

Pathways

Issue 3, Fall 2004

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.

Pebbles from the President

By Betty Wentland

“Pain is inevitable but misery is an option.”

In contemplating the above quote, I believe that misery can be avoided with a support group of people, a positive mind set, and faith that the Lord will see you through even the darkest days. Unfortunately, some victims of domestic violence are misled or too frightened to know when to seek help. We need to get the word out. We need to inform women that they are valuable creations and deserve to be treated with respect and patience.

Being a part of Stepping Stones, I have personally been touched by one of our clients. While delivering two used beds of mine to her location, she sweetly said to me, “You mean you’re the president of Stepping Stones and you are doing this for me.” My eyes began to water. I was compelled to take her face in my hands and assure her that she was worth it and I was honored to help her. I smiled all the way home!

Very shortly our fifth family, a mother and her four children, will find a safe haven with our organization. But, we’re not through yet. We are looking for a sixth! The Board and Committee members of Stepping Stones are enthusiastic about the progress we have made over the past year. We are also energized by the progression towards independence of each of our clients. It is with your help and God’s guidance that we can continue to complete our mission to empower women of domestic violence.

Two recent fundraisers have helped us reach our goals. Rob Burns participated in the Boston Marathon in April and collected \$12,000 in pledges, all donated to Stepping Stones. In May, we held our first annual Spring Tea, organized by Sheila Andriola. An afternoon of fellowship and fanciful snacks were enjoyed by almost 200 women.

We are looking forward to our second annual dinner/dance and silent auction coming up in October. I encourage you to mark your calendar for the 22nd of that month. Come and experience an evening of “Steppin’ Out” that will keep you smiling all the way home, just like me!

THE NEED

Stepping Stones needs your donations of time, money, household goods, and professional services. We appreciate any assistance.

For further information, call 630-235-3389.

Monetary donations can be sent to Stepping Stones, P.O. Box 721156, Roselle, IL 60172.

Thank you for your support.

RUN ROB RUN

Rob Burns, Roselle Public Works Director, attended our first annual Steppin' Out Dinner Dance and was impressed by our commitment and dedication towards helping women of domestic violence. He is an avid runner and has run in two Boston Marathons in the past. In the fall of 2003 Rob enthusiastically chose to support Stepping Stones by soliciting pledges to run in this year's race. Knowing that it costs approximately \$10,000 a year to support one of our clients, his goal was to raise at least that amount. His dream and goal were exceeded when Stepping Stones received \$12,500 in pledges for his efforts.

Rob started running in high school. Now in his fifties, he continues to run 20-25 miles a week to train for the big

marathon. Rob has already participated in a dozen marathons, including two previous Boston appearances. The 178th running of the Boston Marathon this past April was, indeed, Rob's most challenging. The day before the race the weather was a cool 50°, but at the start of race day the temperature soared to a sunny 83°.

Twenty thousand hopefuls were registered to participate in this year's marathon. With a microchip embedded in the sole of his running shoe, Rob began the race in the fourth corral of starters. A sensing device at both the start and finish lines transmits to the judges each runner's time to complete the 26.2 miles, since all runners do not begin at the same time. This also identifies the individual contestant so that there can be no replacement runner. The heat and humidity made the

endeavor almost unbearable. Rob found himself straining to get from one water station to the next. That day 400 people needed to be attended in the medical tent and 170 were transported to the hospital.

Rob tried to keep focusing on his goal to complete the race no matter what. At mile 16 the grind of his task began to wear on him and it became a game of mind over matter. Dehydrated and exhausted, he crossed the finish line 8,210th out of the entire field of 20,000. He did not beat his personal best time, but he was still proud that he successfully completed the marathon and helped finance transitional housing for women of domestic violence.

We are proud of you, too, Rob! God bless you for sharing your athletic talents with Stepping Stones. We admire your perseverance and generosity!

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!

Stepping Stones thanks our many supporters for their generous monetary gifts. We also want to thank those who also provide services, supplies, personal time and energy to supporting our families. You are all truly a blessing!

DONATIONS

(October '03-present)

Austin, Clara & Mike
Christensen, Dana & Elizabeth
Cieslewicz, Lynn & Michael
Clifford, Patrick
Condon, Virginia
Gahn, Gail & J.B.
Harris Bank/Roselle
Illinois Tool Works Foundation
Kramarczyk, Denise & Michael
Lis, Rogene & Walter
Lloyd, Karen & David
Newlin, Mary & Robert
P & O Nedlloyd Limited

Pelletier, Carol & Anthony
Pinto, Dr. James Leonard & Associates
Pokoj, Rhonda & Frank
Reid, Sandra & Kenneth
Roselle Lioness Club
Roselle United Methodist Women
Starbucks Team/Jewel Osco
Sheahen, Mary
Simeone, Lee A.
Staal, Michael K.
Tofanelli, Ruth & Frank
Trinity Lutheran Church

DONATIONS FROM SPECIAL EVENTS

BAKE SALES

Roselle United Methodist Church
Beaver, Sharon & Ted
Walters, Jane & John
Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle
Mary Bailek
Amy Wastalu

BOSTON MARATHON

Special thanks to Rob Burns & Friends

GARAGE SALE

Special thanks to Mary Bialek & Carla Tonk & Friends

HOME PARTIES

Proceeds from home parties were received from:

Bopp, Jennifer
Kluch, Mary & Mark
Ludwig, Michelle & Thomas
McLaughlin, Charlotte
Niemann, Diane
Pampered Chef
Sievers, Jennifer & Stephen

STEPPING STONES TEA

Special thanks to attendees.

Correction:

In our last newsletter, we incorrectly stated the name and donation made by Insight, Inc. The amount donated was \$2,500. We apologize for the error.

PUT THE "FUN" IN FUNDRAISING!!

Be creative, have fun and raise money for Stepping Stones. This past year, people have gifted Stepping Stones in so many ways. There were home parties, pledges from a runner who named us as the recipient, and a garage sale to benefit the families we serve.

Kathy Spencer hosted a jewelry party and donated the proceeds to Stepping Stones. Rogene Lis hosted a party one Saturday afternoon where she stationed consultants from Partylite, Longaberger Baskets, Tastefully Simple, Arbonne, Pampered Chef and Mary Kay throughout her home and guests leisurely visited the displays and

departed when they were finished. A very relaxed, non-pressured approach resulting in a sizeable donation. Rogene then sought matching funds from Thrivent and Stepping Stones was blessed with a generous gift from a 3 hour "party". Bake sales were also labors of love that generated additional funding.

There are so many creative ways to raise money for a meaningful cause. Stepping Stones now cares for five families and a sixth one is on their way! Supporting our clients and their children takes many things; financial resources, mentors giving of their time and expertise, and a set-up

committee providing furniture and household goods. Donations cover rent, start-up perishables, assistance with emergencies such as care repairs, medical expenses and utilities. The average cost to support a family is \$10,000 per year.

In addition to your donations and grants, the majority of our financial support is from fundraisers. This past year we also held a dinner dance and tea. If you would like to assist Stepping Stones in our fundraising efforts, please call Rogene Lis at 630-259-8418.

A NOTE FROM A SUPPORTER

Our table really enjoyed the Stepping Stones tea party fundraiser. Each table was decorated in a different theme and all were extremely imaginative. There was a delicious assortment of bite-sized sandwiches, scones and desserts with a harpist playing in the background. It was a most enjoyable and relaxing afternoon with friends and, at the same time, helping women of domestic violence. We look forward to the creativity at next year's tea.

Kathy Oliverson and Chris Wilcox

VICTIM'S ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

(P.A. 093-0591)

Effective Date: August 25, 2003

The Victim's Economic Security and Safety Act provides that employers (defined as the State or any agency of the State; any unit of local government or school district; or any person that employs at least 50 employees) may not discharge or discriminate against an employee who is a victim of domestic violence or who has a family or household member who is a victim of domestic violence, for taking up to a total of 12 workweeks of leave from work during any 12-month period to address the domestic violence.

This Act prohibits employers from discharging, discriminating, or retaliating against a person taking leave from work as a result of domestic violence to: seek medical attention or counseling for injuries or psychological trauma, obtain victim services, relocate, seek legal assistance or participate in a related court proceeding.

The employer may require the employee to provide certification to the employer. The employer is not required to provide paid leave under this Act, but may not suspend group health plan benefits during the leave period.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact the Illinois Department of Labor; 160 N. LaSalle St., Suite 1300; Chicago, IL 60601; 312-793-6797.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Stepping Stones is available to speak to your group or organization. We will present information on domestic violence and its effect on our community, and how attendees can help make a difference in our community. Call Rogene at 630-259-8418 to sign up for a speaker or for more information.

WHY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING?

Many victims would have been homeless or would have been forced to stay with their abusive partner if they did not have access to transitional housing. Most times, there are no other options.

Shelters provide critical, life saving services at a time when a woman is in immediate danger; however, shelters are not equipped to address the ongoing needs of battered women. Victims face substantial barriers that inhibit their ability to gain independence from their abusive partners.

Transitional housing moves beyond the crisis to provide long-term solutions that enable the woman to rebuild her life and break the vicious cycle of abuse.

Despite the significant number of emergency shelters, the need for shelters exceeds the capacity of most programs. If after the allotted stay at a shelter is consumed and there is no other permanent housing arrangement, victims will often return to

their abuser rather than be homeless. In that allotted stay, typically 30 days, it is not a sufficient enough time for a woman to address matters such as establishing safe housing, unemployment, lack of childcare, and deal with her emotions.

To permanently end a violent relationship, women of all socio-economic groups are in need of safe and stable housing, sustained counseling for themselves and their children, daycare, transportation, a job, and training that will enable them to gain independence and support their children.

Stepping Stones is making a difference in the lives of five families. With your continued support, we can step forward and empower those who bravely seek a bright, new future!

For immediate abuse care, call Family Shelter Service for victims of domestic violence. The hotline number is 630-469-5650.



P.O. Box 721156
Roselle, IL 60172
630-235-3389

The Board

Co-directors	Dorothy Wiese Diana Eckert
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violence N.F.P.

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