

touchstone

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

BENEFIT CONCERT

Celebrate 60 years with musical night

As part of this year's 60th anniversary celebration, Stone Belt is hosting a benefit concert – Belt Out Loud! – featuring **The Dynamics** and **King Bee & The Stingers**, at 8 p.m. May 17 at Buskirk-Chumley Theater. The concert is sponsored by IU Credit Union.

PURCHASE TICKETS:

<https://bctboxoffice.org/event/belt-out-loud>

The Dynamics are an award-winning, R&B group performing classics by James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Tower of Power, the Neville Brothers, and Parliament/Funkadelics, along with current R&B-flavored songs by Santana, Prince, The Dave Matthews Band, and others.

Playing together since the late 1980s, The Dynamics features a strong lead vocalist, three horns, and a full rhythm section of bass, drums, keyboards, and guitar. Members hail from near and far, from Indiana and Kentucky to New Orleans and West Virginia.

Opening for The Dynamics, King Bee & The Stingers was founded in 2006 and influenced by Big Mamma Thornton, Sonny Boy Williamson, Beth Hart, Howlin' Wolf, BB King, Lester Butler, STAXX, and Steve Cropper.

A VIP event, supported by Upland Brewing Co., will take place after the concert for individuals who purchase VIP tickets. VIP ticket-holders not only receive reserved seating to the concert, but also are invited to a meet-and-greet event with the bands, complete with drinks and appetizers.



The Dynamics, pictured above, will perform for Stone Belt's 60th anniversary benefit concert, Belt Out Loud! Opening the event will be King Bee & The Stingers, at left.

Stone Belt hosting birthday party for all

Stone Belt is hosting a big 60th birthday party from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 15, 2019, at our office, 2815 E. 10th Street. Families, staff, volunteers, people supported by Stone Belt, and community members are invited.

Main Stage events will feature various musicians and performers. **Kid Kazooie** and

Craig Brenner are confirmed with several others invited. Activities include games, strolling entertainers, food trucks, birthday cupcakes, and a community art project.

In case of rain, all events will be moved inside and under the covered driveway to the side of the building.

New efforts help families, friends, and youth

By **LESLIE GREEN**

Just one year ago, we started our Family Supports program with **Janessa Gerber** leading the way. Geared to serve families with children or adults with disabilities living at home, Family Supports starts new services to meet this group's unique needs.

Not long after Janessa started talking to people and assessing the needs of families in Bedford, Columbus, and Bloomington, she started getting referrals. So far, the most requested service is Families First, a program that hires family members and friends to support their loved ones. This unique position is often filled by a grandparent, cousin, other family member, or neighbor. Now, Stone Belt hires and trains those people. At least 15 people, with more coming every week, are participating in this program.



LESLIE GREEN

We also have a number of referrals for respite service. Families need a break from their caregiving duties, and we want to help give them that. Our staffing shortages limit our ability to do this as much as we would like, but we are looking at creative ways to offer programs.

One such option provides four-hour blocks on weekends for people to participate in engaging activities, so families can take care

of errands, go see a movie, or just have some time away.

Another option that we are very excited about is a summer program for youth ages 13 to 19. From June 10 to July 27, we will partner with several other organizations in Bloomington to offer full-day activities. Eight participants in the SOAR program, Summer Opportunities for Activity and Recreation, will be out and about at Sycamore Land Trust, The Community Orchard, The Monroe County Public Library, Wonderlab, and several more locations. For information about any of our Family Supports programs, contact Janessa Gerber at jgerber@stonebelt.org.

Speaking of summer programs, we also will have activities for youth in Bedford, Columbus, and Bloomington as part of our Pre-Employment Transition Services program. With the majority of new state funding coming from the Family Supports Waiver and Pre-Employment Transition, Stone Belt is working diligently to meet the needs of children and adults still living at home with their families.

We Need Your Voice

The Indiana General Assembly is in the final stretch before ending the 2019 legislative session on April 25. Your voice is still needed on our legislative priorities. The legislature will be voting on budget bill HB 1001 before they conclude this session.

The state sets reimbursement rates that providers like Stone Belt receive for our services,

thus impacting the amount of funding we can pass through as wages and benefits. We desperately need better wages to recruit and retain our direct support professional workforce.

DSPs provide the day to day supports to the people we serve, helping them with everything from personal care, to shopping, to finding or keeping a job. We urge you to contact your state representative and senator to request their support for DSP wage funding in the budget. It only takes a minute to send a message and make your voice heard. Information on how to do so is listed below. Calls this week – April 22-25 — will make a difference.

As you will see in this issue, so much is going on at Stone Belt. We'll hope to see many of you at one or more of our 60th anniversary celebrations. There is a lot of history to look back upon, and even more growth, success, and excitement ahead for this amazing organization. We will take the time to recognize this and have a lot of fun doing so.

As always, we thank you for the large part you play in our success. Involvement and support of clients, families, donors, funders, and community members keep us strong. Together we make a difference to countless numbers of people in south-central Indiana and beyond.

Friend passes away

With great sadness, we said goodbye to our friend **Cecil Donald "Donnie" McGinnis II** on March 17. Donnie was a kind and gentle soul who loved traveling and theater. He was a member of Self Advocates of Monroe County and worked at AMC Theatres prior to his illness. He was a 1982 graduate of Perry Meridian High School.



DONNIE MCGINNIS

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.donnely.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/>.

Learn more about advocacy at stonebelt.org.

Clinic shifts staff, adds therapists

Late last year, Milestones hired two new therapists for the outpatient clinic. **Leah Walden** and **Grant Gillium** joined the staff and hit the ground running.

Since then, Gillium became licensed as an associate mental health counselor (LMHCA), and Walden recently became a fully licensed clinical social worker (LCSW).

Having professional staff with clinical credentials is just one more reason that Milestones and Stone Belt set themselves apart from the competition.

Other staffing changes:

Mari Shawcroft, who has been a Milestones employee for more than 14 years, is now the division's associate director. Shawcroft has taken an increased role in helping with administration, new initiatives, and other projects. She is the designated lead whenever the director is out.

Pam McCoy is now a senior behavior clinician in Columbus where she assists with clinical supervision. **Carol Persley**, also a senior behavior clinician, has begun clinical supervision of the outpatient therapists. She already has been providing supervision for other BCs pursuing their licenses. Persley and McCoy have been seeing clients in the outpatient therapy clinics in Bloomington and Columbus, respectively.

Several clinicians are transitioning their roles to begin clinical supports in new areas. Skills clinician **Kim Shepard** is now Stone Belt's first ever recreation therapist. In Columbus, behavior clinician **Heather Turner** is now seeing some clients as a therapist in the outpatient clinic.

"All of these wonderful employees have been eager to make these changes in order to fill unmet needs," says **Milestones director James Wiltz**. "Their dedication to the clients supported by Milestones and to Stone Belt itself is so refreshing."



LEAH WALDEN



GRANT GILLIUM



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Wiltz: Indiana needs to reinstate crisis supports

In 2007, Indiana closed its last institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Fort Wayne. At the same time, the state decided to put additional resources into community supports. The most innovative project was implementing a statewide crisis support program. This state-of-the-art system included 24/7/365 telephone hotline with in-home support, inpatient hospitalization, and psychiatric and behavior support consultations.

Because of its immediate impact providing strong support to individuals across the state, including those not in services or on waiting lists, Indiana renewed the program in 2009. Unfortunately, that was in the middle of the nationwide financial crisis, and Indiana ran out of money. The crisis program was then disbanded in 2010, not quite three years after it started.

Since then, there have been a number of attempts to get something back in place. In 2014, Indiana contracted with the University of New Hampshire to conduct a study on gaps in mental health services for the I/DD population. The gap analysis revealed that only a small fraction of people with I/DD have access to any of the crisis supports needed to assist those experiencing a psychiatric or behavioral emergency. That gap analysis came and went without any new services or supports offered to needy Hoosiers.

In 2017, Indiana passed House Enrolled Act 1102 that established a task force to study the services available in the state. The 1102 Task Force was chaired by **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch**. It met 10 times across the staff and gathered input from hundreds of stakeholders on the needs of people with I/DD, including some representing Stone

Belt and its clients. In late 2018, the task force issued a report with four overarching goals and 34 individual recommendations. Among those recommendations was establishing a crisis service similar to the one Indiana had from 2007 to 2010.

The crisis recommendation was translated into part of the current budget bill (House Bill 1488) that directs the Indiana's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) to develop a plan by July 1, 2020, and establish a statewide crisis program by July 1, 2021. That sounds very positive, but the proposed project lacks further detail, and no money has been appropriated yet for the initiative. That means ongoing advocacy efforts are needed.

The beginning of that advocacy started at the INARF conference in March. INARF is the state provider association for agencies like Stone Belt. At the conference, **Milestones Director Jim Wiltz** presented "Essential Components of a Statewide Crisis Program – a Best-Practices Model."

Wiltz based the presentation on his own experiences from 2007-2010 as a director of the former crisis program, as well as experiences developing and implementing a statewide crisis program in Georgia. With key Indiana decision-makers in the audience, Wiltz compared the two systems, and a hybrid crisis model that is more efficient and provides better supports was proposed.

Stone Belt and Milestones plan to be part of the solution. We will continue to advocate that Indiana provides enhanced clinical services to those in crisis as well as support for their caregivers. And if Indiana decides to implement a new crisis program, we will be poised to act.

Employees receive Awards for Excellence

On Thursday, March 21, Stone Belt honored five of our top employees during the Awards-for Excellence Celebration. Honorees include:

Cherri DuPree, Direct Support Specialist
5 years, 8 months

When a client is in need, that's where you will find Cherri. She offers to stay with people in the hospital or not feeling well at home. She attends to people's needs with respect, dignity and a no-nonsense attitude. She goes above and beyond to ensure people are well supported. Cherri makes a difference in the lives of everyone who is lucky enough to know her.

Lee Honeycutt, Software Support Specialist
3 years

Lee drew from his vast expertise to create the Empower software program. He has shown great patience and promptly responds whenever anyone has a question. His nominee says, "Lee always had a smile on his face... I appreciate his overall attitude toward the work we do and how he wants to make our jobs better through the implementation of Empower."

Loretta Patterson, Client Support Coordinator
9 years, 4 months

Many see Loretta as the go-to person in Columbus when something needs delivered,



Award winners are Cherri DuPree, Lee Honeycutt, Loretta Patterson, Karey Bauer, and Joe Hatton.

computer equipment needs turned off or on, a staff person needs help with onboarding when there is no HR staff available, a van needs fixed, or a question needs answered. But by far, her greatest impact is in the positive change in culture and her support of Stone Belt's mission and values.

Karey Bauer, Employment Consultant
4 years, 7 months

Karey embraces her work by discovering the possibilities and talents of each client and matching those qualities with community jobs. She provides valuable back-up support for her teammates, has thorough plan-

ning skills, and brings great ideas to share with all. She also makes her coworkers feel important by making homemade treats for every special occasion.

Joe Hatton, Program Manager
15 years, 10 months

Joe makes a positive impact in the lives of clients and other staff. He goes above and beyond to ensure clients and staff are fully supported to reach their highest potential. Joe helps clients identify interests and finds ways to get them involved. He works with his team to ensure people have opportunities to participate in activities that are important to them.

Humane Society honors volunteers



In March, Terry Ayers, Sam Hall, Neisha Luther, and Brighid Blasdel—all participants in Stone Belt's Lifelong Learning Program in Columbus—were recognized for their hard work and dedication volunteering weekly for almost eight years at the Bartholomew County Humane Society. These four exemplify how all people have contributions to make.

Human Resources staff changes

Preston Hughes, who has recruited staff for three years, stepped into a new role with the department — Human Resources manager. In addition to recruiting, he has taken on day-to-day supervision of the department.



PRESTON HUGHES

Susan Hoard is now HR director, a role she has filled on an interim basis since October. She will continue as chief information officer.



SUSAN HOARD

"We are very excited about these changes, and hope that this new structure will allow us to continue to find opportunities to strengthen the support this vital department provides the agency," says **Ward Brown**, chief financial officer.

THANK YOU DONORS

Stone Belt appreciates our generous donors (March 31, 2018, to March 31, 2019) 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.

Cornerstone Society (\$10,000.00 - \$24,999.00)

Carol- Anne, Don, and Jonathan Hossler, Smithville Charitable Foundation

Pillar Society (\$5,000.00 - \$9,999.00)

CFC Properties, Inc., IU Credit Union, Jim & Mary Kenny, Randall & Rae Kirk, Old National Bank, Donald & Carolyn Snyder, Hal Turner

Limestone Society (\$2,500.00 - \$4,999.00)

Big Red Liquors, Malcolm Brown, Clendening Johnson & Bohrer, P.C., Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County, Crowder's Healthcare Pharmacy, Kay Dahlgren, Jim & Joyce Grandorf, Hylant Group, Lucky's Market, Michael Melby, St. John Associates, The Ability Experience

Builder Society (\$1,000.00 - \$2,499.00)

Bill & Michelle Bartley, Norma Beversdorf-Rezits, Blue & Co., LLC, Boston Scientific, Alex & Ginny Buchwald, Charlie & Rhonda Burch, Betty & Michael Davis, First United Church, Inc, Lori & Preston Garraghty, Genoa Healthcare Pharmacy, German American Bank, Leslie Green & Ed Maxedon, Erma Hall, Cindy Higgins, Anne Higley & Eric Benson, Trish & Louie Ierino, Dan & Beth Lodge-Rigal, DJ Masson & Betsy Gersin, Stuart & Cookie Mufson, New Unionville Baptist Church, Diane Pelrine & Patrick McNaughton, Dick Sanders, Winston & Sue Shindell, Henry & Celicia Upper, Kurt & Lisa Zorn

Advocate Society (\$500.00 - \$999.00)

William & Susan Becker, Bloomington Board of Realtors, Jim Bohrer & Denise Howard, Anne & James Bright, Evelyn Brown, Daniel & Debbie Conkle, Betty Davidson, Brian & Danica D'Onofrio, Mary Green-Higgins & David Higgins, Dan & Evelyn Harrell, Justin & Emily Harrison, Margaret Hathaway, MaryEllen Jones, Kappa Kappa Sigma, Iota Chapter, Russ Lyons, Linda & Rodney Margison, Edwin Marshall, Gloria McAuley, Valerie Merriam, Michael's Uptown Café, Regina & Donald Moore, Charlie Nelms, Mary Lou Otting, Nancy Owen, Mary Phillips, Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Joseph Rezits, Trish Sterling, Richard & Susan Stryker, Reginald Travis & Wendy Bowler Travis, Inge Van der Cruysse & David Hamilton

Steward Society (\$100.00 - \$499.00)

Venus Abbitt & Janette Robertson, Melanie Adams, Robert Agranoff & Susan Klein, Erna Alant, Andrew & Kimberly Allard, Amal & Salih Altoma, Katie Anderson, Ann Armstrong, Sarah Baumgart & Bill Lozowski, Margery & James Belisle, Laura Belmonte, Basil & Jane Bennett, Bill C. Brown Associates, Leslie Bishop & Jeffrey Hyman, Carol & Michael Bodnar, Steve Bonowski, Vicki Borrelli, Marsha Bradford, Mark & Charlene Braun, Michael & Natalie Brewington, Cynthia & Michael Brown, Ward Brown & Amanda Denton, Bucceto's Pizza, Judy & Richard Buckmaster, Dallas Burch, Dana & Jim Burton, Doris Burton & Milton Fisk, Jean Camp, James & Carol Campbell, Carla Carson, John Clower, Cook Inc.,

Amy Cornell, Susan Cote, Jean & Doris Creek, Charlotte Daniel & Kenneth Brashaber, Rick Davis, Betty Deckard, Kim & David Deckard, Dick & Rosemary Dever, Doreen Devitt, Greg Dinkins, Melinda Doster, Jeannine Easton & Sherry Umphress, Joe & Gloria Emerson, Georgia Emmert & Janice Bagwell, David Eskenazi, Susan Failey & Brian Werth, Bridget Fallon Rooks, FarmBloomington, Elaine Finnegan, Sara Frommer, Vickie & Bernie Fry, Mary & Joseph Gajewski, Teddie Gambler, Beth Gazley & Carl Weinberg, Rich & Lois Gehrman, Nancy Gilliland, Penny Githens & Edward Buffie, James & Constance Glen, Henry Gray, Catherine Gray & John Turner, Kelly Griffin, Patricia & Jeff Gustaitis, Jo & Stephen Ham, Susan Harder, Judy & Don Harris, Mary Held, Ruth Hickman, Hive, HK Auto Repair Center, Inc., Myra & Steve Hogan, Mike & Barb Horvath, David Hossler, Angela & Patrick Huebel, Karen Jepson-Innes & Roger Innes, Miles & Marjorie Kanne, Paloma Kelley, Marianne Kielian-Gilbert, Jim Laughlin & Catherine Sherwood-Laughlin, Lennie's and the Bloomington Brewing Co., Lesley Levin, Carol Lewis, Gregory Lloyd, Bob & Suzanne Mann, Woody McGee, Ron & Diana McGovern, Lisa & Paul McHone, Donna Miller, Teresa Miller & Dan Allen, Daunna Minnich, Lawrence & Brenda Mitchell, Russell & Jill Moberg, Stephen & Sandra Moberly, Michael Molenda & Janet Stavropoulos, Kathryn & Harold Moore, Glenda & Patrick Murray, Paula & Duncan Myers, Mary Nichols, David Owen, Loretta Patterson, Bill & Phyllis Perkins, Carolyn Phillips Rhodes & Rollin Rhodes, Doug & Ellen Porter, Jamie & Debra Prenkert, Barbara & Gwyn Richards, Jill Robinson, Donald & Anne Root, Dick Rose, Ilse Sabelhaus, Kathy Sideli, Curtis Simic, Chester & Celeste Skoczylas, David & Sarah Smith, Sorosis Club of Indiana, Jim Spore, Gene & Ellen Stern, Sue Stillions, Shirley & Bill Stumpner, Jane Summitt, Nila Sunday, Beverly Teach, Beth & Tim Thrasher, Jacqueline Tijerina, Bill Van Tine & Sally Collins, Marie & Albert Vendel, Rita Wacker, Vivian & Wayne Winston, Nancy & Dane Woll, Matthew Worland

Friend Society (\$1.00 - \$99.00)

Malcolm Abrams, Ben & Jane Ackerman, Arni's, Shirley Bastin, Edward & Wendy Bernstein, Bloomington Garden Club, Derek Briles, Tyler Bunch, Patricia & Dan Butler, Dee Carrington, John & Wilma Chambers, Janie & Larry Chenault, James and Constance Cook Glen, Cup & Kettle, Ariel Denton, Bitta & Scot DeWees, Sarah Dorwin, Cherri DuPree, James & Jacqueline Faris, Laurette Frazier, Carla Gardner, April & Gordon Ginnings, Joe Grant, Adam Hamel, Randy & Diane Harrison West, Douglas & Pamela Hausmann, James & Ann Heath, Hilliard Lyons, Andrea Himes, Charles Hines, Tim Hines & Rebecca Philippsen, Sierra Hofmann, Kathy & Craig Holden, Lavern Hudson, Paula Ingle-Smith, Amy & Jason Jackson, Gerald & Polly Jean, David & Anne Johnson, Josh & Stephanie Johnson, Nancy & Darryl Jones, John Kaser, Nancy Kowa Boccuzzi, Kirk Lundy, Nancy Martin, Myla Jean Meadows, Richard Meetz & Lois Kaufmann, Nancy Metcalf, Jane & Clyde Mills, Virginia & Jerrold Myerson, Needmore Coffee Roasters, Josiah Newman, Molly & Brian O'Donnell, Wayne Parkinson, Diane Petersohn, Margaret Pruden, Bob & Elaine Pryor, Linda Rushton, Susan & Denny Russ, Mary Sarcona, Marian & Kadhim Shaaban, Keegan & Brent Smith, Nancy Smith, Shawna Taylor, The Irish Lion Restaurant & Pub, Rochelle Tinsley, Analea Tomlinson Cook, Lee VanBuskirk & Bonnie Gordon-Lucas, Todd & Rebecca Willis, Betty & Neil Yoder

In-Kind

Bloom Magazine, Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center, IU Athletics Office, Mays Greenhouse, World Arts, Inc.

Why I give...

By AMY CORNELL

I choose to give because Stone Belt is a local agency. I want my dollars to stay close to home and to do work in my community. I want Stone Belt to be able to hire more direct support professionals, run more programs, and serve more people with disabilities in my own backyard. Stone Belt serves my community.



AMY CORNELL

I choose to give because Stone Belt has a 60-year record of providing for adults with developmental disabilities. Stone Belt has been a longstanding pillar of service in my hometown.

I choose to give because the leadership of Stone Belt is stable and trustworthy. Leslie Green has been a leader at Stone Belt for 40 years. She is knowledgeable and much loved by clients, staff, board members, and family. There is no one I trust more to deliver reliable services to the citizens of south-central Indiana who need them.

I choose to give because Stone Belt demonstrates time and time again concern for people who could be forgotten. Stone Belt makes sure each person gets the attention they would want for their own family. From healthcare to residential living to fulfilling work and education, Stone Belt cares.

I choose to give to Stone Belt because Stone Belt provides care for our citizenry and leads in the fight for the rights of those with disabilities. Leaders spend time with our elected leaders, rally the troops, and educate people about finance and laws that affect families and clients.

Stone Belt celebrates achievements. Staff and leaders mourn when they lose a member of their family. They raise money. They do art and make music and write letters. They provide a stable and friendly home life to many people who might otherwise have none. I give to Stone Belt because Stone Belt has a big job to do and it is done well.

Amy Cornell is associate director for Strategic Alumni Engagement at the Walter Center for Career Achievement at IU Bloomington and a Stone Belt board member.

SPONSORSHIP

Becoming a corporate partner is a premiere way to show support for people with disabilities and vital in helping Stone Belt staff and clients reach farther than resources allow. For information, contact Development Manager Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168, ext. 269, or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

PLANNED GIVING

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



IU Credit Union



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

www.stonebelt.org

Stone Belt Arc

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