



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

BRIGHTSTONE

Helping Adults with Special Needs



Tracey, Matthew, Jack, and Allen will be the first residents of the Ferrell Home.



Bethany, Marin, Grace, and Julie are preparing to move in to the Craig Home.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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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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BrightStone's Mission

To provide 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.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

2023 marked a landmark year for BrightStone!
New Campus. New Leader. Great Start To A New Chapter.

For so long it was just a dream. And so, the Land of Dreams became a reality in 2023 as we made official our state of the art "Stinnett Center for Learning, Art, and Enterprise" with a ribbon cutting celebration, and fully moved all of BrightStone's operations onto the Land of Dreams. Why is this a big deal? It's because we can serve more adults with special needs. And the team did just that by wasting no time to begin adding more adults to the program where it's now serving a record 49 adults in the day program!

The capital campaign for Phase I was a little over \$20M. This was a daunting task, yet our development team did it - clearly no challenge is too big! In 2023, with the generous support of community contributions and pledges, we reached the finish line of Phase One of our Capital Campaign! This has been a remarkable journey and feat on the back of an unbelievably generous and supportive community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and moreover, our students thank you!

The other reason the Land of Dreams is so important is that it allows us to provide additional services. The greatest worry parents of special needs have is *what happens to my son or daughter when I'm gone?* I can relate to the joys and stresses as a parent of a special needs adult myself. As part of Phase I, we have built two residential homes that will comfortably accommodate 4 adults (each). I'm pleased to say that we have just received the license to open those homes this year! This is a huge need and a massive accomplishment.

And the list of accomplishments doesn't stop there. Also in 2023, BrightStone welcomed the ACT (Autism Career Training) to the Land of Dreams, which is a clinic and day program for adults with autism. They now occupy an available house that came with the property. It's a source of additional income, clinical collaboration, and expansion of the mission and community.

I'm the luckiest Chairman in non-profit because I get to work alongside our new CEO, Lee Rose, our four fabulous Directors, and the marvelous staff at BrightStone who are a masterclass in passion and teamwork. And, of course, we're all here because of the courage and vision of Brenda Hauk who started it all over 24 years ago - that's right, 24 years ago. And so, as we move into 2024, **let us celebrate 25 years!**

Our future is bright with:

- Incredible leadership and staff who demonstrate great perseverance everyday
- Amazing Board of Directors who deeply care - some are highly skilled business people, and some are parents of Students at BrightStone
- You alongside our supportive and generous community without whom we could not fulfill this dream

It has been said, "*know me for my abilities, not my disabilities.*" BrightStone exemplifies this in every sense. We are excited about this next chapter and we will not rest as we push our mission forward in 2024!

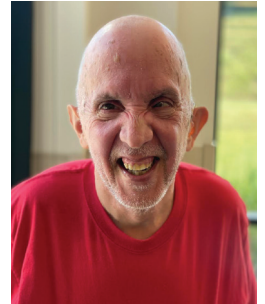
Mike Cairnes
Chairman of the Board



FROM THE DESK OF LEE ROSE

I am honored and privileged to share the multitude of blessings and accomplishments that defined 2023 for BrightStone. In one word – BUSY! We experienced exponential growth in the number of families served, we expanded our programs, and added to our staff. Most people would tell you it all happened quite rapidly and it did! Growth can also be difficult at times but our team at BrightStone did a remarkable job moving us forward. I will forever be grateful to Brenda Hauk for her vision of our Land of Dreams so that our team, today, can carry out our mission and vision to give our adults the life they have always envisioned for themselves. This is true Kingdom Work.

While 2023 was filled with remarkable accomplishments, there were also challenges. We lost 3 precious souls. Two were active students and one was a former student. We still talk about each one of them every day. We pray for their families and hope you will too. We are still in the grief process and I would like to thank BrightStone Parent, Beth Croley, Licensed Professional Counselor, for volunteering her grief counseling services to our staff and students. Philip, Elissa and Mark – we promise to keep your memories alive by giving our best every day just as you all did.



As a member of the BrightStone Family, we are committed to transparency of how your past and future support is impacting the lives of the people and families we serve. Here is a glimpse into some of our priorities in 2024:

- Launching our residential program with two homes – The Ferrell Home for men and The Craig Home for women.
- Continued growth and enrollment in our Day Program.
- Embracing Virtual-Reality technology in our Computer Learning Lab to enhance learning and place us on the forefront of modern learning for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Continued growth in our programs offering new elective courses such as a leadership development, book club, gardening, photography, show choir, dance, equine therapy and a social & emotional wellness club.
- Expanding our health and wellness programs by taking our students to places like the YMCA to keep them active in the community and physically able to do the things they wish to do.
- More community involvement. Create more opportunities for our adults to engage with others outside of BrightStone. Look for us at the the park, the bowling alley, a Preds game, volunteering at the animal shelter (a favorite), walking around the mall on a rainy day, at the library, Chic-Fil-A or anywhere for that matter. We are always out and about, and everywhere we go has a purpose to keep our adults active, improve mobility, and integrate those we serve with the community.
- Continuing to build relationships and collaborations within the community at large and the disability community.

As we embrace 2024, this will be a year filled with gratitude as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. This milestone will be celebrated in many significant ways and we have some very excited events planned throughout the year. I hope you will join us for one or more of them.

Thank you for caring about the adults with special needs and their families as well as our staff. Your presence, prayers, and support are blessings that propel us forward.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Lee Rose
Chief Executive Officer
Lee.Rose@BrightStone.org
615.790.4888

What's New

AT BRIGHTSTONE



The poster features a dark blue background with white stars. On the left, it says '25 YEARS' with 'BRIGHTSTONE' above the '5' and 'Serving Adults of All Abilities' below. To the right, it reads 'CELEBRATING BRIGHTSTONE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY' and 'A Night Full of Stars' in a cursive font. Below this, it says 'Featuring Grammy Winning Trio' and 'Lady A' in large white letters. On the right side of the poster is a photo of the three members of the band Lady A.

TN DEPARTMENT OF INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ISSUES LICENSE FOR TWO BRIGHTSTONE RESIDENTIAL HOMES

We received our license to allow the much-anticipated move in of students to our first two residential homes. The first student move-in for our male designated home, the Ferrell Home, begins in March 2024, followed by residents of the female-designated home, the Craig home later this spring.

A NIGHT FULL OF STARS BENEFIT CELEBRATING BRIGHTSTONE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

"A Night Full of Stars" will be held April 16, 2024 at Liberty Hall at The Factory at Franklin. Grammy winning trio Lady A will headline the event, which will also include a reception, dinner, online auction, and special performance by the adult students who attend BrightStone's day program. The event will be emceed by WSMV's Tracy Kornet.

Visit brightstone.org/nightfullofstars or scan the QR code to learn more about the event, auction, and supporting our work. Proceeds will allow BrightStone to expand its programs and resources for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

It will be an exciting year! Follow us through [brightstonetn](https://www.facebook.com/brightstonetn) on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all of our anniversary events for this year as they evolve, including special announcements in September for Founder's Day.



RECORD CROWD ATTENDED THE 2023 BRIGHTSTONE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The 2023 BrightStone Christmas program at The Factory at Franklin resulted in a record-breaking crowd of nearly 900 community members, an historical high of BrightStone products sold, and an historical number of attendees inspired to select items to donate from our on-site wish tree. We are blessed and amazed by the continued success and growth of our Christmas program, as the free event is held each year as a thank you to the community. It is truly heart-warming to be within a community that continually shows up with open hearts to support our BrightStone adults! A special thank you to Jo's Custom Cakes and Catering of Murfreesboro for a wonderful reception, and to our presenting sponsor, Advance Financial.



BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR!

A special thank you to our donors who have made a commitment to give on a monthly basis! Monthly donors provide us a stable and predictable source of funding, which allows us to plan and implement impactful and sustainable programs for our future. Please consider becoming a monthly donor. Choose the "Monthly" option when making your gift at brightstone.org/donate.

**DONATE
TODAY
AT**



BRIGHTSTONE

25 YEARS



1999 — ■ BRIGHTSTONE OPENS DOORS in donated space at a local church

2007 — ■ BRIGHTSTONE MOVES to its own building on Southeast Pky. in Franklin, TN and houses classrooms and admin under one roof

2016 — ■ BRIGHTSTONE BEGINS TO READY LAND off of Columbia Pike in Franklin, TN for the building of the Land of Dreams

2017 — ■ LAND OF DREAMS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

2021 — ■ CONSTRUCTION BEGINS for Phase One of the Capital Campaign

2022 — ■ DOORS OPEN TO STUDENTS in the new Center for Learning, Art and Enterprise on the Land of Dreams

2023 — ■ \$20 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND TWO RESIDENTIAL HOMES COMPLETED

2024 — ■

BRIGHTSTONE'S FIRST TWO RESIDENTIAL HOMES LICENSED - ONE FOR MALE, ONE FOR FEMALE.

The Land of Dreams *and Beyond* Capital Campaign begins to seek funding for future development of BrightStone's Land of Dreams.

Land of Dreams: the Capital Campaign for BrightStone

100% PHASE ONE GOAL REACHED - THANK YOU!

We will forever remain thankful for every person, organization, and foundation that felt led to partner with us and help make our Phase One capital campaign a success. Community support brought our Land of Dreams to life, which is the first facility of its kind in Tennessee serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LAND OF DREAMS AND BEYOND! 2024 PRIORITIES

With community support, renderings of the facilities we want to build are shown below.

Rendering of our
Maintenance and
Storage Building



Outdoor
Fitness
Court



Renovate a portion of
the barn interior to add
retail shop; horticulture
classroom and ADA
bathroom; plus a
Farmer's Market area



Add paved area for walking and bike riding,
and an ADA fishing pier on our lake.

If you have a desire to help fund any or all of these facilities shown here, please let us hear from you.

To make an online capital donation, go to brightstone.org/landofdreams and click on the capital campaign donate button to donate using a credit card, Venmo, PayPal, or ACH transfer. We welcome RMD donations, donor-advised fund grants, and encourage tax-smart donations of appreciated stock. We also welcome one or two-year pledges, which you can make today and fulfill your pledge any time before the end of 2024 or 2025.

For questions or to request a pledge form, please contact Director of Advancement, Randy Elliott at 615-491-0096 (cell), 615-790-4888 (office) or email Randy.Elliott@BrightStone.org.

**THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN
OUR LIFE-CHANGING MISSION!**

PROGRAM FEATURES

New Elective Programs

PROVIDING MORE VARIETY FOR STUDENT INTERESTS

Our program offerings for student participants in our day program continues to grow. This year, we have re-instated a partnership with the Williamson County YMCA that will supplement one of our core tenets of Health and Wellness. Students will rotate in groups once per week to visit the YMCA to engage in sports and recreation such as games in the Youth Activity Center, Basketball, and swimming. BrightStone is also introducing a new Social and Emotional Wellness Club. The club will be an elective offering and will meet once per week to discuss topics such as gratitude, friendship, anger, emotions, etc.

Additional program expansions for this year includes a new Bible Study Group, photography class, and garden club. Renovations of our barn are also planned to include space for animal care, an ADA bathroom, a horticulture classroom and a retail shop.

Congratulations to our amazing BrightStone volunteer, Karen Rogers, who was nominated for the Volunteer Spirit Award at the Franklin Tomorrow Exemplary Community Volunteer Awards. Karen played an instrumental part in the management and distribution of our crops last year, and is now leading the efforts for our new garden club and horticulture program. The new elective program currently has 19 students participating.





An Immersive Learning Experience:

VIRTUAL REALITY COMES TO OUR CLASSROOM!

The arrival of advanced technologies based on virtual reality and augmented reality is making its way to our classroom. The new educational-based technology will make realistic and immersive environment learning possible in a way that is physically and psychologically safe, and can be guided by the BrightStone teachers and individuals themselves. It will allow the adults in our day program to explore new interests, and teachers to choose from nearly unlimited topics for lesson plans. BrightStone is thrilled to be able to provide this opportunity for our students to gain additional knowledge about the world. The availability of topics also includes lessons on health and wellness, personal care, and safety—thus, helping students expand their life skills in a unique and engaging way.

The introduction of virtual reality is both an exciting and unique addition to the way adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn, and a natural fit for our state-of-the-art learning center, The Stinnett Center for Learning, Art and Enterprise. The integration is made possible through a grant from 100+ Women Who Care Williamson County, a group of women committed to supporting their local community through a giving circle.

The new virtual reality lessons will be in full use on BrightStone's campus this spring, and will begin with a lesson plan on the Solar System. The new technology will allow students to visit various planets for a real-life simulation of life beyond Earth. To complete the lesson, a special celebration is planned for students, staff, and several community members for a real-life solar eclipse viewing on the BrightStone grounds April 8th.

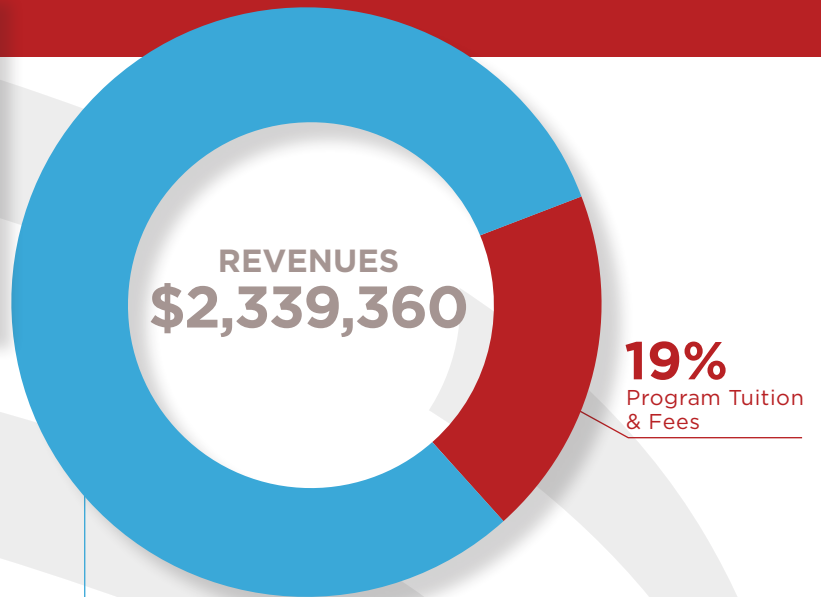
BRIGHTSTONE'S YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 Budget

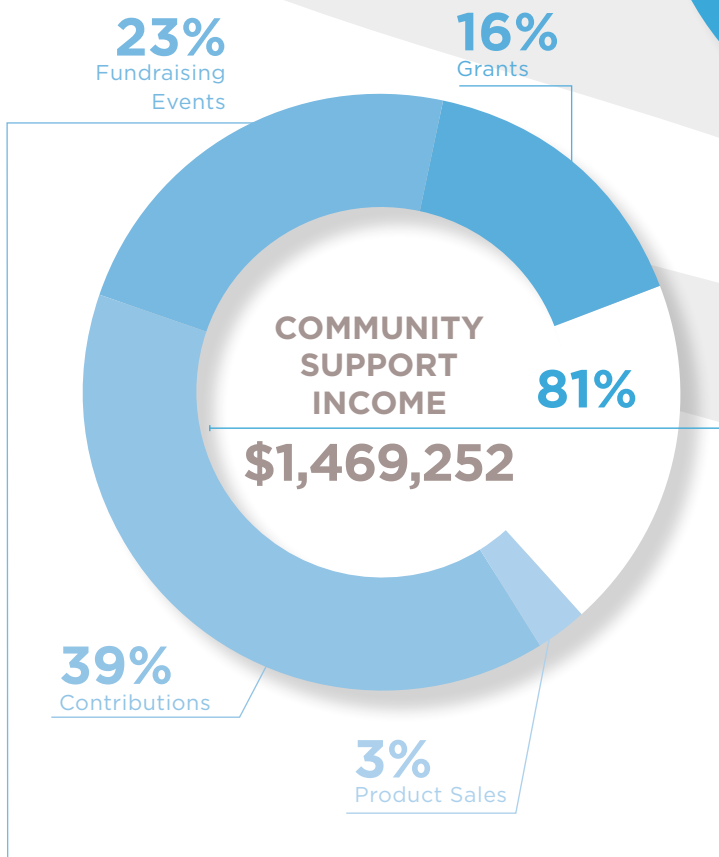
REVENUES **\$2,339,360**

EXPENSES **\$2,339,360**

NET INCOME **\$0**



BrightStone was blessed to have 81% of its \$2,339,360 revenue come from the Community.



2023 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

DR. CRAIG FERRELL MEMORIAL SPORTING CLAYS BENEFIT	\$52,610
BOWLABILITY	\$103,225
JIM HINTON MEMORIAL GOLF BENEFIT	\$237,830
GODWINK'S AT BRIGHTSTONE	\$153,000
TOTAL	\$546,665

EMPLOYEES



24 Full-time **6** Part-time
including BrightStone's full-time RN overseeing our health and wellness program

STUDENTS

49

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

1,400 Hours Per Student

2024 Budget

REVENUES **\$2,823,200**

EXPENSES **\$2,823,200**

NET INCOME **\$0**

Hear from our Students!

Meet Nina

Why do you like coming to BrightStone?

“What draws me in to going to BrightStone is the open energy that you see and feel as you walk through the doors every morning—bringing cheerful, joyful, and happy smiles given by students and teachers. Even if you have an off day they will bring you up and work harder to keep good vibes through the building. It’s like having a warm blanket on when you get a cold shoulder.”

What is your favorite thing to do there?

“Being able to help, make, or create new things. I enjoy being assigned to help make crafts, create food mixes, and glazing pottery. I always try to be a step up and keep busy, which improves confidence in wanting to help even more.”

What do you like to do when you are not at BrightStone?

“Play with my dogs, be outside active, and ride my horse as much as I can. My pups are like family and I feel closest to them. I enjoy nature and walking or sitting in a swing and listening to music and shutting everything out.”



Nina is a beautiful artist and loves to draw pictures of her horse!



Why should others support BrightStone?

“BrightStone’s starting from a small single building into a big, future dream just waiting to come is incredible. It really shows how strong a school can be, like linked chains becoming stronger as a single one is added ... so, we wait for your arrival... to help us grow and add more linking hands and pure hearts.”



Jack's Corner

Student Jack led the effort for an incredible project at BrightStone! He interviewed all of the students and staff in order to find out what their interests, favorite foods, sports, things to do at BrightStone and in the community are, and more! The project resulted in a fabulous, comprehensive book that details all of his findings.

The book is a great resource for students and families to learn more about the members of the BrightStone community. The idea to interview everyone and compile the findings was conceived by Jack himself.



We are so proud of Jack’s initiative, his thoroughness, and dedication to help the BrightStone students and staff strengthen their relationships and get to know more about each other.

Congrats, Jack!



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BECOME A PART OF BRIGHTSTONE'S LEGACY SOCIETY!

Consider supporting BrightStone through Planned Giving.

Your Planned Gift creates a legacy of giving beyond your lifetime that will improve the lives of adults with disabilities and provide peace of mind to parents and family members.

brightstone.org/legacy

TOUR

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M-F 8:30AM - 4:30PM
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