

The Most Recent Malcolm Eaton Enterprises News

Summer 2025



Stephenson County Fair 2025

Clients from MEE visited the fair this Summer for a day of pig races, corn dogs, livestock shows, and more. Clients were able to visit the fair this year thanks to a generous donation from the family of a former MEE board president, Kam Stake, who passed away this Spring. To learn more about Kam, and the many contributions she made to MEE over the years, please see the feature story on page 2.

In This Edition

Remembering Kam Stake
2025 County Fair
Special Olympics Torch Run
Eats & Beats
Staff Anniversaries

Upcoming Dates

August 22-23

Eats & Beats

September 1

Labor Day

No day services

September 15

Institute Day

No day services

September 23rd

CILA Institute Day

CDS remain open

Our Mission

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises encourages and assists people with disabilities, and those who touch their lives, by promoting informed choice and creating opportunities which foster independent community living, work and play.



Kam Stake, a long-time MEE volunteer and board member, accepts a plaque for her many years of service in 2018. Kam left a lasting mark on our organization. Among her many notable achievements, Kam helped MEE establish a plan for the long-term growth of our CILA program. She also helped MEE navigate a 1.7-million-dollar renovation to our facility in 2015.

Remembering Kam Stake

Kam Stake, a long-time volunteer and MEE board member, passed away on May 22, 2025.

Kam served on the MEE board of directors from 2005 to 2018. During that time, Kam served as board president from 2013-2015 and again from 2017-2018. She also served as the secretary and vice president.

Kam left an indelible and lasting mark on our organization. She was instrumental in helping MEE plan for the long-term, sustained, growth of our residential program. In 2017, MEE opened its first new residential CILA home in almost 40 years. MEE has since gone on to open five additional

homes.

Also, under Kam’s leadership, MEE was able to complete a 1.7-million-dollar renovation to our facility in 2015.

Kam volunteered for eight years on the Program Support Services, Behavior Management and Human Rights committees. She dedicated countless hours to fundraisers such as MEE’s Golf and Games, Pork Chop Dinner, and SportsPlex ball drop fundraisers.

All of us at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises are saddened by her passing, but also grateful for the many years of vision and leadership she provided for our organization.

Our Staff



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News



Thanks to a generous donation made by the family of Kam Stake, MEE was able to pay admission for all clients to attend the fair. Additionally, the clients were given a budget that allowed them to order the lunch of their choice.



Left: Clients were able to visit various livestock barns to see all of the animals on display. Right: Clients who were unable to attend the fair were given the opportunity to choose a food item and have staff bring it back to them at MEE.

Fundraisers





A group of clients from MEE pose with the Freeport Police Department after the law enforcement torch run on June 10.

Freeport Police Carry Torch to Support Special Olympics

The Freeport Police Department completed their leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics at MEE on Tuesday, June 10.

The officers were greeted by a crowd of enthusiastic clients, many of whom made signs with encouraging messages for the officers.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is an annual fundraiser that raises money for the Special Olympics. Since the event began in 1986, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised over 70 million dollars for the Illinois Special Olympics.

We want to thank everyone from the Freeport Police Department for their continued support of individuals with developmental disabilities!





The Usual Suspects will return to Eats & Beats for the third straight year.

Eats & Beats Returns to Freeport

Eats & Beats will be returning to the Freeport Arts Museum (FAM) Arts Plaza on August 22-23.

The event will feature ten food tents staffed by local nonprofit groups. The charitable groups include the Children's Hands-On Museum of Northwest Illinois, DD Homes, Friends Forever Humane Society, Grace Episcopal Church, Hope Wins, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, Norman C. Sleezer Youth Home, RAMP, Salvation Army, and Voices.

Each of the groups will serve one or more unique food items with all proceeds benefitting their respective missions. Malcolm Eaton Enterprises will again be serving pork chop sandwiches and snow cones.

Eats & Beats will also feature a great music lineup including performances by the Lobbin' Robbins, The

Usual Suspects, Greg Terkanian and Mike & Joe.

Gates open on both days at 5:00.

Admission to the event is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 6-17. Children five and under are admitted free of charge.

Proceeds from the event, including food sales and the gate, are distributed to participating nonprofits.

Last year, Eats & Beats was able to raise and distribute over \$16,000 to local charitable groups.



LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATING TO BRING YOU A WEEKEND OF LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD

2025

Eats & Beats! Freeport Area

FRIDAY and SATURDAY | **FREEPORT, IL**
AUGUST 22&23 | FAM ARTS PLAZA

Adults \$4.00, Kids 6-17 \$2.00, Kids 5 & Under FREE!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT AREA NONPROFITS



FRIDAY

5:00 Gates Open
5:30-6:30 Lobbin Robbins
7:00-9:30 The Usual Suspects

Food booths operated by local nonprofits



SATURDAY

5:00 Gates Open
5:30-7:00 Greg Terkianian
7:30-9:30 Mike and Joe



Our 2025 sponsor kickoff party will feature special guest The Ryan and Joe Trio!
Interested in being a sponsor? Contact Mike Brubaker at (815) 541-9160.





FIRST ANNUAL PORK CHOP DINNER

Do you like food, shopping for bargains, dancing and interacting with others? Then Malcolm Eaton Enterprises' First Annual Pork Chop Dinner on Sunday, September 8th, is the place for you!

Tickets for the dinner are \$6 a piece and can be purchased from board members, staff or at the Malcolm Eaton Center. All proceeds from the event will go to fund programs at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

The schedule of events for the day is, as follows:

- *Pork Chop Dinner 11 am-2 pm
- *Flea Market 11 am-5 pm
- *Dance 1:30 pm-5 pm
- *Auction 3 pm-5 pm

***Auction by Pro-Auction and Rick Garnhart



Did you know?

Serving pork chops at Eats & Beats is a historical nod to the MEE Pork Chop dinner! The Pork Chop Dinner was a major MEE fundraiser that ran from 1991-2013. The event was quite successful thanks to the Jacobs family and their secret family pork chop recipe! Pictured above is the very first article and flyer about the Pork Chop Dinner. Both appeared in the August 15, 1991 Issue of "In Touch" - MEE's newsletter at the time.

Anniversaries

35 Years

Kevin Souders celebrated his 35-year anniversary with Malcolm Eaton Enterprises in July. Over the years, Kevin has worked in a number of important roles in our organization. Today, Kevin works in our residential program as a Support Worker / Training Coordinator. Thank you, Kevin, for your many years of service and advocacy!



We want to thank you for your interest in Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

Sincerely,

Tim Cook
Executive Director
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