

## The Most Recent Malcolm Eaton Enterprises News

### Winter 2026



MEE opened its 7th CILA home this winter. The newest home was funded using a donation from the Don Morse Golf Invitational Committee. The new home provides 24-hour residential support for seven individuals.

## MEE Opens 7th CILA Home

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises proudly opened its seventh community-integrated home this November, made possible by a generous gift from the Don Morse Golf Invitational Committee. This extraordinary support reflects the spirit of the event's namesake, the late Don Morse of Morse Electric, whose lifelong

commitment to adults with developmental disabilities continues to shape our community in meaningful ways.

The Don Morse Golf Invitational, first held in 2012, was created to celebrate Don's memory and his passion for both golf and ser-

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### In This Edition

New CILA Home  
CILA Expansion 2016-2026  
Backyard renovations  
Christmas Party  
Staff Anniversaries

### Upcoming Dates

**April 3**

Good Friday

**May 25**

Memorial Day

**June 8**

Institute Day

**June 16**

CILA Institute Day \*

\* Day Services still 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.*



Inside the new CILA home, residents are treated to an open and accessible living space with renovated features and new furnishings.

### **NEW CILA: Continued from page 1.**

vice. Each year, the event provided vital support to Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, helping us maintain, expand, and enhance the programs that empower the individuals we serve. Don's generosity extended far beyond MEE; throughout his life, he championed many local organizations dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities.

The Invitational's most recent donation allowed MEE to purchase a home in Freeport and complete extensive renovations. Improvements included a new roof, gutters, kitchen, and bathroom

featuring an accessible low-entry shower. The parking area was also freshly sealed, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for future residents.

As renovations neared completion, MEE learned that Presence St. Vincent, another long-standing provider of residential services for adults with developmental disabilities—and an organization Don also supported—would be closing its Freeport home. Without a new residence, six individuals would have been forced to relocate far from their families, friends, and community.

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## Our Staff



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One of the bathrooms features a walk-in shower which helps clients with mobility issues shower safely and easily.

**NEW CILA: Continued from page 2.**

Originally, MEE planned to open the new home in 2026. But with the St. Vincent closure imminent, our team accelerated the renovation timeline to ensure these six residents could remain in Freeport. It was a significant undertaking, but one we knew was essential—and one we believe Don would have wholeheartedly supported.

Across Illinois, the need for residential services continues to rise. Many adults with developmental disabilities wait years for funding approval or placement opportunities. Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs), like those offered by MEE, are especially valued for their small, home-like

settings that promote independence, dignity, and community involvement.

When local options are unavailable, individuals may face placement in larger, more institutional settings or in homes far from their support networks. MEE’s expansion is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring high-quality, community-based services remain accessible to individuals in our region.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Don Morse Golf Invitational Committee and the entire Morse family. Their generosity not only made this new home possible—it kept six individuals connected to the community they know and love. Don’s legacy of compassion lives on in every life touched by this home.



# CILA Expansion 2016-2026

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises has steadily expanded its residential program over the past several years to meet a rapidly growing need in our community. What began as a single home serving seven individuals in 2016 has grown into a vibrant network of community-based residences that now support thirty-seven clients in Freeport.

This progress has been made possible through the generosity of many supporters. A pivotal moment came in 2017, when the Craig Wilson Memorial Trust provided funding that allowed MEE to purchase and renovate additional homes. That gift, along with continued support from donors and partners in the years that followed, helped MEE add five more residences—each one designed to offer a safe, welcoming, and independence-focused environment.

With the opening of our seventh home this year, MEE is proud to offer more adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live in small, community-integrated settings where they can thrive, build relationships, and stay connected to the place they call home.





## Back Yard Renovation Underway Thanks to Beichel Family Support

One of our residential homes is getting a major back yard transformation thanks to the generous support of Carl and Paul Beichel. The Beichels—longtime friends and supporters of Malcolm Eaton Enterprises—made a substantial donation that is being used to completely revitalize the home’s outdoor living space. When finished, the project will feature a fully accessible pad area, a new wooden pavilion, updated fencing, and all-new landscaping designed to create a welcoming, functional space for the residents.

Check back in our Spring newsletter for a first look at the completed project



# Merry Christmas!

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises celebrated its annual client Christmas party on Tuesday, December 23. Guests enjoyed a full lineup of activities, including Bingo, holiday movies, dancing, and creating magnetic Christmas ornaments. The celebration also featured delicious Christmas cookies and treats baked by MEE clients.



## News



### Flower, Sugar, and a Dash of Holiday Spirit

Clients visited Wal-Mart this winter to shop for supplies for their holiday baking projects. Along with making treats like cookies and brownies, they practice creating shopping lists and selecting the ingredients they need. Educational outings like this help build skills for greater independence at home and in the community.

## Announcements

### Eats & Beats Returns August 28-29

Freeport Area Eats & Beats will return to the Freeport Art Museum Arts Plaza on August 28-29.

The event will feature return performances from three fan favorites; Hello Weekend, Mike & Joe, and the Lobbin' Robbins. That 70's Band will round out the four-band lineup.

Last year, Eats & Beats distributed over \$20,000 to local non-profit groups. Stay tuned for more announcements as we get closer to the event.



## Anniversaries

### 5 Years

**Carly Kruse** celebrated her five-year anniversary in March. As our Administrative Services Manager, she's often the first friendly face people see when they visit Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.



"I enjoy greeting visitors and families at the door. I want families and guardians to always feel welcomed," Carly said. In addition to managing a wide range of administrative responsibilities, Carly is always willing to step in wherever she's needed. On any given day, you might find her helping in a classroom, assisting on the work floor, or lending a hand anywhere support is needed.

"This place runs on teamwork," she said. "I truly enjoy helping my coworkers."

Carly's favorite part of working at MEE is, without question, the clients. "You may be having the worst day, and a client will light up with a smile when they see you," she said. "They always make me feel loved."

### 10 Years

**Tawny Jowers** celebrated her ten year anniversary in November. As our Clinical Programs Assistant/Self Directed Assistant Tawny helps coach clients on life skills and personal goals while also building their confidence.

Tawny describes her job as "part teacher, part problem solver and part cheerleader."

In addition to helping clients, Tawny is also tasked with coordinating service through ACCESS\$ as well as paperwork and timesheets.

"The best part is celebrating victories and watching people grow more independent," Tawny said. "I help people live their best lives!"

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Cook".

Tim Cook  
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