those associated with Stone Belt, March also included our celebration of the Awards for Excellence and our CARF accreditation. So there are plenty of things that have been shared with me over the past few weeks that I'd now like to share with you.

"When I move to Bloomington, I hope to try the greenhouse." Tommy Cunningham is excited that he will soon be moving from a group home in Bedford to a shared apartment with two other young men in Bloomington — a big step forward. He is starting to make that transition and looking forward to what his new life may have in store, including the Growing Opportunities program that is offered through our partnership with South Central Community Action Program.

"Did we pass?" Betsy Higgins and her housemates were pleased to welcome one of the CARF surveyors to their lovely three-bedroom home on Bloomington's east side. This offered the surveyor a chance to see our Supported Living program including how we provide person-centered supports; how we meet health and safety needs; and how we help the people we support to fully participate in the community. My answer was an enthusiastic, "Yes!" The surveyors were quite effusive with their praise about this program and all the others they surveyed. Betsy's follow-up question: "Are we going to have a

pizza party?" My reply: "Yes, I do think that's something that can be arranged."

"I don't want this to be about me at all, because this is not about me. I don't want any recognition, because this is a joint effort. This is what we do because this is what we're supposed to do in life. This is what God wants us to do—to be kind to everybody, to raise people up not to bring them down. I just love coming here." These words were spoken by Cindy Elliott, board member of our partner organization The Arc of Lawrence County. She was asked about her successful volunteer efforts to upgrade the art studio at Larc, Stone Belt of Lawrence County. Cindy received funds from the Lowe's Hero's program to add work tables, cabinets, display space, and paint for the studio. Separately she also got a grant to upgrade the lighting in the art studio and throughout the entire building. The results are beautiful and inspirational to the creative artists that use the space every day.

"It is one of the best school-to-work transition programs I've ever seen." The CARF surveyor reviewing our employment programs was wowed by all the ways Stone Belt is helping students and young adults enter the world of work successfully. This includes our Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) offered in Monroe, Bartholomew, and Lawrence counties, the transition program at Bedford North Lawrence High School, and Project SEARCH, our internship program offered in Bloomington for young adults. The effectiveness of these programs was readily apparent to the surveyor who had no recommendations for improvement.

"The amazing people we support here at Stone Belt give me insight into the human condition, they teach me compassion, they show me courage, they help me see grace and feel gratitude. They make me feel honored to tell their stories." These words from communication manager Linda Margison were part of her personal remarks after receiving a 2018 Award for Excellence. She eloquently expressed a theme echoed by all five recipients about the impact that the work they do has on their lives. Evie Miller described her first impressions of Stone Belt when she saw women at the group home she was visiting doing things for themselves and taking care of their household. This shattered her notions that this would be a caretaking job and excited her for the partnership role she would soon take with those women.

I could share so many more awe-inspiring things that are going on throughout the organization, but promise the rest of the stories in this newsletter will do just that. As always we are grateful to all who support the work we do and the difference we make in the world together. Without the broad base of engaged clients, families, staff, donors, volunteers, and community partners, we could not be successful in meeting our mission. We thank you for being a part of this exciting work.



LESLIE GREEN

Contact Your Legislators

In Washington:

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

- Senator Todd Young
202-224-5623 in Washington or 317-226-6700 in Indianapolis
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

- 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://messer.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/>.

Information on effectively advocating in Washington and in Indianapolis is available at stonebelt.org/advocacy.

Milestones hires new psychiatry providers

Jim Wiltz

Director of Milestones



JESSICA
BENNETT



BETH
MURRAY

Spring is upon us, and Milestones is making some changes and expanding our services, by welcoming Beth Murray and Jessica Bennett to the outpatient team. Both are advanced practice nurses (APNs) who specialize in psychiatry. They have already started in the clinic and have hit the ground running by completing Stone Belt's new employee orientation and learning how to navigate the electronic charting system.

Beth has been a prescribing clinician in the area for more than 20 years and has a variety of experiences, including working at Meadows Hospital and Centerstone. In addition to her clinical work, she earned a Ph.D. in Public Health and teaches at the Indiana University School of Medicine. We are very lucky to have her on the team. She works one day in the clinic and a partial day mentoring Jessica who is newer to the field.

Jessica's experience includes having worked with individuals with severe mental illness at Adult and Child, which is a community mental health center (CMHC) in the Greenwood area. While employed there, she gained valuable experience working directly with the center's individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Hiring two new prescribers is a big change for us. Originally called Professional Services, Milestones Clinical Health & Resources has

been an important component of Stone Belt since 2000 when director Maureen Gahan and CEO Leslie Green identified mental health services as a critical need for Stone Belt clients. They designed a constellation of supports to help meet the needs of clients and their families, and Milestones officially launched in 2004.

Through the years, Milestones has changed, including expansion of Behavior Supports and implementation of our Skills Development Program, a collaboration with Centerstone. One constant has been the psychiatric services we provide. For most of those years, Dr. Mindy Weakley was a psychiatrist at Milestones, but she resigned on March 1.

Preparing for her departure was a busy time at Milestones. We tried a number of different avenues to recruit her successor, and those efforts paid off. We tried many options, including a contract position, working through a place-

ment agency, and directly finding our own psychiatrist or APN.

We interviewed three candidates, and we hired two of them. We now have two prescribers in Bloomington, as well as Angie Nielsen, an APN working for us one day a week in Columbus.

The end result is we will have more psychiatric coverage than Milestones has had in more than a year. Two advantages to extra clinical hours will be a much shorter time from being referred to receiving psychiatric services and having extra resources to make up for missed appointments.

All of this is tremendous good fortune for Milestones and the clients we serve. That we were able to fill the position with talented clinicians so quickly is a testimony to the wonderful reputation we have in the community. We look forward to continuing to provide robust clinical services at Milestones for many seasons to come.

New director heads up Family Supports program

Janessa Gerber, who has more than 25 years providing services to people with developmental disabilities, started her new position as director of Family Supports on March 5.

Because her father was executive director of an agency in northern Indiana for 24 years, Gerber spent her early years volunteering and welcoming people with disabilities into their home. "It was just ingrained in me from an early age," she says. "When I came to college, I needed a part-time job, so it just kind of fit."



JANESSA GERBER

She started in the field as a direct support professional and moved into various management positions. Her experience includes providing respite services, structured family caregiving, and family-provided direct supports.

"I was really excited to learn about Stone Belt wanting to have a distinct focus on family supports," Gerber says, explaining how she wants to help families navigate through the system to get the supports needed for their loved ones, not just those predetermined for them, like respite care, support groups, and caregiver training support.

Gerber will also utilize and connect families to existing resources in the community. "I don't want to duplicate what exists, but at the same time, I feel like there's people who fall through the cracks because they don't know what to ask for," she adds. "I'd like to have a menu of services for families, because not every family wants the same thing."

CEO Leslie Green says Stone Belt is looking toward the future to ensure families of children and adults with disabilities still living at home have the support they need. Since funding

has shifted from residential supports, such as group homes and supported living, to Family Support Waivers, that support can include respite, day services, behavior services, therapies, and other nonresidential services.

"We are eager to develop this program as a wonderful complement to our other excellent services," Green says. "Supports are likely to start slowly, but grow significantly over time as the community becomes more aware of what we are offering."

Green adds that leadership has been gradually shifting focus in this direction, but has encountered challenges layering family supports on top of the intensive requirements of operating residential programs. By hiring Gerber to oversee the new Family Supports program, Green says Stone Belt will be able to build the current family support programs and expand them more rapidly.

Stone Belt honors top employees with luncheon

On March 23, guests, clients, board members and staff honored the five 2018 Awards for Excellence recipients, who could be called the top 1 percent of Stone Belt's more than 500 employees. Each year, nominations are accepted from peers, and a selection committee chooses the five recipients. The recognition comes with a cash prize of \$1,000. Here's a closer look at the winners:

MaryEllen Jones, Community Employment Client Support Coordinator, is a wealth of knowledge and helps others become more successful. Her determination to find a good fit for all clients exemplifies Stone Belt's belief that all people have contributions to make.

Lifelong Learning Supervisor Evie Miller encourages clients' growth and independence. By actively listening to the needs of others, she gets to know each individual and makes sure they have been heard.

Lifelong Learning Coordinator Tyler Frazee's approach with staff, clients, and clients' fam-



Award recipients MaryEllen Jones, Evie Miller, Tyler Frazee, Leann Fischel, and Linda Margison.

ilies is to listen intently to understand them and what their hopes and dreams are for the future. He is a calming force, helping others build on their strengths.

Leann Fischel, Administrative Assistant in Program Support, finds clear paths through intricate systems. Her support increases the overall effectiveness of the entire agency.

Leann's ability to juggle complex tasks allows her to meet deadlines with a positive attitude.

Communications Manager Linda Margison is meticulous in the design, content, and impact of every communication from Stone Belt. Her discerning eye for quality and determination ensure the agency's message grows and reaches new audiences.

SUCCESSSES



Clients telling their stories for the 2018 I AM YOU show performed to sold-out crowds for all three nights in February. With director David Vornholt, far left, performers included Jacob Johns, Thomas Phillips, Anna Harner, Marylin Chitwood, Julia Adams, Jeff Stillions, Amber Teulker, Jessica Walker, Bryson Wrightsman, Nick Parsley, and Tommy Cunningham. CEO Leslie Green, far right, emceed the event.



Nine students in Project SEARCH completed the internship program in January. Jacob Crites, Nikolai Matejcak, Ian Wachstetter, Jacky Harner, Will Gardiner, Oliver Fyffe, Sabrina Payton, Matthew Ehrmann and Mary Swabb spent seven months learning job skills and working three internships to gain workforce experience.



Stone Belt in Bedford (The Arc of Lawrence County) unveiled its new art studio with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, cupcakes, and speeches by board members and clients in February. Renovations to the room included new cabinets, paint, and furniture and were made possible by a Lowe's Heroes Grant and the Larc board of directors.

THANK YOU DONORS

Stone Belt appreciates our generous donors (July 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018) and their continued support. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of this listing. If there is an omission, please accept our apology and contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Pillar Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

CFC Properties, Inc., Old National Bank, Donald, Carolyn & Claudia Snyder

Limestone Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Malcolm Brown, Jim & Joyce Grandorf, Don, Carol-Anne, & Jonathan Hossler, Hylant Group, Randall, Rae & Toni Kirk, Michael Melby, Richard Sanders

Builder Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Diana Baker, Betty Brown, Alexander & Virginia Buchwald, Clendening Johnson & Bohrer, P.C., Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County, Crowder's Healthcare Pharmacy, Kay Dahlgren, Michael & Betty Davis, David & Jane Dunatchik, Preston & Lori Garraghty, Cynthia A Higgins, Anne Higley, Trish & Louie Ierino, Ivy Tech Community College, Kappa Kappa Sigma, Iota Chapter, James & Mary Kenny, Michael's Uptown Café, Stuart & Cookie Mufson, Jerry & Jean Olson, Diane Pelrine, Mary Phillips, Winston & Sue Shindell, St. John Associates, Trish Sterling, The Ability Experience, Henry & Celicia Upper, Kurt & Lisa Zorn

Advocate Society (\$500 - \$999)

Venus Abbitt, Bill & Michelle Bartley, Vicki Borrelli, Charlotte Daniel, Betty & Larry Davidson, Catherine Gray, David Hamilton, Victor Harnack, ISU/The May Agency, Dan & Beth Lodge-Rigal, Edwin Marshall, Donald & Regina Moore, Sharon Robbins, T.I.S., Inc., Taylor, Reginald, Wendy Bowler Travis, UnitedHealthcare, Charlotte Zietlow

Steward Society (\$100 - \$499)

James & Terry Abbitt, Teresa Miller & Dan Allen, Ann Armstrong, Cheryl Baumgart, Sarah Baumgart, Basil & Jane Bennett, Carol Bentley, John & Kathleen Bethell, Leslie Bishop, James Bohrer, Stephen Bonowski, Summer & Josh Boyd, Marsha Bradford, Brad & Karen Braun, Bucceto's Pizza, Tyler Bunch, Dallas Burch, Doris Burton, James & Carol Campbell, John Clower, Susan Cote, Jean & Doris Creek, Richard Davis, Betty & Joe Deckard, David & Kim Deckard, Richard & Rosemary Dever, Doreen Devitt, Elaine Finnegan, Maureen Gahan, Mary & Joseph Gajewski, Rich & Lois Gehrman, Margaret Gilbride, Penny Githens, James & Constance Glen, Tom & Shirley Goodman, Henry Gray, Leslie Green, David & Judy Haas, Stephen & Jo Ellen Ham, Don & Judy Harris, Justin & Emily Harrison, David & Mary Higgins, Tim Hines, Leon & Loretta Hoevenner, Mike & Barbara Horvath, Roger Innes, David & Janet James, Lora Johnson, Miles & Marjorie Kanne, Susan Klein, Lake Lemon Triathlon, Alice Leake, Lennie's and the Bloomington Brewing Co., Harold & Claudia Lindman, Gregory Lloyd, Russell Lyons, James Major, Robert & Suzanne Mann, Dave & Laura Martin, D. J. Masson, Pam & David McCoy, Valerie Merriam, Keith & Marion Michael, Donna Miller, Daunna Minnich, Larry & Brenda Mitchell, Stephen & Sandra Moberly, Kathie Moh, Charlie Nelms, Mary Lou Otting, Nancy Owen, William & Phyllis Perkins, Carolyn & Rollin Phillips Rhodes, Doug & Ellen Porter, Jamie & Debra Prenkert, Gwyn & Barbara Richards, John & Susan Risk, Jill Robinson, Richard Rose, Harold & Sandy Sabbagh, Sandor Development, Kathleen Sidel, Nancy Smith, Philip & Gloria Smith, Kailyn Sorrell, Nila Sunday, Tim & Beth Thrasher, Bill Van Tine, Susan & Albert Velasquez, Albert, Marie & Tom Vendel, Wayne & Vivian Winston, Dane & Nancy Woll

Friend Society (\$1 - \$99)

Ben & Jane Ackerman, Cameron Adamson, Amal and Salih Altoma, Katie Anderson, Ron & Sheryl Barnes, Hannah Baute, Catherine J Beeker, James & Margery Belisle, Mark & Charlene Braun, Dan & Patricia Butler, Deanna Carrington, John & Susan Cronkhite, Paul & Lana Eisenberg, James & Jacqueline Faris, Steven Floyd, Douglas & Pamela Hausmann, David Hossler, Josh & Stephanie Johnson, David & Anne Johnson, Nancy Jones, Iris Kiesling, Scott & Mary Mapes, Nancy Martin, Woody L McGee, Ron, Diana, Bill & Steve McGovern, Myla Jean Meadows, Nancy Metcalf, Phillip & Elaine Meyer, Robert & Bridget Morgan, Robert & Suellen Moynihan, Jerrold & Virginia Myerson, Needmore Coffee Roasters, Leonard & Lou Newman, Francis & Phyllis Newton, Bobbie & Channing Parteneimer, Terry & Dixie Patterson, Joseph & Virginia Pech, Bob & Elaine Pryor, Catherine Racek, Catherine & Kenneth Ratcliff, Catherine Simmons, Chester & Celeste Skoczylas, David & Sarah Smith, Keegan, Brent & Hunter Smith, Keith Solberg, Bobbi Jean Stewart, Sue Stillions, Sally Ann Sturgeon, The Irish Lion Restaurant & Pub, Hugh & Lita Truelock, Steve Neda Tucker, Lee Van Buskirk, Rita Wacker, Randy & Diane West, Todd & Rebecca Willis, Steve & Ann Worland, Christiana Yablonski, Neil & Betty Yoder, Martha Young

In-Kind Donors

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GIVING MATTERS

Why I Give: Jim Grandorf

Jim Grandorf is professor emeritus of accounting for IU's Kelley School of Business and serves on Stone Belt's Finance Committee.

One of the most interesting classes I had in college addressed how people are motivated. A classic example discussed having workers from a New England mental institution replace community workers who had volunteered for active military service. The result was that the workers from the institution had higher productivity than the regular workers. To the new workers, the tasks were mentally challenging, motivating, and enjoyable. Whereas, the regular workers were bored and their attention waned.



JIM GRANDORF

Ever since that class, I have found great satisfaction in helping those who are born with different developmental skills. Under the right circumstances, individuals with developmental disabilities can be productive in society and enjoy a more rewarding and enjoyable life.

As an organization, Stone Belt is at the forefront of working with and helping people with disabilities. From programs like Art, Manufacturing, Community Employment, etc., Stone Belt facilitates more fulfilling lives for individuals with developmental disabilities, and this gives me personal satisfaction that I am supporting their effort.

Complete the enclosed giving envelope and drop it in the mail with your donation, or visit stonebelt.org to donate online.

Consider Stone Belt in Your Will or Estate Plan

By making a bequest to Stone Belt in your will, you help insure individuals with disabilities receive our supports for years to come. Contact your financial advisor or Adam Hamel at 812-332-2168 ext. 269.

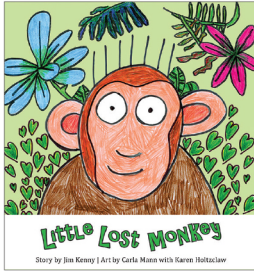
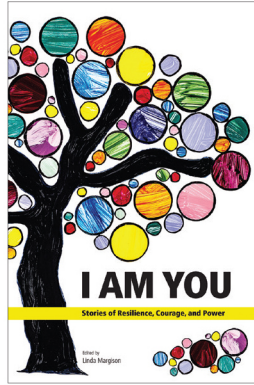
Books give people a voice, platform

Last year, Stone Belt launched Stone Belt Press to give people with disabilities a voice and a platform. Two books have been published, the most recent being **I Am You: Stories of Resilience, Courage, and Power**.

Twelve Stone Belt clients share stories centering on overcoming the impacts of bullying. It is available in print and ebook.

The first book, **Little Lost Monkey**, features the foster-to-adopt story of Chipper Wump who loses his parents and goes on misadventures looking for a new home. After spending time with his foster mom, Mama Lion, Chipper eventually finds his forever family with the Chimps. The book is illustrated by Stone Belt client Carla Mann.

Purchase at stonebeltpress.org, Stone Belt in Bloomington, or Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



Help Stone Belt as you shop

Whether you're a regular donor or have never given a donation to Stone Belt, you now have several ways to support our efforts with people who have developmental disabilities by designating Stone Belt through these shopping partnerships:

Bags for Change at Lucky's Market: For each reusable bag you take to Lucky's Market on South Walnut Street, you receive a wooden dime, and then you can donate that dime to Stone Belt. At the end of the quarter, Lucky's will double the amount raised.

Kroger Plus Community Rewards program: Register your Kroger Plus card online and when you use it, Kroger will donate a portion of your purchase to Stone Belt.

AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com: Designate Stone Belt Arc to receive a percentage of your purchases.

Fresh Thyme Giving Bag Program: Purchase the reusable Giving Bag for \$2.99 and tell the cashier you want your \$1 donation to go to Stone Belt.



If you would like to receive our publications, please contact Linda Margison at lmargison@stonebelt.org.

www.stonebelt.org

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