

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

# BRIGHTSTONE

*Helping Adults with Special Needs*



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BRIGHTSTONE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE WORK, SOCIAL SUPPORT, AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, EXPANDING THEIR POTENTIAL, AND HELPING THEM DEVELOP MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, SOCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY.

**BRIGHTSTONE.ORG**

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**Dr. Catherine Stallworth**  
Sr. Medical Director, Physician Review,  
myNEXUS



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**W**hat a blessing to see BIG smiles on the faces of our students as more and more return to our Day Program and "life at BrightStone." We are so grateful that throughout the pandemic, God drew near to protect and to bless BrightStone. We didn't just survive 2020—we *thrived* thanks to your compassion and faithful support.

### Phase One Construction Has Begun!

I am very excited to share the progress on our *Land of Dreams* campus! Construction of our Job Training Center and two student homes is now underway! This is the beginning of a vibrant and all-encompassing campus – the first of its kind in Tennessee – to provide for the full life needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges, offering hope and reassurance for their families. We are not just constructing buildings; we are building a future where lives will be enhanced and opportunities will abound! Our broad program and residential services will provide our participants the opportunity to make personal choices and reach their highest level of independence while providing them with support and care for a lifetime.

To best plan for this vibrant and sustaining transition, we established six *Future Planning Teams*. Board and community leaders volunteered to lead each team to prepare us for our next environment. The outcomes of these teams will ensure that when we begin operations on our new campus, we will be "ready to move forward smartly!"

### Our Land of Dreams Can Only Happen Because YOU Care!

It is because you believe in our vision, you share our dream, and you support our needs that we are moving forward each day in faith. It is our hope to complete construction by the summer of 2022 and remain debt free – and we know we can achieve these goals with your support!

When you come to BrightStone for a tour of our current program, you'll be captivated by the dynamic individuals we serve, seeing their "abilities." When you visit our *Land of Dreams* campus, you'll catch the vision for BrightStone to become a model facility in our state and beyond. We encourage you to come for a tour and to bring friends. We want to share our dream with you!

### Your Prayers Mean Everything!

It is with our sincere and genuine belief in the power of prayer that we ask you to pray with us and for us as we seek God's provision – to fill us with wisdom, and to provide the resources we need to make our *Land of Dreams* a reality, serving individuals with special needs and their families for years to come.

Thank you so much for all you mean to BrightStone – for sharing the dream with others, for providing the resources we need to go forward, and for lifting us up in prayer to the One who remains in control of the plan – the plan for us to prosper—the plan in which we rest and hope for the future!

*Brenda Hauk*

Brenda Hauk  
Founder and CEO

*P.S. Please contact me at 615-790-4888 or [brenda.hauk@brightstone.org](mailto:brenda.hauk@brightstone.org) if you'd like to discuss your support of our Land of Dreams Capital Campaign. I look forward to speaking with you!*



## MEET MIKE CAIRNES, OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR

**BrightStone Board Chair, Retired Kirkland's Home Décor President/COO, husband, and father, Mike Cairnes shares his passion for helping adults with special needs**

### How did you first hear about BrightStone?

In 2016, I was considering a move to take a new role as COO of Kirkland's, based in Brentwood, TN. At the time, my son with special needs was attending high school. So my wife, Margot, and I were also considering his future. We quickly learned of BrightStone and met with Brenda Hauk (CEO) and Randy Elliott (Director of Advancement). We were blown away by the BrightStone operation. During our visit, we saw the joy in the faces of the staff and students. At that time, the new Land of Dreams campus was merely a parcel of land, but a concept that excited us greatly. BrightStone was a major part of my decision to make a career change and our decision to move to Tennessee. To this day, I remember Randy Elliott telling me, "Maybe God is bringing you here to help us."

### How has serving on the Board at BrightStone been rewarding?

Not long after arriving and getting settled in Nashville, I met with Brenda Hauk and Don Stinnett who was serving as BrightStone's Board Chairman. Together, they asked me to join the Board, and I gladly accepted. Serving on BrightStone's Board is nothing short of a privilege. It's wonderful to be part of a talented leadership community that gives so much of themselves for others. Most of all, I know this combined energy and effort is serving to help so many adults with special needs.

### What excites you most about BrightStone's future?

As excited as I am about what BrightStone is doing today under the brilliant leadership of Brenda Hauk and her fabulous team, I'm even more excited about the future. The new Land of Dreams campus will allow BrightStone to take their marvelous program and amplify it to reach even more adults with special needs. Today, BrightStone is able to serve close to 40 adults with special needs. In the future, the Day Program at the Land of Dreams will be expanded to 120 students, while also kick-starting a highly anticipated and much needed residential program. Many parents of adults with special needs wonder what will happen to their child when they, as parents, eventually pass on. BrightStone's new campus can offer a solution. The Land of Dreams can be a springboard to other services. We can lead the state and be a model for the country! I'm confident we will make it happen.



## YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

**Through your support of BrightStone during #TheBigPayback, you helped us raise over \$180,000! As we continue to move toward our exciting future, we are reminded each day that BrightStone's mission is impossible without the support of our generous community!**



PLEASE NOTE: The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT) reports a total of \$21,725 in donations to BrightStone through the CFMT website, [TheBigPayback.org](http://TheBigPayback.org). We're thankful to report that BrightStone's Big Payback final results of \$180,000 also include donations made directly to BrightStone (by mail or through [BrightStone.org](http://BrightStone.org)) during our Big Payback Matching Gift Campaign.

# Our Land of Dreams is Coming to Life!

On February 3, 2021 the BrightStone Board of Directors unanimously approved the Phase One construction contract for our Land of Dreams with Solomon Builders. We are honored to be working with this experienced and highly-celebrated company, leading an amazing team including Civil-Site Design Group, Earl Swensson Associates, and Gamble Design Group. In partnership with these fantastic groups, BrightStone will be able to expand our reach and grow in our mission!

February 3 of this year was a historic day for BrightStone, but of course, this was only the beginning! This past April, after months of planning and praying, Phase One construction officially began! What started as a vision is steadily becoming a reality with each passing day! The BrightStone Land of Dreams campus will open in the summer of 2022. The sprawling 140-

acre campus will accommodate our current and future planned facilities, which include our 23,000 sq. ft. Center for Learning, Art & Enterprise, student homes, Horticulture Center, Administration Building, Enterprise Retail Store, Health Clinic, Therapeutic Aquatic Center and Gym, Equine Therapy Arena and Stables, and Chapel. Most importantly, our expanded campus facilities will allow us to accommodate up to 120 adults in our day program!

As bulldozers and machinery move mountains of dirt and rock, and our campus begins to come to life, our excitement has never been greater! We reflect with gratitude for the support of those who have helped us reach this point, while we also eagerly look forward to the great task of funding this project and making our Land of Dreams a reality.



Student Home



Center for Learning, Art, & Enterprise

Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, we are overjoyed that Phase One Pre-Construction is 100% funded! This \$8,000,000 portion of Phase One includes the purchase of our 140-acres, site development, and wastewater system installation. The remainder of Phase One includes the Construction of our Center for Learning, Art & Enterprise, as well as two student homes!

We remain intimately aware of our need for community support to realize our vision of completing Phase One, and eventually, Phases Two and Three. Throughout our history, we have always thrived due to the generosity of others. The need for this facility is overwhelming and our waiting list continues to grow. There are very few residential options in our region, and few can match the unique plans that we have for our Land of Dreams. Our new campus will, truly, be the only one of its kind

in the state of Tennessee. We boldly ask that you pray for our Land of Dreams. We continue to move excitedly forward, resting in the power of prayer!

### Ways to Support the Land of Dreams Capital Campaign

- One-time financial donations
- Pledges payable up to 3 years
- Tax smart donations of stock
- Gifts of appreciated assets
- Gifts through your estate

We are eager to answer your questions and help you plan your gift! Please call Randy Elliott at 615-491-0096 or Brenda Hauk at 615-790-4888 to discuss further.

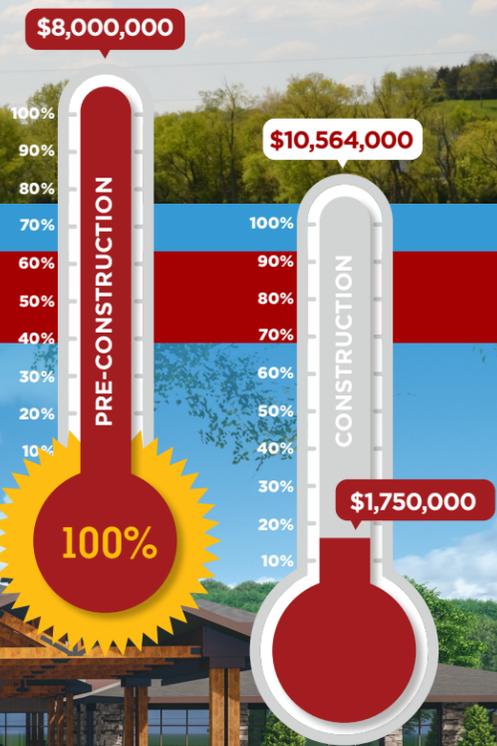


**WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO REMAIN DEBT FREE!**  
 Donations being matched NOW! Up to \$1,000,000 thanks to the Stinnett Family. 100% of the capital funding needed for our Land of Dreams comes from our giving community.  
 Please contact us to request a tour to learn more!

## Land of Dreams Capital Campaign

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-Construction Phase - \$8,000,000 goal - 100% funded!**
  - 140 Acre Land Purchase
  - Site & Infrastructure Development
  - Wastewater Treatment System
- Construction Phase - \$10,564,000 goal - \$1,750,000 to date!**
  - Center for Learning, Art & Enterprise
  - Two Homes (each \$750,000)
- Construction to be completed by Summer 2022**





## RANDY PRICE AND BRIGHTSTONE'S NEW VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

### CREATING MEANINGFUL, REAL-WORLD OPPORTUNITIES

We are so blessed that Randy Price has worked at BrightStone since 2015 as our Packaging Lead Teacher. He is beloved by every student and leads out in many ways within our Day Program--especially in the realm of technology! His new focus will involve an exciting expansion of our Job Training Program as he takes on a new venture as the Coordinator of BrightStone's Vocational Program!



Our vision for the Vocational Program involves three phases. The first focuses on identifying a curriculum and training program that will build the prerequisite skills necessary for our students to be successful in a variety of workplace environments. We are excited to have completed this phase! Phase two, which begins this June, is to implement job interest surveys, classroom instruction and vocational roleplay for our students. Phase three will put our students' training and preparation into action, as they engage in volunteer experiences at various work sites.

"Our day program has always had a focus on vocational work skills and learning," says Randy Price, "and as our program grows and moves to our new campus, it will be important to expand our learning experiences beyond the BrightStone campus itself. Involvement in and alongside our community will be very important." BrightStone adults face unique challenges in many aspects of their lives, which also impact their ability to gain and retain vocational experiences.

"Far too often in the working world, people focus on the 'dis' in disability," Price says. "With our Vocational Program we will create meaningful, real-world work opportunities which have the potential to lead to meaningful paid employment for our adults. With our exciting future at our Land of Dreams on the horizon, we are excited to be growing and expanding in more ways than one. On our new Land of Dreams campus, our Vocational Program will be one element of many that will contribute to a life of fulfillment for the amazing and capable adults we serve!"



## BRIGHTSTONE PACKAGED FOOD MIXES AVAILABLE AT THESE RETAIL PARTNERS:

- Batch Farmers Market Nashville
- Fork of the South (The Factory at Franklin)
- Franklin Visitors Center
- Olivia Olive Oil
- Savory Spice Shop



## TOURS ARE BACK AT BRIGHTSTONE!

We are thrilled to again be offering tours of BrightStone's campus!

For more information, or to book a tour and discover our mission, please contact Elaine Farmer at 615-790-4888 or [elaine.farmer@brightstone.org](mailto:elaine.farmer@brightstone.org).

# BrightStone is Our Family

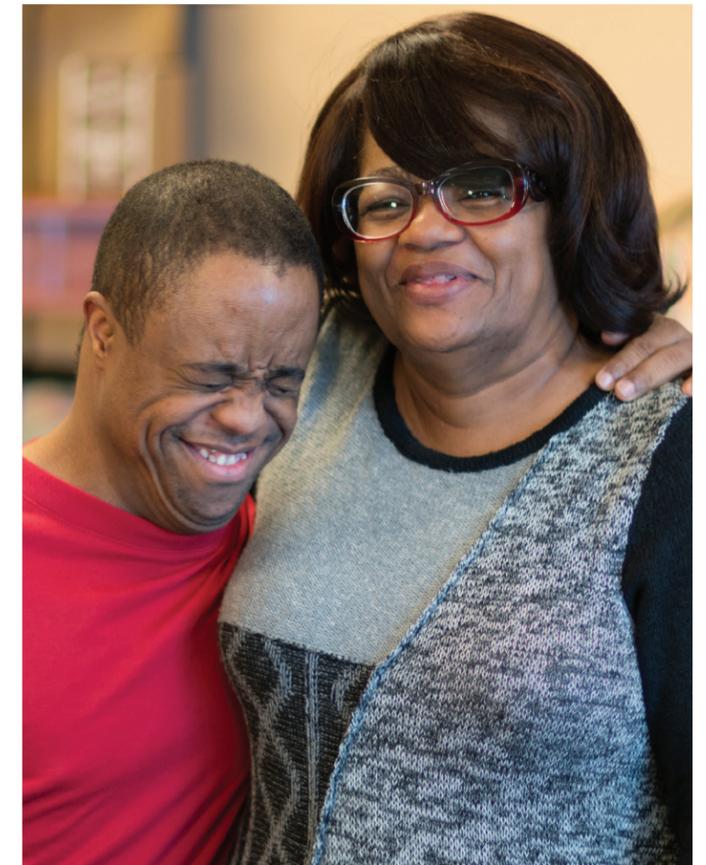


## A MOTHER'S REFLECTION...

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).*

It is our natural tendency to feel uncomfortable around those who are different from us and to gravitate toward those who resemble us. But when we allow our differences to create separation, we not only hurt others--we also deprive ourselves of the dynamic blessings that can come as a result of treating all people as equal and important. BrightStone makes a point to value and appreciate its unique students, recognizing the importance of all people. My son, Reggie, is a proud BrightStone student. The teachers, staff, and volunteers treat Reggie as their equal. In their continuous support, they have taught him to recognize his full potential and to love himself for exactly who he is.

BrightStone is our family. I trust the staff with Reggie because I know they love and care for him as a valued member of the BrightStone family. They care about Reggie's unique needs, as well as my concerns as his mother. BrightStone has made a tremendous impact on our family. BrightStone's future is very important with regard to Reggie's future. There is simply nowhere else like BrightStone, and without their support and commitment to my son, there would be little hope for his continued growth in becoming more self-sufficient. I trust BrightStone to continue to be a "home" for Reggie, even once my life on this earth comes to an end.



## BOWLABILITY 2021 IS COMING!

August 2-3, 2021 at the **Franklin Family Entertainment Center**

Team up with friends, family, or co-workers to raise awareness for adults with special needs while having a blast! Bowlability is a family-friendly event that celebrates the a-bilities of everyone. Get Rolling at **Bowlability.com!**



### BRIGHTSTONE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **BOWLABILITY - AUG. 2-3, 2021**

*Franklin Entertainment Center - 13th Year!*

#### **GOLF BENEFIT - OCT. 4, 2021**

*Governor's Club - 20th Year!*

#### **GIVING TUESDAY - NOV. 30, 2021**

*Scholarship Program Fundraiser!*

#### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - DEC. 2, 2021**

*Liberty Hall at the Factory in Franklin*

### WAYS TO SUPPORT BRIGHTSTONE

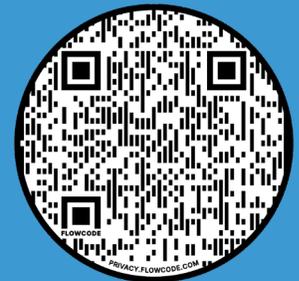
Make a donation/pledge  
[brightstone.org/donate](https://brightstone.org/donate)

Be a Volunteer  
[brightstone.org/volunteer](https://brightstone.org/volunteer)

Participate in our Events  
[brightstone.org/events](https://brightstone.org/events)

Come for a Tour  
[brightstone.org/tour](https://brightstone.org/tour)

Wish List  
[brightstone.org/wishlist](https://brightstone.org/wishlist)



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