

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

# BRIGHTSTONE

*Helping Adults with Special Needs*



## CONTINUING OUR MISSION DURING COVID-19

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

[BRIGHTSTONE.ORG](http://BRIGHTSTONE.ORG)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

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**Treasurer, Jerry Rooker**  
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Orthopedic Surgeon, Bone & Joint Institute of TN

**Jerry Reed**  
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**Tom Singleton**  
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**Dianne Spooner**  
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**Dr. Catherine Stallworth**  
Sr. Medical Director, Physician Reviewer, MyNEXUS



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**I**t took a few days for it all to sink in - we actually had a worldwide pandemic on our hands!

Isn't it amazing that we all learn more and grow more from difficulties that appear impossible at first glance? Let's face it. This has been a very difficult time.

BrightStone has always placed our student's, families, and staff's wellbeing as our utmost priority and that never stopped. Even during a global pandemic, we knew we had to continue to care and provide the best services possible for our BrightStone students.

We may have temporarily shut our doors, but ***BrightStone never "closed."*** We may not be on site, but we are working every day. Our "normal" may be gone, but it is "business as usual" when it comes to caring for our adults who have special needs.

Within one week of the Coronavirus causing us to close our doors, our creative and innovative staff opened new doors of learning with "Virtual BrightStone" - producing 5 video classes each day for our students to enjoy five days a week! From daily devotions, gardening, making dog biscuits, learning about animals, singing with the ukulele, to drawing beautiful pictures and more - our students continue to learn and to be engaged. And they have been doing this for three months.

Through it all BrightStone's daily objectives and programs remain the same. They have simply changed from being on site and in person - to online and virtual! Our onsite programs and classes will return, but in the meantime we will continue to find ways to provide interaction and learning.

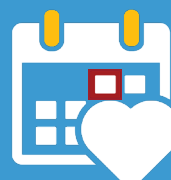
You have been so faithful to lift up BrightStone during this pandemic. By giving through the Big Payback and general donations, you have kept the mission of BrightStone strong allowing us to keep our employees on payroll and even forgive tuition for our families.

Thank you, and may God bless you during this time and give you joy as you have given us!

*Brenda Hauk*

Brenda Hauk

LASTING  
CHANGE  
STARTS  
WITH YOU



GIVE MONTHLY  
OR YEARLY

TAX-SMART  
DONATIONS  
OF STOCK



For more information about giving, contact Ra

# SECRETS OF A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

## What makes BrightStone a good fit for partnership with FAC?

BrightStone has core values that directly align with our mission - We believe that EVERYONE in the community benefits from maximizing their own personal health and wellness to the best of their ability.

## What does the partnership look like?

All BrightStone students have an "honorary" club membership at FAC and the complimentary use of our facility for private group exercise classes each week.

We also provide yoga and exercise instruction on-site at BrightStone 2-3 times a week.

## Describe the impact you see on BrightStone students.

They really enjoy coming to FAC. Just like other members, they've improved their strength, flexibility, endurance, coordination and balance. They experience positive social interactions, increased self-regulation, cooperation and teamwork.



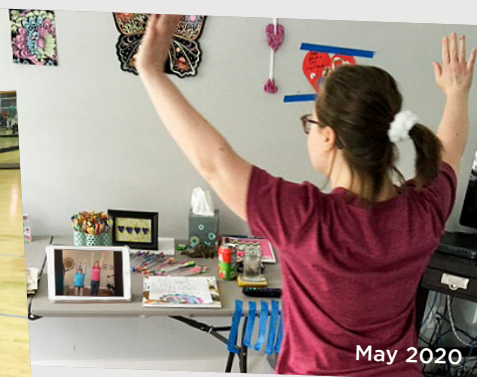
Exercise with us keeps them challenged in new and different ways, encourages personal growth and helps increase their confidence about the things they're able to do.

## What is the impact on FAC?

The presence of BrightStone students at our facility has definitely raised awareness and appreciation for our neighbors with developmental disabilities. Our staff and our members get to actually see the value of inclusion and diversity and to feel the positive energy that results. BrightStone students literally "brighten up" everyone's day!

## How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the partnership?

We really miss our BrightStone friends who have not yet returned to FAC for classes. But we've embraced the opportunity to create online fitness classes that students can do at home through "Virtual BrightStone."



## What makes a partnership with BrightStone worth pursuing?

Partnering with BrightStone gives you the opportunity to use your personal and business strengths to help the community as a whole become stronger. And it's a way to develop personal, professional and diverse rewarding relationships!

It's truly a shared personal growth and community-building experience and an endeavor that we highly recommend to others.



## FRANKLIN ATHLETIC CLUB

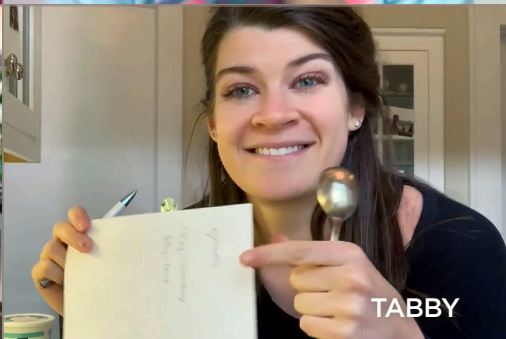
Franklin Athletic Club (FAC) is a full-service, family and locally-owned health club whose mission is to help improve the well-being and quality of life for the people in our community.

*"FAC is very grateful to be a cornerstone of health and wellness in Franklin and we welcome and encourage everyone in our community, of all levels of abilities, to join us."*

FRANKLINATHLETICCLUB.COM



# We Are BrightStone



Virtual BrightStone contributors not pictured: Dru Victory, Leslie Rayfield (and family), Steve and Claudia Zanolini, Lisa Kirchner, Caitlin Newman.

*"I think it has been incredibly helpful for students to see familiar faces and to see we are all in this together. It speaks to how we are a BrightStone family no matter what the circumstances are." - Claire*

*"I love seeing the interaction of staff and students in a new environment. Some students have not only responded to what staff is providing but have taken initiative to create content of their own!!" - Michelle*

*"I had no idea what to expect when we first got Virtual Brightstone up and running, but I'm blown away... We got to learn so much about each other - there is some serious talent at BrightStone!" - Tabby*

# Family... NO MATTER WHAT.

Shortly after closing due to COVID-19, BrightStone mobilized to reach students online. What began as a way to keep students engaged turned into a testament of family, faith and love.

## COVID-19 CAUSE FOR CONCERN

While safe at home, missing family and friends, change of routine, and widespread anxiety were prominent concerns for everyone during the pandemic but perhaps even more so for BrightStone students. Isolation and lack of purpose for adults with special needs can quickly escalate to depression and behavior difficulties.

## THE "VIRTUAL" BRIGHTSTONE SOLUTION

Without hesitation, BrightStone began delivering online content at regularly scheduled times to provide positive and encouraging opportunities for interaction each day. Even administrative staff became content creators - sharing with students their homes, families, pets, hobbies, and more.

As a result, **BrightStone students have been able to stay connected** to their teachers and peers, interacting with **daily educational classes** and creating **thousands of positive comments and reactions**.

And, to supplement the "Virtual" BrightStone experience, our staff made phone calls to students and families, formed birthday caravans to drive by student homes, and delivered food when needed.

## MORE THAN WE SET OUT TO DO

All involved agree that in spite of any challenges or fears, coming together online has only strengthened relationships and revealed hidden talents. As one teacher says, "It made me realize how much I care about the relationships I have at BrightStone." Another sums it up, " We hear it all the time: 'Our BrightStone Family' - That term means a whole lot more now."

While safe at home, BrightStone student Alea begins each day with Jacob's 9am devotional.

*"Virtual BrightStone' has brought structure and routine to Alea's day during the COVID-19 pandemic. We dearly appreciate the effort made by the staff of BrightStone and their families during this season."*  
- Alea's Parents, Rob and Vickie



## BRIGHTSTONE UPCOMING EVENTS



## Bowlability

**AUGUST 10-11, 2020**

FRANKLIN FAMILY  
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Team up with friends, family, or co-workers to raise awareness for adults with special needs while you have a blast bowling! Bowlability is a family-friendly event that celebrates the a-bilities of all!

**Get Rolling at [Bowlability.com](http://Bowlability.com)!**



## Jim Hinton Memorial Golf Benefit

**OCTOBER 5, 2020**

THE GOVERNOR'S CLUB IN  
BRENTWOOD

Join business and community leaders for an 18-hole scramble on one of Nashville's premier private courses. Instead of paying to play, golfers share our mission and invite support to benefit BrightStone students. **Learn more at [BrightStoneGolf.com](http://BrightStoneGolf.com)!**

# LAND OF DREAMS UPDATE

**We received county approval for BrightStone's Land of Dreams Master Site Plan!**

When that first bulldozer rolls onto BrightStone's 140-acre property this summer, we will all know that the dream is becoming reality! This will be the first facility of its kind in our state and one of the best in our country!

Of course, there will be several steps to complete - sewer, grading, infrastructure - then the new Center for Learning, Art, and Enterprise and two student homes can be built. Our student housing will offer a solution for whole-life care and address the very deepest concerns of families as they question, "What will happen to my loved one when I can no longer provide care?"

The new training and learning center will provide innovative programs, life enriching activities, and allow us to grow our day program enrollment. This will be where students learn the value of work and how to become productive citizens running their own creative enterprise!

We are truly fortunate that you - our giving community - are partnering with us to do everything in your power to provide opportunities for all our citizens, including those with special needs who want to live, work and play in a safe and fulfilling environment.

Supporting BrightStone's Land of Dreams is a powerful way to positively influence lives and offer hope to parents seeking to provide a lifetime of care for their loved one with special needs

## **What is our greatest need? Awareness!**

Yes, we do need \$4.9 Million to complete the first phase of campus construction, and WOW, that is a huge number! However, that funding cannot possibly come our way without two things in place: 1) people knowing about the vision, the need, and the dream, and 2) God's merciful provision!

We need our Land of Dreams project to be known by every family, every foundation, and every organization in Tennessee and beyond! Sharing your excitement about this project with friends is a precious gift beyond value. If you'll help us do that, we know the financial help we need will follow.

Please contact us to hear more of the story, request a meeting, schedule a tour, or to host a gathering that introduces your friends to BrightStone without solicitation. Your decision to support this amazing project will provide a lifetime of dividends for our community. We can't wait to hear from you!

**Brenda Hauk, Founder/CEO: [brenda.hauk@brightstone.org](mailto:brenda.hauk@brightstone.org)**

**Randy Elliott, Director of Advancement: [randy.elliott@brightstone.org](mailto:randy.elliott@brightstone.org), 615-491-0096 (c)**

*BrightStone is creating more than a place to go, it is an opportunity for life to happen... where people with unique abilities are respected, cared for, and truly valued!*

## ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT BRIGHTSTONE?

Consider hosting a gathering for your friends where our Founder, Brenda Hauk, is invited to give a brief talk. Your guests will get to meet the inspiration behind BrightStone's mission. The purpose of the gathering is *not* to ask for donations. The purpose is to share with your friends why you care about BrightStone.



Center for Learning, Art, and Enterprise



Student Home



## YOU ARE OUR HEROES!

Without you, BrightStone would simply not exist... we are so grateful for your support! Thank you for generously giving to BrightStone during **#TheBigPayback** a grand total of over

# \$187,000!!!

Because of you, adults with special needs continue to have opportunities to learn, work, and play in a safe, loving environment!

PLEASE NOTE: The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT) reports a total of \$5,183 in donations made to BrightStone through the CFMT website, [TheBigPayback.org](http://TheBigPayback.org). We're thankful to report that BrightStone's Big Payback final results of \$187,000 also include donations made directly to BrightStone (by mail or through [BrightStone.org](http://BrightStone.org)) during our "Really Big" Big Payback Matching Gift Campaign.

See a personal thank you message from BrightStone's Founder at [BrightStone.org](http://BrightStone.org)

## THE GIFT OF GIVING BACK

*BrightStone board member, orthopaedic surgeon, husband, and father, Dr. Colin Looney, shares why he has a heart for helping adults with special needs.*



Dr. Colin Looney with wife, Mary, and children Boyd (12) and Virginia (8).

### How did you first hear about BrightStone?

Dr. Craig Ferrell hired me as a young surgeon in 2007 to join his group, The Bone and Joint Clinic. As part of the interview process he took me clay shooting at a Gentry Farm fundraiser for BrightStone.

### What led you to get involved?

Dr. Ferrell was a hero and mentor to me, both in work and in life. His son, Jon, was a student at BrightStone so I was able to see firsthand how BrightStone benefited their family and other families like theirs.

After Dr. Ferrell passed away, the Bone and Joint Clinic continued to support BrightStone and participate in events like Bowlability and Songwriter's night.

### In what ways are you actively involved in BrightStone's mission and vision?

In addition to serving as a Board Member, I've served on the committee for BrightStone's Songwriter's Night for the past two years. Unfortunately, this year's event did not take place due to the pandemic, but our 2019 event featuring Luke Bryan as the headliner was a tremendous success and a lot of fun. (Thanks, Luke!)

I'm also extremely excited about the Ferrell Home on BrightStone's beautiful new campus and look forward to organizing a fundraiser for it when we're safely allowed to gather.

### How have you helped BrightStone during the COVID-19 pandemic?

These are uncharted waters for all of us, but we've had a strong group onboard to formulate BrightStone's response and plan to keep its

students and staff safe during the pandemic. My medical background and contacts have been helpful as an additional resource, but we have really worked together as a team to create the safest and most personalized approach to bringing our students back to BrightStone.

### How do you manage your work with BrightStone on top of a busy schedule as a surgeon, husband, and father?

My ability to be significantly engaged in BrightStone is a function of my wonderful wife, Mary. Without her, I would not be a successful orthopaedic surgeon -- or frankly, successful in any endeavor. She has raised our super children, Boyd and Virginia to be faithful, sharp, and really nice kids. Whether it is selecting my outfit for church, helping work through Boyd's plate tectonics homework, or managing the various tasks of the numerous committees with which she is involved, she does it all!

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

I have learned more and gained more from being a part of BrightStone than from any of my own contributions. BrightStone has the best staff and Board members of any group with which I have been associated.

I get tremendous reward from my work, but being a part of BrightStone makes me feel great. Come to BrightStone's annual Christmas program and you will know exactly what I am talking about.



## THANK YOU FOR CARING AND SHARING... EVERY ACTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE - NO MATTER HOW SMALL!

*"I really like Brightstone because it's a happy place and I love my friends, teachers, staff, and bus drivers. I like working there too." - Kelly*

*"I like Brightstone because everyone makes you feel special! I like making new friends!" - Gracie*



## WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT BRIGHTSTONE

### CONNECT

- Attend a BrightStone event
- Follow us on social media
- Join our email list

   @BrightStoneTN

### SHOP

- Purchase BrightStone Student-made products at:

#### **Savory Spice Shop**

324 Main St  
Franklin, TN 37064

#### **Olivia Olive Oil**

443 Cool Springs Blvd #103  
Franklin, TN 37067

### SHARE

- Like, comment, and share social media posts
- Invite friends and family to BrightStone events
- Give BrightStone products as gifts

### GIVE

- Donate
- Volunteer

BrightStone is a privately funded 501(c)3 organization serving adults with special needs since 1999.

