



# BRIGHTSTONE

*Helping adults with special needs*

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



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Thank you to the community leaders who serve on our board and are ambassadors for BrightStone, directing and sharing our mission in the community

## Get on the Bus with Us!

### BrightStone Building Community

People in the community who aren't familiar with BrightStone will often ask us, "What does BrightStone do? I see your bus **EVERYWHERE!**" That is sometimes the first introduction someone has to BrightStone because our students are always on the go.

Some of the families we serve have challenges managing work, life and transportation for their students to and from BrightStone each day. The opportunity to offer transportation on the bus allows many students to attend who might not otherwise be able. Each of us live in "community." BrightStone adults are enriched by being a part of their community – and they LOVE it as you can see by the faces pictures here.



Students love going to Chick-fil-A for an occasional lunch—a BrightStone favorite!



Twice a week, students visit the YMCA in Franklin for recreation and physical activity.



In addition to providing a physical activity and fun field trip destination, Franklin Family Entertainment Center also hosts the Special Olympics Bowling event and our Bowability fundraising event each year.



Continued on page 3...

**BrightStone provides a comprehensive work, social support and future residential community for adults with special needs, expanding their potential, helping them develop mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually**

## From the Executive Director

As we enter into the summer months, I'm thankful for warm weather and the time we'll all get to spend with family and friends. Summer brings us outdoors and into the community. I feel so grateful when I get to walk down Main Street, hear live music and enjoy all that the community offers me. I feel joy and connected with the community that I love and have lived in for the past 38 years. Keep reading and you'll discover that community is the theme of this issue.

Community is a feeling that comes when we are in fellowship with others. It's the result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. We all want to feel connected and live happy, fulfilled lives. BrightStone values the adults we serve and their need to be a part of community, as well.

BrightStone is very intentional in meeting this need for the adults we serve. Each week our students go into the community where they:

- Participate in activities
- Learn new things, and
- Interact alongside their neighbors and friends

Working with adults who have special needs, I've witnessed first-hand the incredible, positive impact that happens when we help our adults get connected...with friends, with loved ones, and with the community. As a community, we all celebrate that a place like BrightStone exists, serving families with loved ones who have special needs. Since 1999, we've been helping families give their son, daughter or family member a more meaningful and fulfilled life – and the chance to feel part of the community.

Thank you for the many testimonies you've shared with us of how you've been blessed by getting to know our students. It's a precious gift when you get a smile, a kiss on the hand, or a hug from one of our students. They are so open and ready to have fellowship with others – to be in community with you and me.

*Brenda Hauk*

Brenda Hauk, ext. 102  
Executive Director  
[brenda.hauk@brightstone.org](mailto:brenda.hauk@brightstone.org)



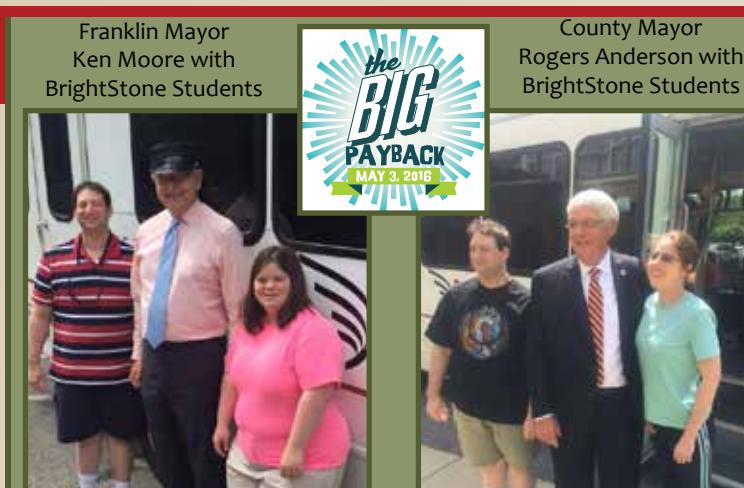
## Update: Funding for the New Bus

GOAL  
\$75,000

\$40,737  
RAISED

As you've seen, the students are always on the go. They're out in the community and connecting with people just like you. How are they able to do this? On the BrightStone bus!

Our bus travels over 500 miles per week taking students to and from BrightStone, taking them to activities and programs in the community, special Olympics training and competitions, and even out of town trips. And our bus is getting old!! The safety and protection of our adults is a primary concern, and we are over halfway to our \$75,000 goal. Thanks to all who are helping us continue to provide for vital transportation needs of our adults!



One of our efforts to raising funds for our bus was the Big Payback on May 3. Our amazingly supportive friends and leaders from the community helped our "GET ON THE BUS" social media promotion, including County Mayor Rogers Anderson and Franklin Mayor Ken Moore.

## BrightStone In the Community



Students enjoy field trips to the library to look at and check out books they take back to BrightStone.



BrightStone students participated in the Special Olympics at Brentwood High School in May and were awarded over 30 place ribbons. The real winners for the day were the many family members, staff and volunteers who shared in the experience with the students. This event celebrates the abilities of the participants, who are often identified by their disabilities. It was a wonderful day coming together as a community to provide a sense of accomplishment, pride and hope!

### Franklin Fire Dept.

A recent visit to the Franklin Fire Department was a thrill for the students. They were able to sit inside the truck, have their pictures made, and meet real life heroes!



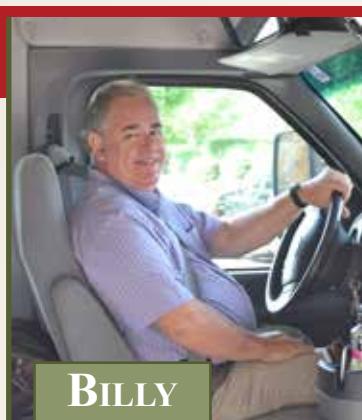
You can find BrightStone out in the community delivering some of the amazing products they produce for our retail partners. Not only can you purchase these items at BrightStone but also at Savory Spice, Handy Hardware, the Franklin Visitor Center and Batch Nashville.



### How the Bus Impacts Families

Andy loves riding the bus; he always has the biggest smile whenever he's on the bus! Even more importantly, the bus provides Andy a way to come to BrightStone when his parents cannot bring him. Andy's mom says that he enjoys the bus so much, he's almost disappointed when she drives him to BrightStone instead of riding the bus!

Many students simply would not be able to attend BrightStone were it not for the bus. These families are so grateful for this service!



BrightStone is so blessed by our bus drivers, Billy and Bobby! They always go above and beyond. Billy helps with special events and special projects. They are dearly loved, by the students and their parents!

Our outstanding headliner for BrightStone's 14th annual Songwriters Night was the popular Heidi Newfield. Heidi is a country music artist with hits like "Johnny and June" from her successful solo career and "Pour Me" from her work as part of Trick Pony. Heidi and her friends along with songwriters like Gordon Kennedy captivated the audience. Andy & Jan Marshall were the hosts and Steve Hayslip from News Channel 5 was the emcee for the evening. It was an incredible night full of laughter, great music and stories of empowerment. Thanks to all who came out to support us!



Hosts, artists and emcee were presented with thank you gifts of products made and presented by the BrightStone students



Heidi Newfield with BrightStone students  
Tammy & Sarah



BrightStone parents, Herb and Elaine Duell, shared two moving poems, one written by Elaine, about having a special needs child



Headliner Heidi Newfield with Trick Pony fellow band mate, Keith Burns



Songwriters Gordon Kennedy,  
Danny Flowers and James House

## THANK YOU

**Sponsors:**  
A. Marshall Family Foods, Inc  
Star Physical Therapy  
Don and Beth Stinnett  
Dick and Dottie Wells

**Patrons:**  
Beecher Carlson  
Wayne and Carolyn Curry  
Lorraine Ferrell

Franklin Synergy Bank  
Gary and Brenda Hauk  
Fred and Martha Nance



Executive Director Brenda Hauk with Kellum and her sister, Catherine, at the 2015 Bowlability

## Save the Date for Bowlability 2016 August 8-9 at Franklin Family Entertainment Center

Kellum Ferree, Director of Operations at Aldi, is this year's Bowlability Event Chair. Not only is she an incredible volunteer but as a sister of a BrightStone student, Kellum knows the positive impact that BrightStone has in the lives of the students and their families.

"When Catherine graduated from High School 5 years ago at the age of 22, we didn't know what the next chapter would be in her life. For someone as social as she is, it was very important for us to find a place where she can go daily and continue to flourish. Thankfully, we did. BrightStone has provided Catherine with endless love and support from day one. Words will never be able to express the gratitude we have for BrightStone. It's been such a blessing to my family!"

Last year, Kellum partnered with Aldi to involve them in the event. Be sure to talk to your workplace about participating in Bowlability with a team or as a sponsor!

To register,



BrightStone's annual Sporting Clays Shoot took on a new name, a new look, and a new prize this year. "Dr. Craig Ferrell Memorial Cup" was a tremendous success! It was a perfect day on May 7th out at Gentry's Farm, for 18 teams to compete for the inaugural trophy cup. The generosity

of our teams and sponsors helped raise over \$30,000 for the BrightStone program. Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered at this incredible event, especially the Gentry family and the planning committee:

Scott Gentry, Bob Clift & Dr. Rhea Holly



One of the 18 teams who participated this year included (L to R): Charles Wilson, Jim Sparks, Jay Siegrist, Ron Johnston, and Bob Clift



Chuck Woodcock holding the Dr. Craig Ferrell Memorial Cup as one of three shooters who tied for first place with a score of 47 out of 50

## THANK YOU

Silver Sponsor and Award Cup Sponsor: Dr. Rhea H. Holly

**Bronze Sponsors:**  
Boe-Tel TN Company  
James Butler, Jr.

Star Physical Therapy  
Gary and Brenda Hauk



Bowlability is BrightStone's second largest fundraising event. Many businesses and individuals who have a team tell us it is one of their favorite events all year. Many teams have themes and some even dress alike according to their theme. It is one of the easiest and most fun ways to get your friends and family involved and have a huge impact funding the mission of BrightStone!



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Tuesday, October 4th  
Governor's Club Golf Course



## 2016 Jim Hinton Memorial Golf Benefit

For more information, please call event chair Kevin Gabhart at 615-584-5748

# Why They Give



Tom and Sylvia Singleton have been a part of BrightStone from the very beginning. They were the first community donors and have continuously supported BrightStone ever since. We asked Sylvia to share why they give and this is what she said:

**"Our support for BrightStone, in the simplest explanation, comes out of our faith. We believe that we are all created in the image of God, including adults with special needs. In Proverbs, it talks about speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves and that's what BrightStone does. Being in Williamson Country, we live in one of the wealthiest counties in the state and for any of these students to need for anything is simply a shame. I personally don't believe it's too much to ask for these parents and families to have the peace of mind to know that their beloved adult has a safe and nurturing environment to be cared for and a place to go when they can no longer care for them. Our family has been blessed with four children and nine grandchildren who are all healthy, independent and do not need a place like BrightStone but we're helping BrightStone**

**build for the future. There are no guarantees that our family won't need those services one day and they should be there and available to anyone.**

**One of my favorite events all year is the BrightStone Christmas program. I am always struck by the joy and love the students have. At BrightStone, you see students helping each other and contributing to the community there. I believe this is notable and reflects the leadership and priorities the organization sets to create such an enriching environment. I always come away with immense gratitude and a smile."**

## Honoring Volunteers



On March 16th, BrightStone honored its volunteers at a brunch with the theme, "Thanks a Latte." There were three superlatives awarded to volunteers Mary Barnes, Joan Smith and Carole Wald for their service. Kevin and Lisa Gabhart were recognized as Volunteers of the Year. Kevin chairs the Jim Hinton Golf Benefit and just began his third term on the Board of Directors while Lisa is a weekly volunteer at the front desk, answering the phone and assisting with administrative tasks. We appreciate all of our volunteers and their incredible contribution; we couldn't do this without you. Thanks a latte!

## The Wisdom of Planned Giving

With wise planning, your assets can be used to bless the people and organizations you care about most – now and in the future. Planned giving is a way to gift non-cash assets (like stock, real estate, or closely held stock) and reduce your current income tax liability, reduce your future estate tax liability, and make it possible to give larger charitable gifts while maintaining your retirement and lifestyle goals.

When you make a future planned gift to BrightStone, we will have the needed resources to serve adults with special needs in our community for many years to come. Examples include naming BrightStone as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy, retirement account, or including BrightStone in your will and/or other estate documents.

For more information about planned giving, please contact Randy Elliott, Director of Advancement, at [randy.elliott@brightstone.org](mailto:randy.elliott@brightstone.org) or by calling 615-790-4888 ext. 101

# BRIGHTSTONE Partners

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, AND CORPORATIONS RECEIVED FROM JANUARY 1 - APRIL 31, 2016. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please accept our sincerest apology if a name has been misspelled or omitted and please notify us so that our records can be corrected. Due to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, Sustainers (\$99 and under donors) were not included in the list but every donation is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

## How You Can Partner with BrightStone



### TRANSPORTATION

Help us complete the funding so we can buy a new bus for our students. \$40,000 received so far and \$35,000 needed so we can "Get on the Bus!" (Cost is \$75,000)

### BECOME A BRIGHTSTONE AMBASSADOR

Become a BrightStone Ambassador - \$100 per month. Tuition only covers 1/3rd of our annual budget. Support the mission of BrightStone and help us fund expenses not covered by student tuition. With your first monthly donation, you'll receive a special product made by our students as our thank you gift. Call our Advancement office at 615-790-4888 ext 101 to sign up.



**FUND A SCHOLARSHIP**  
\$9,600 or \$800 a month. Bless one or more students an opportunity to attend BrightStone for a year and provide peace of mind to family members too!

### In-Kind Gifts – Song Writers Night:

Dena Willis  
Dream Events & Catering  
Gail Magli  
Kent and Kate Holdcroft  
Kevin Wimpy Portraits & Gardens  
Nashville Center for Aesthetic Dentistry  
Plastic Surgery Center of Nashville  
Robert and Shirley Parker  
Springtree Media Group LLC  
The Red House

### In Honor Of:

Jenny Brockman  
by Betsy Cullen  
Kelly Urban  
by Lin and Debbie Taylor  
Raleigh & Carol DeBow  
by Steve and Claudia Zanolini  
Patricia DeBow  
by Steve and Claudia Zanolini

### In Memory Of:

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by Buddy and Dru Victory  
Edith Wakefield  
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by James Smith  
Dr. Craig Ferrell  
by Vicki Stokes  
by Betty Wise  
Eric Moeller  
by Buddy and Dru Victory

BRIGHTSTONE IS A PRIVATELY FUNDED 501(c)3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

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



@BrightStoneTN



@BrightStoneInc



BrightStoneTN



140 Southeast Parkway Court,  
Franklin, TN 37064

Phone: 615-790-4888

## Meet Randy Elliott

### BrightStone's New Director of Advancement

BrightStone is very excited to announce that Randy Elliott has joined our staff as the Director of Advancement. He will be responsible for advancing the mission of BrightStone and will lead our development and community relations activities. Prior to joining BrightStone, Randy was Director of Advancement for New Hope Academy, Director of Development for Guideposts Foundation, President of Texas State Credit Company, and Vice President for Thomas Nelson Publishers. Randy holds a BA degree in Journalism from the University of Memphis.



Randy joining the students on the bus

Randy and his wife Ann have been married for 41 years and have lived in the Forrest Crossing community here in Franklin for the past 13 years. They have four grown children and two grandchildren. Please welcome Randy to the BrightStone family. He would love to hear from you!

## The Advancement Team

**Randy Elliott**, ext. 101  
Director of Advancement  
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**Mandy Singleton Clay**, ext. 103  
Communications Coordinator  
[mandy.clay@brightstone.org](mailto:mandy.clay@brightstone.org)