

Pathways

Issue 1, Fall 2003

A newsletter for Stepping Stones, an organization creating a path to safety and empowerment for women of domestic violence.

Mission Statement

The mission of Stepping Stones, for women affected by domestic violence, N.F.P., a Christian-based organization, is to empower women who are victims of domestic violence to develop financial and emotional independence by providing them with a safe, nurturing environment.

The Steps in Stepping Stones

Step #1 Family Shelter Services, and women's crisis centers are agencies serving other DuPage County that offers services to women in crisis. After initially staying in a "safe house", the family will often move to a short-term facility.

Step #2 Bridge Communities, Inc., has found it takes 1 - 2 years for a family to establish itself as a viable, contributing unit. Stepping Stones was formed and sought a partnership with Bridge Communities to provide that next crucial step of healing.

Trained mentors are assigned to a family and, with the guidance of professional counselors, the family is re-established emotionally and financially. The commitment of 1 - 2 years provides time for healing, building confidence and trust to step forward to a healthy lifestyle.

Step #3 Due to the overwhelming need in DuPage County for transitional housing, Stepping Stones was formed. Stepping Stones' intent is to provide emotional support, financial assistance, a safe environment and career opportunities to a family. Stepping Stones is grounded in Christ's love for His neighbor and through a Christian outreach, guides and assists clients toward a productive life.

More About Bridge Communities, Inc. Stepping Stones is privileged to partner with Bridge Communities, Inc., a private, non-profit housing and mentoring

program in DuPage County. The Bridge program provides homeless families with basic housing, case management, life skills, mentor training, job readiness preparation, and after school tutoring.

Working with 33 churches, Bridge supplies apartments for families devastated by the economy and the rising rate of unemployment. Specific to the mission of Stepping Stones to assist women of domestic violence, Bridge seeks clients who fit that description.

Once the client has been chosen, an apartment is selected by Bridge Communities. Stepping Stones then has the task of furnishing the apartment in preparation for receiving the abused woman and her children. We seek volunteer mentors who will attend the training program at Bridge to acquire the skills necessary to guide and mentor our clients. Food, clothing and other resources are donated through Stepping Stones. For the next 18-24 months, Stepping Stones is responsible for the well-being and nurturing of our clients and Bridge continues to provide counseling services and case management to help the women take control of their lives.

It is an upstream battle for survivors of physical, mental or verbal abuse. Stepping Stones, assisted by Bridge Communities, will help provide a pathway of safety and empowerment that will assure a better future for women of domestic violence.

Meet the Board

In May, 2003, a Board of Directors emerged. Many of the board members served on the Steering Committee and struggled and pondered and prayed for guidance and direction from God to meet the needs of abused women. Well over a year of long, intense discussion, site visits, classroom training and more prayer led us to transitional housing. Enthusiasm flourished once we reach the decision of how best to support abused women.

Our Board has representatives from the following congregations: Trinity Lutheran Church of Roselle, Living Hope Church of Elk Grove Village, and United Methodist Church of Roselle.

The Board of Directors is now meeting at the Roselle Village Hall. We thank Diana Eckert for these accommodations as well as our local officials.

Co-directors	Dorothy Wiese, Ed. D.	847/683-3515
	Diana Eckert	630/235-3389
President	Betty Wentland	630/860-2707
Vice-President	Lynn Cieslewicz	630/893-1206
Secretary	Lois Maschio, R.N. N.D.	630/894-3692
Treasurer	Tricia Staal	630/587-5584
Members	Rogene Lis	630/894-1296
	Sheila Andriola	630/351-2448
	Linda McDermott	630/894-5478
	Jeanine Wartan	630/250-8069

“Look, we have a home!”

Our first family moved into an apartment that was lovingly prepared.

After fleeing domestic violence and living in a shelter, the family lived with a friend and then moved to the home of another friend. The frequent moves were unsettling to the two children who often asked their mother when they would have a home of their own. When the family moved in, the children asked, "Is this really our home?" Bridge Communities and Stepping Stones made their own home a reality.

Jeanine Wartan and Dorothy Wiese, members of Stepping Stones, were joined by Karen Stewart, Bridge's caseworker on Saturday, 5/31/03, to show the mother the apartment. She had tears in her eyes and was so appreciative of the beautiful furniture. She hugged and thanked them profusely. It was such a rewarding first step on our mission.

The very next day, the entire Wartan family was enlisted to help the new family arrange

furniture and furnishings. The mother said the children adjusted easily. Her comment was, "Now I see a better future for my children. I can feel the warm welcome that I have from Stepping Stones. Things will be better for my children."

The mother is well-educated and has a part-time job. She will continue to try to find full-time employment, but transportation presents a challenge as she is learning how to drive.

Jeanine Wartan, one of our first mentors, visited the family. Jeanine and Bob Wartan and Lois Maschio are now assigned as mentors.

On her first visit, Jeanine was greeted with big smiles by the family and the children quickly gave her the "grand tour" of their new home. The mother said it was like a dream come true. It was so important to her to have a place they could call home. Through the support of Bridge Communities and Stepping Stones, their dream was becoming a reality. Our journey has begun.



A note from our client...



“Thank you for helping me build a clearer and better future for my children.”

—Anonymous

Opportunities to be involved

How do I make a monetary donation?

The annual cost to Stepping Stones is approximately \$10,000 per family per year. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. If you would like to make a monthly contribution to Stepping Stones call 630-235-3389 to request more envelopes. Until our charitable status is finalized, Trinity Lutheran Church is graciously accepting donations on our behalf. In order for this to be a tax-deductible donation, please make your checks payable to Trinity with *Stepping Stones* written on the memo line.

Double your money

If your employer matches your donation, let us know so we can prepare the appropriate paper work and make your donation work twice as hard. Call Tricia at 630-587-5584.

Calling all doctors, nurses, dentists, lawyers, mechanics and other professionals

We are in need of creating a resource list of professionals that are willing to provide services at no-cost or low-cost. If you are able to do so or have contacted someone that is willing to support Stepping Stones clients, please call Julie at 630-924-1236.

Car

We are in need of a good used car. If you have one to donate please contact Rogene at 630-894-1296.

Fundraising

We are in need of volunteers to sell event tickets, and donate items for the silent auction. Also, your help is needed the night of the event. If you are able to help in any of these ways please contact: Sheila Andriola: 630-508-1647 or Dorothy Wiese: 847-683-3515 Development Committee

Mentors needed

As we continue to welcome families into our program, we are looking for mentors: women and men to meet weekly with the family, working on budgets, short-term as well as long-term goals, striving to become self-sufficient in our community. Training class begins Thursday October 7, and runs for a total of 4 consecutive Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. We would love for you to join our "TEAM". Call Jeanine Wartan at 630-417-0062.

Childcare

Occasional child care is needed so that Stepping Stones clients can attend classes, and appointments. If you are willing to donate your time to care for their children at their home or yours, call Julie Miller at 630-924-1236.

Gift certificates

Certificates to grocery stores, gas stations and discount stores (K-Mart) are needed to help Stepping Stone clients. If you can donate certificates, please drop them off at any of the following churches; Living Hope, Roselle United Methodist, or Trinity Lutheran. Please mark your envelope "Stepping Stones".

Hands on opportunities

We are looking for ready and willing people to be involved in all areas of Stepping Stones. The following is a list of committees and their contact person. If you would like to be involved, please call them. If you have a gift or talent you would like to share and are not sure what committee you should join call the resources committee chairperson Julie Miller at 630-924-1236.

Mentor; Jeanine Wartan 630-417-0062

Finance; Tricia Staal 630-587-5584

Development (fundraising and grants); Sheila Andriola 630-351-2448


Spiritual; Rogene Lis 630-894-1296

New Family Set-up; Linda McDermott 630-894-5478

Public Relations and Awareness; Rogene Lis 630-894-1296

Resource; Julie Miller 630-924-1236

Signs of Danger



Many experts in the field of domestic violence agree that there is no generic profile of an abuser. Domestic violence knows no boundaries. There isn't a line drawn in terms of professionalism, money, or race. So how do you know if you are in danger? How do you know if your relationship may become violent? Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is your mate jealous and possessive toward you, won't let you have friends, checks up on you, or won't accept breaking up?
 - Does your mate try to control you by being bossy, giving orders, and making all the decisions?
 - Does your mate threaten you with weapons or make threats on your life?
 - Does your mate attempt to manipulate or force you to have sexual intercourse?
 - Has your mate choked, kicked, pushed, slapped or hit you?
 - Does your mate abuse drugs or alcohol and pressures you to take them?
 - Does your mate have a history of fighting, losing his temper, or bragging about abusing others?
- If you respond "yes" to 2 or more of the above questions, seek help. Call Family Shelter Service at 630/469-5650. All services are free of charge and confidential.

A thought to ponder...
*One of the secrets of life is to make
Stepping Stones out of stumbling blocks.*

You're invited to "Steppin' Out"



Join us at our first celebration and fundraiser.

**The evening will include dinner, dancing, cash bar,
silent auction, and a drawing for a 2003 Ford ZX2.**

Sponsored by Pat Kean's Friendly Ford of Roselle.

**Tickets for the car drawing are sold separately
and you do not need to be present to win.**

**Friday, October 17th
6:30-11:30 p.m.
Alta Villa
430 N. Addison Road
Addison, Illinois**

Dinner/Dance Tickets: \$50.00 each
Car Drawing Tickets: \$100.00 each
(minimum of 300 sold, maximum of 400)

For tickets call: Sheila Andriola, 630-508-1647
Dorothy Wiese, 847-683-3515

**Stepping Stones
for women of domestic
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405 S. Rush St.
Roselle, IL 60172**