

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

# *I Believe in* **BRIGHTSTONE**



**I BELIEVE IN BRIGHTSTONE** **PAGE 6**

**UPCOMING BRIGHTSTONE EVENTS P3**  
**BUILDING THE FUTURE P10**

BRIGHTSTONE IS A COMMUNITY FUNDED 501(C)3 NONPROFIT SERVING ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

**BRIGHTSTONE.ORG**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President, Lee Rose  
Chairman, Mike Cairnes  
Vice Chair, Becky Harrell  
Secretary, Don Stinnett  
Treasurer, Jared King

### DIRECTORS

Jessica Borne  
Dr. Ian Byram  
Robert Carroll  
Larry Cranch  
Tyler Eck  
Sean Farrell  
Dr. Caroline Hillyard  
Kent Holdcroft  
Senator Jack Johnson  
Jim Lackey  
Meghan Schneider  
Bob Speck

## BrightStone's Mission

To provide a comprehensive work, social support, and residential community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, expanding their potential and helping them develop mentally, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.



## LETTER FROM THE CEO

### Dear BrightStone Friends and Supporters,

**Y**our belief in our mission has continued to make this an extraordinary year. We've achieved significant milestones, including starting a vital infrastructure project for the next phase of our residential homes, completing a beautiful recreational space on campus, and celebrating another group of students graduating from our P.A.T.H vocational program. This progress is a testament to the impact we make when you partner with BrightStone.

We are now excited to invite you to join our newest initiative – **The “I Believe in BrightStone” Project.**

Supporting our annual fund, this campaign runs through the end of the year and is centered on the inspiring stories of our BrightStone adults and their families. We have launched a special online platform at [BrightStone.org](http://BrightStone.org) dedicated to showcasing these powerful stories, empowering you with convenient and inspiring opportunities to show how much you Believe in BrightStone too.

We hope that you will join us in this vital effort. Whether through sharing our mission with others, volunteering your time, or contributing financially to this important annual campaign, your partnership truly makes all the difference. For those just getting to know BrightStone, we warmly welcome you to tour our campus and witness firsthand the inspiring work happening every day.

I am excited for what the remainder of this year holds and hopeful it will be our best year yet thanks to your continued support.

Thank you so much for Believing in BrightStone.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Rose'.

Lee Rose President and CEO

P.S. September 7th marks our official Founder's Day. As we celebrate our founding this September, a gift in honor of Brenda Hauk is a wonderful way to participate in the "I Believe in BrightStone" annual campaign and recognize the foundation upon which all our progress is built.



# Upcoming Events

## STRONGER TOGETHER A Day of Inclusion and Health

OCT  
**4** | 9AM-1PM

BRIGHTSTONE LAND OF DREAMS

Free for adults and children with IDD ages 5 and older.

Join us for an empowering day of inclusion, wellness, and community connection with BrightStone and Special Olympics Tennessee! Free sports and wellness physicals, hearing, dental, podiatry and nutrition screenings, inclusive sports, and resources.



Register here

## A NIGHT FULL OF COMEDY

OCT  
**13** | 7:30PM

THE FISHER CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

We are excited to host our 2nd year of A Night Full of Comedy, presented by Atmos Energy. Featuring comedians Aaron Weber, Nick Thune, and Dustin Nickerson. Plus, BrightStone student talent and other surprises to be announced!

Visit [thefishercenter.com/events](http://thefishercenter.com/events) for tickets!



## JIM HINTON MEMORIAL GOLF BENEFIT

NOV  
**3** | 11AM

THE GROVE  
COLLEGE GROVE, TN

Come play for a great cause for our first time at The Grove!

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THE GREEN

- Choose a program area at BrightStone that you're passionate about.
- Form your team and rally support from friends and family.
- Commit to raising a minimum of \$12,000 to support your chosen program.
- Celebrate your success with a meaningful day of golf!

### YOUR TEAM'S BENEFITS

- **Team Foursome:** Entry for a team of four golfers to enjoy the day.
- **Chosen Impact Area Recognition:** Your name or company logo prominently displayed on a tee sign at the hole for your selected impact area.
- **Event-Wide Acknowledgment:** Your team's name featured on the event leaderboard and recognized during the awards ceremony.
- **A Lasting Connection:** A framed photo of your team will be displayed for one year in the BrightStone classroom your team helped support.

Teams are limited – sign up today at [BrightStoneGolf.com](http://BrightStoneGolf.com), or contact Jenny Myhr at [Jenny.Myhr@BrightStone.org](mailto:Jenny.Myhr@BrightStone.org), 615.790.4888

### IMPACT AREAS: Each hole and team has a purpose!

**Forward Thinkers:** *Learning Lab*  
**Tee-rific Trainees:** *Vocational Training*  
**Team Ctrl-Alt-Elite:** *Technology*  
**Leaders of the Pack:** *Leadership Club*  
**The Social Squad:** *Social Enterprise*  
**The Tinsel Tanglers:** *Art Lab*  
**Glaze of Glory:** *Ceramics*  
**Melody Makers:** *Music*  
**Muscle & Hustle:** *Fitness*

**ALL-star Squad:** *Recreation (for all)*  
**Wellness Wizards:** *Nutritional Needs*  
**Care Commanders:** *Nurse/Clinic*  
**Connection Crew:** *Community Engagement*  
**Soil Mates:** *Horticulture*  
**Accessibility Allies:** *Transportation*  
**Independent Instigators:** *Residential*  
**The Fix it Force:** *Facilities*  
**The Vibe Tribe:** *Event Programming*

## HOLIDAY MAGIC

DEC  
**2** **GIVING TUESDAY**  
Support the magic of BrightStone on Giving Tuesday!

DEC  
**1-6** **HOLIDAY SHOPPE**  
9am-3pm  
BrightStone's Land of Dreams

DEC  
**9** **I BELIEVE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
6:30pm  
Liberty Hall  
The Factory at Franklin

# What's New

## AT BRIGHTSTONE

### NEW RECREATIONAL AREA

**Check out our beautiful new recreational area with great Pickleball Courts and new basketball goals!** Thank you to the following construction partners for bringing it all to life: Barton Sports Construction, Volunteer Fence, Billy Mix, and Tennessee Valley Paving.

The new area is being used for a variety of student activities, including the on-campus Train 4 Life fitness program sponsored by the Special Olympics of Middle TN. BrightStone recently launched its first 12-week Special Olympics Train 4 Life Program. The program focuses on functional fitness, strength, endurance, mobility, balance nutrition, and positive lifestyle habits. The program includes one in-person workout at BrightStone a week, 2 home workouts each a week, along with nutritional and mental health education weekly. The program also includes pre and post program health and fitness testing.

We currently have 9 students participating in Train 4 Life at BrightStone. In August, we will add a second session of 6-8 students. Special Olympics Train 4 Life goal is to empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to lead healthier, more active lifestyles through structured fitness, nutrition, and wellness education. We are excited to see our students train hard and have fun!



### UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE A BLESSING

We are extremely grateful for an amazing partnership with Belmont University's Occupational Therapy program. The partnership will bring three 2nd-year program students to our campus every day August 25 through November 14. These Level 2 occupational therapy students will be under the direction of Dr. Caroline Hillyard, one of our distinguished BrightStone Board Members. The Belmont students will work with our students on both fine motor skills and sensory adaptation. The program includes evaluations and individualized plans enabling measurable results.

This will be an ongoing partnership with Belmont beyond the November date. Two additional Belmont students meeting their final Doctorial requirements will come in the Spring, and will be observed by other first year students completing their required 40 hours/ semester of Occupational Therapy observation.

We are extremely excited to be blessed by partnerships with universities to benefit from the talents of their students. Lipscomb University's Department of Education will also be partnering with BrightStone this Fall. Several first year Education major students will come on site as part of their first-year Special Education requirement of 10 hours of observation per semester.

We are so blessed to have these university students share their talents with us!

*All students from universities are fully vetted before serving on campus, must complete an orientation, and properly identify with their student I.D. whenever they are on campus.*



## BRIGHTSTONE CARNIVAL SUMMER PARTY

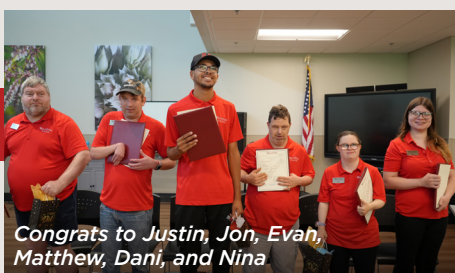
Students enjoyed a fun-filled day at the BrightStone Carnival student summer party in July. Activities included ring tosses, sponge relays, and a “dunk your teacher” dunking booth. A big thank you to Atmos Energy for firing up some delicious burgers onsite, and the Fletcher Brothers band for sharing their amazing talents (which resulted in a fun dance party!).



## FOUNDER'S DAY



September 7th marks 26 years since our founding in 1999 by Brenda Hauk, a special education teacher in Williamson County, who saw a critical need for adults with IDD to continue their education and be able to use their talents in the community after high school. We build more than just programs – we transform lives. With community support, we are building a Land of Dreams that reflects the potential of the individuals we serve. Please help us build a brighter future – one life, one home, one dream at a time.



*Congrats to Justin, Jon, Evan, Matthew, Dani, and Nina*

Congratulations to our newest group of Preparation and Training for Hireability (P.A.T.H) students, who graduated from the program in May! Graduates of the program can choose to come involved with the BrightStone Leadership Club, leading additional responsibilities on campus and representing BrightStone at student-involved events in the community.



Our students continue to make our WBST news segments more and more engaging! Student anchor “Jumpin Jack Flash” has now joined the team, providing a witty and informative take on all of our student news. Be sure you have joined our email list on **BrightStone.org** to receive our WBST news releases each month.



Thank you to Dr. Elizabeth White who came to BrightStone to lead a fun, engaging, and extremely informative puppet show centered on dental care. The students learned critical skills that will help them improve and maintain their oral health. We are appreciative of the time and creative way to help teach our students about this important life skill!





# The I Believe in B

## WHERE STORIES INSPIRE AND UNIQUE GIFTS SHINE

The *I Believe in BrightStone* project is a movement to uplift adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities **now through December 31, 2025** by highlighting their unique gifts and abilities and sharing the journeys that have led them to BrightStone. You'll be moved to hear the impact that BrightStone has had on these precious lives, and the life-saving answered prayers for so many families.

**Thank you for supporting our *I Believe in BrightStone* project!  
Together, we can change the way the world sees adults with  
intellectual and developmental disabilities.**



## ABOUT US

Since 1999, BrightStone has been serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. BrightStone's individualized educational, vocational, and residential program provides meaningful daily life and helps students to discover their talents, gain independence and personal choice, and reach their full potential.

We aim to nurture and develop the abilities of adults with IDD across all facets of life – mental, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual. Our approach is to focus on each individual's unique abilities, talents, and skills, offering a diverse range of programs that include vocational training, art education, reading lab instruction, development of life and social skills, and over 10 elective programs to give our students more individual choice. We're not just a program but a community where friendships are forged and skills are honed.





# rightStone Project

## Fun Facts!

### One of our students:



Co-hosted a BrightStone event with NBA world Champion Luke Kornet



Is an incredible drummer, actor, artist, singer and played the lead in his school performance of Robin Hood



Is a grocery connoisseur, having worked at Harris Teeter 14 years, and currently 10 years at Kroger



Participates with Able Voices photography and had one of her photographs featured in Tennessee Disability Magazine



Is a member of the BrightStone WBST on campus news team always giving a witty viewpoint of the weather

These are just a few examples of unique student fun facts. Visit the *I Believe in BrightStone* project site to not just find these answers but learn more facts and hear family stories that will help you get to know our wonderful adults. We're confident that once you do so you will understand why we have this very special project. Our students continue to prove their talents and abilities, and the contributions that they make to the community, and we are eager to share them with you.

**Never stop believing! Read the stories and show your support. Scan the QR code or visit [BrightStone.org/believe](http://BrightStone.org/believe).**



For questions, contact Missy Naff, Senior Development Manager, at 615.790.4888, [Missy.Naff@BrightStone.org](mailto:Missy.Naff@BrightStone.org)





# Planned Giving

## CREATE A LEGACY THROUGH YOUR BELIEF IN BRIGHTSTONE

Join the BrightStone Legacy Society and secure your personal legacy, ensuring that the values you cherish continue to make a profound difference for generations to come.

By including BrightStone in your will, establishing a trust (such as a charitable lead or remainder trust), or naming BrightStone as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement, or investment account, you're not just making a gift; you're etching your commitment to a brighter future.

This enduring act of kindness allows you to make a profound difference without impacting your current financial flexibility. Your thoughtful planned gift offers you the peace of mind that comes from knowing you've provided lasting support for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, empowering them to live fulfilling lives.

This is your opportunity to define the impact you wish to leave on the world, creating a legacy that reflects your compassion and generosity.

## READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We're here to help you explore the best way to achieve your philanthropic goals. Please contact Jenny Myhr at [Jenny.Myhr@BrightStone.org](mailto:Jenny.Myhr@BrightStone.org) to discuss your interest in making a planned gift or to notify us that you have already made a planned gift to benefit BrightStone – so we can add you as a member of the Legacy Society!

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

Doris Alexander  
Carolyn Dodd  
Dr. Ogle & Terry Hall  
Becky Harrell  
Emily Magid  
Cindy & Brian Miller

Scott & Karen Ossewaarde  
Willis Reynolds  
Jim Smithey  
Ken Solesby  
Carol & James Weinberg  
Dottie & Dick Wells

## JOIN US FOR DAF DAY ON OCTOBER 9, 2025

DAF DAY is a national day of giving with donor-advised funds (DAFs), which are a simple, flexible, and tax-advantageous way to give to your favorite charities.

By using your DAF, you can:

- Make a tax-deductible donation to your DAF account.
- Let your contributions grow tax-free over time.
- Recommend grants to BrightStone and other charities you care about, whenever you are ready.

On DAF DAY, we invite you to use your DAF to make a grant to BrightStone and help us continue our mission. Your generosity will have a greater impact, allowing us to serve even more families.

**Take Action Today! Contact your DAF provider to recommend a grant to BrightStone on October 9, 2025.**





Changing lives through monthly giving

When you become a BrightStone monthly donor, you become a part of a special group of supporters who are helping to build a brighter future for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As a monthly donor, your gift sustains the *I Believe in BrightStone* annual fund, helping to bridge the gap between student tuition and the cost of providing our life changing programs.

From education and job training to residential support and community involvement, your generosity ensures BrightStone students and residents continue to thrive.

**When you give \$25 or more each month, you will receive:**

- A handmade welcome gift created by a BrightStone student
- An exclusive *I Believe in BrightStone* t-shirt
- A VIP Annual Tour with lunch for you and up to eight guests
- A 10% discount on all BrightStone products year-round
- An invitation to the Believers Club Christmas reception where you can shop early for holiday gifts
- A keepsake student-made Christmas ornament
- The joy of spreading hope, dignity, and purpose year-round!

Join today and help BrightStone keep growing, thriving, and transforming lives.



To become a monthly donor, visit “Ways to Give” at [BrightStone.org](https://BrightStone.org), scan the QR code, or call Diane Frazier at (615) 790.4888 ext 102.



# Building The Future –

## BrightStone's Homecoming Capital Campaign

### Immediate Needs

#### OPERATIONS PAVILION

Our campus is buzzing with activity as we prepare for more growth. Right now, our most immediate need is a new Operations Pavilion. This 3,200sf approved facility, costing \$800,000, is essential for our transportation needs. We need to store and maintain donated three-wheel bikes, golf carts, our three passenger vans, and two large buses! As we continue to grow—adding more homes, facilities, staff, and adults—our need to expand and maintain our transportation fleet will grow right along with us.

The Operations Pavilion will serve our recreation, fitness, community activities, and vocational PATH program, which transports our adults to employer worksites. This Pavilion will serve all of our adults and staff daily by fueling every aspect of our educational programs and mission. Thank you for helping us fund this vital facility!



#### FUNDING MORE HOMES

Our \$4,000,000 Homecoming Capital Campaign, launched in November 2024, has already raised an incredible \$2,200,000! Construction is underway to add infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity) in the ground for more six more homes, with completion targeted by the end of 2025.

Our plan includes building two new homes in 2026, but we need an additional \$1,000,000 in cash or pledges (in 2025), which will allow us to build two homes vs just one home. Families are patiently waiting for our new homes, and your support is all we need to allow us to move forward.

### Ways to Make an Impact

We are incredibly grateful for our generous community! Visit **BrightStone.org/donate** and you may choose to apply your gift to the Homecoming Capital Campaign.

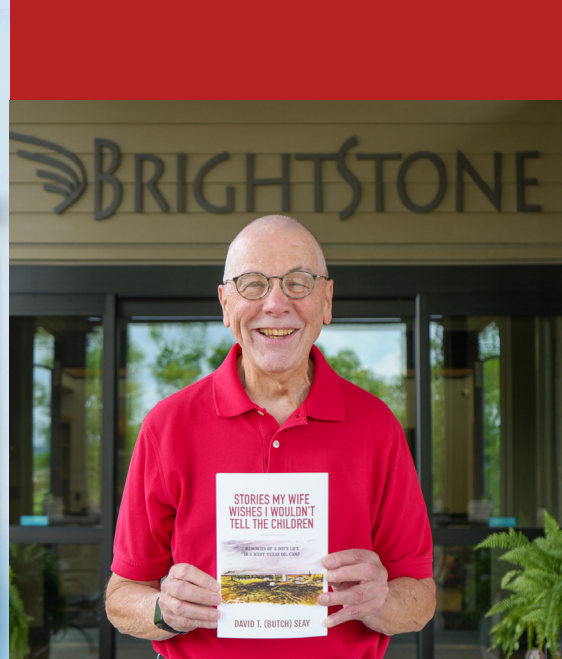
Other ways to fund our Operations Pavilion and future homes:

- Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency donations! We now accept these new forms of giving. Visit BrightStone.org to learn more.
- Making a Pledge (pay when convenient or by year-end 2025 or 2026 – contact us for the pledge form).
- Donor Advised Funds (DAF) We are a 501(c)3 and can accept Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA or retirement fund.
- Donating Appreciated Stock (Another tax-smart option - contact us for transfer instructions).
- Making a Planned Gift through a trust, beneficiary designation, or Will.

To learn more, discuss a naming opportunity, or schedule an inspiring tour of our campus and homes, please contact us at 615-790-4888 or visit [brightstone.org/capital-campaign](https://brightstone.org/capital-campaign) to explore our mission further.

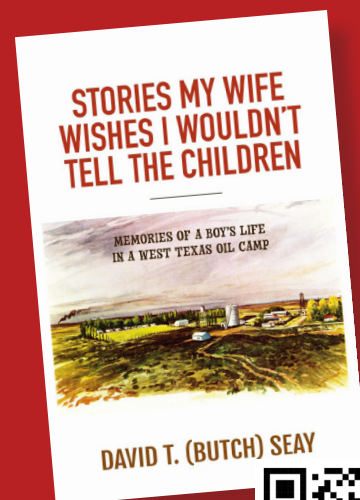






Support BrightStone while having a fun read, “Stories My Wife Wishes I Wouldn’t Tell the Children,” authored by our friend David Seay. More than just lighthearted anecdotes, the book pays homage and a way of life that inspired David to provide his daughters with these family stories. With honestly, warmth, and a touch of mischief, this book will have you thinking of your own childhood and reflecting on the power of sharing cherished family stories.

All royalties go to BrightStone and the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes.





P.O. Box 682966  
Franklin, TN 37068

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FRANKLIN, TN  
PERMIT # 89

## NOW ACCEPTING CRYPTO DONATIONS

Donating crypto can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to support BrightStone. When you donate appreciated cryptocurrency held for over a year, you may qualify for a charitable deduction for its fair market value – and potentially avoid capital gains tax. This allows you to give more strategically while advancing our mission. Through our partnership with The Giving Block, crypto donations are immediately converted to U.S. dollars. It's a smart way to give and a win-win for you and BrightStone.

Questions? Call Jenny Myhr at 615-790-4888 or email [Jenny.Myhr@brightstone.org](mailto:Jenny.Myhr@brightstone.org). Scan the QR code or visit [BrightStone.org/donate](https://BrightStone.org/donate) to donate now.



### TOUR

TOURS FILL UP QUICKLY.  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!  
ELAINE FARMER  
615-790-4888

### CONTACT US AND SHOP OUR PRODUCTS

3000 BRIGHTSTONE PKWY  
FRANKLIN, TN 37064  
M-F 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
615-790-4888

### STAY CONNECTED

[BRIGHTSTONE.ORG](https://BrightStone.org)

[@BRIGHTSTONETN](https://twitter.com/BRIGHTSTONETN)

