

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

Pathways

Fall 2009

Pebbles from the President

Lynn Cieslewicz

Mission Statement

The mission of Stepping Stones, for women of 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.

**Please note
our new phone
number, effective
immediately,
630-687-7837.**

WHEN YOU NEED HELP

Everywhere I turn the news seems to be gloomy, even frightening. Even the selection of television shows grows more gruesome as I grow older—and I'm rather tired of turning to cooking shows as an alternative. Especially since I really try to get out of cooking as much as possible.

Yet in my heart, I'm an optimistic person who embraces change. I view change as my person chance to grow and learn something new—with a goal to make it better!

I admit that often I need help—help to find my cell phone, help to convey budget reductions and no capital purchases this year, help to spur me on to visit an elderly relative in the nursing home. The list goes on and on and I'll admit—I'm needy.

While we can all related to the need for help, we should know God is here to guide us. Have you asked for His help or are you too busy handling it all? God is here to impart wisdom when we're unsure or frightened or not coping very well. God even shows up on "good days"! It happens—but have you asked for His guidance? Stop! Ask! He wants to hear from you. And don't forget a "thank you", too.

But stop—it just may not happen on YOUR timeline—remember God decides what's the right time! Did I tell you He's in charge—and not you?

These past few months, our *Stepping Stones* clients have encountered changes. We provide transitional housing and mentors for a total of 6 families. The financial cost to *Stepping Stones* is \$13,500 per client per year. So our challenge to raise funds and provide mentors is substantial.

During 2009, one family finished our two-year program and is about to move on. She has a great job now and her confidence has been restored. She and her family have had the time to heal. Another client and her family felt their life had stabilized and after 1½ years informed us they were ready to move on. Yet another client felt constricted and overwhelmed by accountability to the program and had wants that were unrealistic. We no longer could support her. These are the realities we face as we strive to make a difference in people's lives.

We have nearly completed replacing all three families and will continue to commit support of 6 families. Our opportunity to impact others with the *Stepping Stones* program in conjunction with our Bridge Communities partnership continues. There is change: the change of heart when consistent mentors show patience, friendship and guidance to a hurting woman; the opportunity remains to impact children by providing a safe, stable living arrangement free of fear and abuse.

A recent devotional I read says—meet today's problems with today's strength and leave tomorrow's in God's capable hands! Let God lead you!

Visit our new and improved Web site at www.stepsstonesroselle.org

400 Attendees Make Spring Tea a Success!

On Sunday, April 19, *Stepping Stones* held its 6th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show—Women For Women. The event was held at the Belvedere Banquet facility in Elk Grove Village. This year 400 women attended this Spring fling to support our clients and their families.

Special thanks to Harris Bank-Roselle, our corporate sponsor, who helped to make this year's Tea the most successful yet. We'd also like to thank our "manly men" who braved this ladies event helping to bring in boxes, load and unload cars, set up and move tables, sell raffle tickets and much much more.

Andy Maglio, Rob Burns, Dennis Medema, Pat Stopka, Steve Sievers and Christopher Burns as well as scouts and Roselle Police Explorers. Thanks also to Friendly Ford for loaning us a cargo van to haul all of our Spring Tea accessories which seem to be growing every year.

The afternoon affair featured 40 tables decorated for "high tea." There were "Brain-Tea-sers," "April Showers," "Wedding Bliss," "Art," and Roaring



20's" to name a few. Our hostess winners this year were:

- Grand Prize:** Sand, Surf and Sun Tea/Kathy Kean
- 2nd Prize:** Sew Many Friends/Sue Spachman
- 3rd Prize:** Song Bird of Sympathy/Nancy Wilcox
- Peoples Choice:** Iced Tea/Annette Metelica and Nancy Pelletier

Women for Women opened with shopping opportunities in our Special-

Tea Boutique featuring 35 vendors with something for everyone from jewelry, health and beauty items, flowers, purses, candles, baskets, home décor, legal services, clothing, professional organizers, craft, stamp and scrap booking items. Special thanks for Julie Puntch for organizing this fine group of businesses.

The highlight of the program was a client who shared her success story by reading a letter she had sent to *Stepping Stones*. Many of the women in the audience were moved to tears by the courage of this woman and her children in the face of many obstacles and challenges.

We thank Robin Christensen, her mentor, for standing by her side during the presentation as continued support of her client and for also sharing her experiences as a mentor.

After a delightful light Tea luncheon, Sassys Originals and Kia Furs outfitted our lovely return models. Thank you to Tiffany & Co for providing another beautiful piece from their 1837 Collection. This special raffle earned a profit of \$2070!

Continued on page 5.



3RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The 3rd annual golf outing was held at Bloomingdale Golf Club on July 16, 2009. We were pleased to welcome many new friends to the event. Sixty three golfers enjoyed being out in the beautiful weather as they supported the clients of *Stepping Stones*. The dinner of ribs and chicken were delicious and the cupcakes were a hit! Our team of volunteers did a fine job of greeting the golfers, overseeing games, taking pictures, working to make the outing as fun as possible for our participants.

Final totals reached over \$9800 from the event and we are pleased to report that several monetary donations were made including Arthur Hendricks and Tricia Lewis to support one of our client families for a week. We thank everyone for their support. Our families will benefit nicely from the funds raised from the course games and silent auction items.

A special thanks to our Corporate Sponsor: Roselle Bank & Trust and Sue Rezmer-Socha who donated \$2500. God bless you all for your support.

A heartfelt thanks for our various golf Sponsors.

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSOR

Itasca Bank & Trust Company

LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR

Itasca Bank & Trust Company

CLOSEST TO PIN SPONSOR

Porte Brown LLC

LUNCH SPONSOR

Northwest DuPage American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1084

REGISTRATION GIFTS

Advanced Chiropractic Health Center

Ballmart Sports Collectibles

Langner Eye Care

Lazarus House

Roselle Bank & Trust

Roselle Police Department

Salerno's Rosedale Chapels, Inc.

Stepping Stones

West Suburban Bank

HOLE SPONSORS

Ballmart Sport Collectibles

Bloomingdale Township

Republican Party

Friends of John Dabrowski

Mark A. Ferrari, D.D.S.

Heritage Realty (2 holes)

Langner Eye Care

Laser Cosmetics Center, V. Arora, M.D.

Law Offices of Richard F. Pellegrino, Ltd.

Ralph's Roofing & General Remodeling

Roselle Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Salerno's Rosedale Chapels, Inc.

West Central Municipal Conference

RAFFLE AND PRIZE DONORS

A.C.E.S., Inc.

BallMart Sport Collectibles

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Chicago Sports teams:

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Cubs

White Sox

Wolves

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Holiday Inn – Itasca

Klein Creek Golf Course

Lynfred Winery

Ristorante Amalfi

Ristorante Demarcos

Roselle Police Department

Spavone's

Village of Bloomingdale

West Suburban Bank

Yue-Sun Japanese steak house



Theta Kappa Pi Gift

Thank you to Theta Kappa Pi Sorority from Lewis University—raises \$1600.00 for *Stepping Stones*.

Cheri Wartan, a Junior at Lewis University and Vice President of Service Events for Theta Kappa Pi, made arrangements to have Detective Mike Drugan (*Stepping Stones* Advisory Board Member) and Ken Reid (*Stepping Stones* Board Member) talk about Domestic Violence to her Sorority. Approximately 80 people were in attendance including college and alumni members.

Theta Kappa Pi is a social service sorority and has chosen *Stepping Stones* to be the recipient of their generous gift of \$1600.00. The money was raised through donations and a raffle. Thank you Theta Kappa Pi.

If you would like to have a speaker come to your organization to talk about *Stepping Stones* and Domestic Violence, please contact us at 630-687-7837.

Welcome new Clients.

Stepping Stones moved in two new clients into our program this past summer. One client has a nine year old child and the other client has two children, ages 7 and 9. Our new clients are focused and determined and want to be successful. We are confident with their mentors help they can accomplish their goals. Please keep our new clients and their children in your prayers.

Stepping Stones receives a generous donation of books.

Thank you to Usborne Publishing Limited for donating a large box of new books for our client's children. Usborne Publishing produces award winning books that are of excellent quality and cover the ages of preschool to adult. The books included a wide variety such as: history, languages, natural science, crafts, puzzles and beginning readers. Thank you again.

Detective Drugan Honored



Congratulations to Detective Mike Drugan, *Stepping Stones* Advisory Board Member.

Detective Michael Drugan, was presented the Illinois

State Bar Association's Law Enforcement Award for 2009 by the Bar Association President Elect Mr. John O'Brian. Detective Drugan has been with the DuPage County Sheriff's office since 1998; he and his wife and four children live in Roselle.

The ISBA Law Enforcement Award was created to recognize sworn law enforcement officers for conduct that promotes justice and to distinguish those individuals whose service to the public brings honor and respect to the entire criminal justice system. The award is given sparingly to recognize those who



truly excel in the field of law enforcement.

Mentioned during the presentation was Mike's role with *Stepping Stones* and outstanding services in the area of domestic violence.

Stepping Stones thanks Detective Drugan for his support and is very proud to have him be an Advisory Board Member.



Jewel-Osco Shop & Share to Benefit *Stepping Stones*


STEPPING STONES WILL HOLD A SHOP & SHARE FUND RAISING PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 26, 27 AND 28 AT ALL JEWEL-OSCO STORES

By shopping at Jewel-Osco on one of those days, 5% of the total

purchases, excluding tax, will be donated by Jewel-Osco to *Stepping Stones*.

Please grocery shop at Jewel-Osco on one of these dates using the identification slip below.

Identification slips will also be available at Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle, Roselle United Methodist Church, or call 630-687-7837. Slips will NOT be available at the stores.

	SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP		AMOUNT OF PURCHASE																								
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GROUP NUMBER	STORE NUMBER				DOLLARS		CENTS																				

GROUP: **Stepping Stones for Women of Domestic Violence**
 YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: **10/26/2009, 10/27/2009, 10/28/2009**

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP.
 PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE PURCHASES AT ANY JEWEL-OSCO ON THE DATE ABOVE.
 IDENTIFICATION SLIPS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN FRONT OF ANY JEWEL-OSCO.

Jewel-Osco

HER SILENT PRAYER

I stand and wipe the tears from my eye
 No one knows, no one to realize
 The home I live in is not safe
 The bruises are hid and not on my face. . .
 The pain inside, I hide so well
 No friends for me, no one to tell. . .
 With family away and will never see
 For I keep the secret deep inside of me. . .
 Hiding the pain and living a lie
 Never complain and try not to cry. . .
 A part of me dies with each new mark
 I'm so afraid as I stand in the dark. . .
 No longer can I take the pain
 I am not the one to blame. . .
 This love hurts and should not be
 God please send an angel for me. . .

Spring Tea & Fashion Show

(continued from page 2)

Our afternoon closed with a blessing from our ever supportive Deaconess and Advisory Board member, Rogene Lis. At the end of the day, over \$11,000 was raised to support the mission of *Stepping Stones*. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 6th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show—Women for Women. We thank you for your donations of time and talent, financial support and above all your prayers for our clients and our mission. Next year's Tea will be April 18—help us reach 500 guests for this afternoon of fellowship.



SAVE THE DATE!

November 6, 2009

You're One of a Kind

A WINE/CHEESE COCKTAIL EVENING

WITH WYATT AUSTIN JEWELERS.

More information available on the Stepping Stones website.

Want to Help? Consider Being a Mentor.

Mentor Training offered by our Program Partner, Bridge Communities.

Bridge Communities schedules mentor training two times per year – once in the spring and again in the fall.

Dates: Saturdays, October 3rd and October 17th

Time: 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (lunch will be provided)

Location: 1st Presbyterian Church, Glen Ellyn

550 N. Main Street (corner of Main and Anthony)

*Please call 630-545-0610 for more information
and to register for the classes.*

Multiply Your Gift

Your gift to *Stepping Stones* could be doubled... even tripled! Many employers match employee donations to not-for-profits through their matching gift program. Check with your human resources department today and see if you can take advantage of a matching gift program. The impact is tremendous!



P.O. Box 721156
Roselle, IL 60172
630-687-7838

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Stepping Stones for women of domestic violence
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