

LEADERSHIP STATEMENT



For as long as I can remember, the community of individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in Middle Tennessee have shared a dream - to have a place where their loved one could live, laugh, work, learn, socialize, worship and enjoy a meaningful life. This dream was borne from the harsh reality that many adults with special needs, like those with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, autism, and other intellectual challenges have very few options outside of the home.

In 1999, I left my job as a special education teacher to start BrightStone following God's calling to answer the heart-cry of families in search of a better life for their loved one. Our BrightStone leadership knew from the beginning that this is a God-sized project and that big dreams require step-by-step stages of growth and knowledge to lead to a time of readiness and maturity. So, we spent these 20 years developing what is now widely regarded as one of the premier job training and life learning programs in the region for adults with special needs. We had unwavering faith that there would come a time when the community's vision would be realized.

That time is now. And BrightStone is ready.

We have secured 140 acres of beautiful property off of Columbia Highway in Franklin, and construction will begin this summer for a new BrightStone campus highlighted by a large learning facility with greater capacity for students to attend and homes for students to learn life skills and attain their highest level of independence.

This is truly our Land of Dreams - not only because it provides an idyllic setting in the heart of Williamson County, but also because we can help more families and students to participate in this well-designed, individually-focused, and educationally implemented program. The generous people in this community and across the country are partnering together to make our dreams come true. We have launched a major capital fundraising campaign which is called, aptly, "Land of Dreams." We can't wait to share details of this new campus and capital campaign.

Thank you for your interest in BrightStone. Because of people like you, our students lead rich, fulfilling lives. Together we can achieve the dream and meet the heart-cry of so many individuals with special needs and their families in Tennessee and across the country - the dream of a permanent home and place to grow and learn in a loving caring environment - a dream that has gone unanswered for far too long.

Brenda Hauk

Brenda Hauk, CEO and Founder