

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

Pathways

Spring 2011

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.

8th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show

On Sunday, April 10, 2011, *Stepping Stones* will hold its 8th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show – “Women for Women”. We will be gathering at the Belvedere Banquets in Elk Grove Village at noon. If you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Jenn at 630-873-0291 or Linda at 630-973-9214.

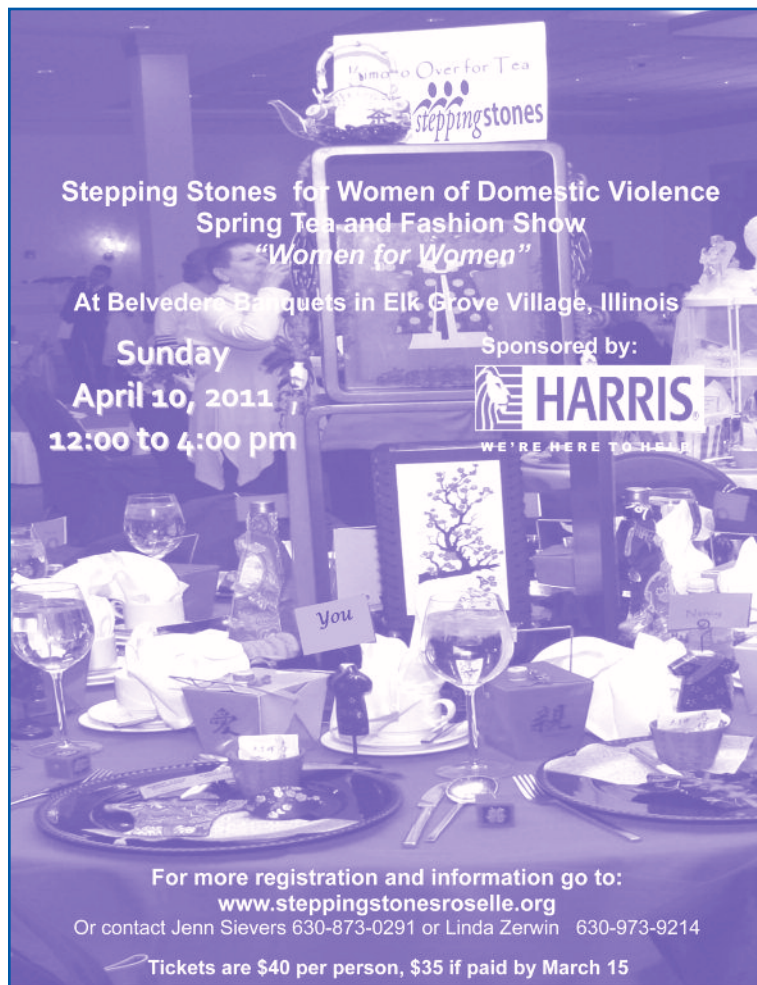
If you would like to attend the Tea by yourself or with a friend or two, please email springtea2009@gmail.com

To register and for more information go to: www.steppingstonesroselle.org

The Spring Tea and Fashion Show also includes a “Special Tea Boutique” featuring

many local vendors offering jewelry, fashion accessories, candles, soaps, scrapbook items, food items and much more.

The Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show is one of *Stepping Stones’* major fundraisers. We are looking for 450 women to join us to raise enough funds to pay for a client and her family for two year period in our program. Please join us for an afternoon of “Women for Women” fellowship in support of women who are victims of domestic violence.



Stepping Stones for Women of Domestic Violence
Spring Tea and Fashion Show
“Women for Women”
At Belvedere Banquets in Elk Grove Village, Illinois
Sunday
April 10, 2011
12:00 to 4:00 pm
Sponsored by:
HARRIS
WE'RE HERE TO HELP

For more registration and information go to:
www.steppingstonesroselle.org
Or contact Jenn Sievers 630-873-0291 or Linda Zerwin 630-973-9214
Tickets are \$40 per person, \$35 if paid by March 15

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

Stepping Stones Lynfred Event

Lynfred Winery Roselle partnered with *Stepping Stones* to hold its first charity event on October 20, 2010. The event was well attended and very well supported. A big thank you to our Corporate Sponsors Lynfred Winery Roselle, Langner Eye Care, Cabot Vermont, Heritage Realty, Wyatt Austin Jewelers, Wood Dale Electric, Walter E. Smithe, Top Golf, and Advanced Chiropractic Health Center.

The evening was comprised of 77 attendees that enjoyed wine tasting, delectable cheeses from Cabot Vermont and wine and dine raffles and live auction. Thank you to the following restaurants who donated gift certificates for the wine and dine: Morton's Steak House, De Campana, Spavone's, Brunch Café, Olive Garden, Rocco VINO, Jameson's, Westwood Tavern, Maggiano's, Papa Pacino's, Suzette's Creperie, Zsa Zsa's, Tuscany and Cheesecake Factory.

There was an opportunity to hear about *Stepping Stones* and how volunteers are needed in various areas including moving and mentoring.

Attendees had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to have a chance to win various baskets as well as a stay at Indian Lakes Resort, \$250.00 Walter E. Smithe gift certificate, Morton's Knife set, as well as lush blankets from Private Quarters. Master of

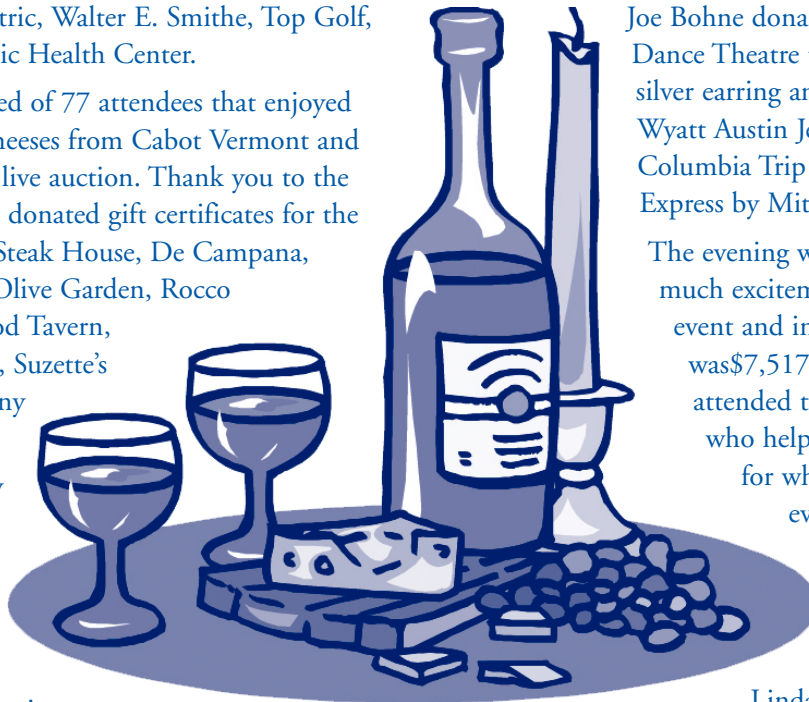
Ceremonies Kendall Marks and his wife Patti Marks, Board Member and Chair of the event, finished off the evening with a live auction. Thanks to Lynfred Winery for their Bed and Breakfast Stay, Nancy Kozlowski donated a lovely basket with a wine getaway to Galena, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bohne donated four Hubbard Street Dance Theatre tickets, a beautiful sterling silver earring and bracelet set donated by Wyatt Austin Jewelers, and a Victoria British Columbia Trip to stay at the Fairmont Express by Mitch-Stuart.

The evening was very lively and filled with much excitement. The total raised for the event and including pre-event sales was \$7,517.00. Thanks to everyone who attended the event and the committee who helped pull everything together for what was a very successful

evening. Committee members include Sue Rezmer-Socha, Betty Wentland, Gail Olson, Graciella Bredehoff, Nicole Pesch,

Linda McDermott and Diane

Kowalski. Special thanks to my husband and family who supported me, Scott Peterson, Jim McDermott and Vickie Main and to the entire staff of Lynfred Winery.



Retiring Board Members

This year two *Stepping Stones* Board members are retiring. Jeanine Warton and Pat Olinger will be sincerely missed and we thank them for their service and dedication.

Jeanine Warton was a founding member of *Stepping Stones* and has worked tirelessly as the Mentor Chairperson. She developed and managed the mentor/client program, managing everything from the first interview with the client, to recruiting mentors, to ensuring that the client's first night in their new home was well furnished and equipped with life necessities. Jeanine has spent countless hours dedicating her

time, energy, and resources to ensuring that *Stepping Stones* was providing the best possible program for our clients.

Pat Olinger has graciously contributed to where ever *Stepping Stones* needed her, whether it was representing our organization at a Domestic Violence Conference, or as an active member of the Golf Committee. Despite her retirement from the Board, Pat has decided to carry-on as Mentor Chair. In her new role, we are confident that she will continue Jeanine's legacy of providing the best possible mentor program to our clients.

Stepping Stones Annual Report - 2010

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

Lisa Gallagher, DBA

Founded originally in 2003, *Stepping Stones* was created with the vision to provide emotional healing, financial assistance, and a safe environment to women with children that have endured domestic violence. Since our founding, twenty-nine families have come through our program, with the guidance of two mentors and a case worker from Bridge Communities. In addition, the families have had the vast financial support and prayers of hundreds of volunteers and contributors to our program. Presently we have five families with eleven children in the program. This spring one family will be leaving the program after two years of being part of our family. We are proud to state that this family has paid down debt and has been able to save enough money for a down payment on their own home. They have truly achieved the independence that they entered the program seeking.

We partner with Bridge Communities, a private, non-profit housing and mentoring program in DuPage County. The Bridge program provides homeless families with basic housing, case management, life skills training, job readiness preparation, and after school tutoring.

There is a continuous challenge for members to focus as well as achieve the goals set for the within *Stepping Stones* and their respective committees. Please find below the 2010 achievement reviews for *Stepping Stones*.

EVENTS TEAM

Sue Rezmer-Socha, Chair

The Events Team creates and orchestrates all fundraising events. Over the years our fundraisers have ranged from garage sales to annual events, such as the spring tea. In addition, the Events Team works to secure financial support from individuals, churches, and corporations. The 2010 Events Team consisted of co-chairs Jim Sargis and Sue Rezmer-Socha and the heart and soul of the committee were Graciella Bredehoeft, Patti Marks, Gail Olson, Nicole Pesch, and Betty Wentland.

Grants are another aspect of fund raising. Our grant writer, Gail Olson, is responsible for searching for potential grant opportunities that *Stepping Stones* may qualify for.

Three events were held in 2010. The first was the 7th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show, held at Belvedere Banquets in Elk Grove Village; Harris Bank Roselle was the tea sponsor. Co-chairs Linda Zerwin and Jenn Sievers led the afternoon's tea: "Women for Women" which promotes unity and strength for our clients through support of women within the community. The second annual event was the 4th Annual Golf Outing which was held at Klein Creek Country Club in Winfield. Co-chairs Jim Sargis and Sue Rezmer-Socha guided the committee of Jolene Bell, Mike and Lynn Cieslewicz and Dick and Pat Olinger. *Stepping Stones* wishes to thank sponsors Itasca Bank and Trust and Harris Bank Roselle. The third event was the 1st Annual Lynfred Winery event held at Lynfred Winery in Roselle. Patti Marks chaired the event; with Langner Eye Care in

Roselle being a main sponsor. The evening provided an opportunity to taste select Lynfred wines, tour the cellar area, and bid on raffle items.

MENTOR TEAM

Jeanne Wartan, Chair

The Mentor Team is responsible for meeting weekly with our families to discuss all objectives to reach clients short and long term goals. Two mentors are assigned to each family working towards the common goal of securing stable housing and learning financial responsibility through budgeting.

Mentors Activities include:

- Attend Mentor training classes provided by Bridge Communities
- Attend weekly meetings with assigned families
- Pray with families at weekly meetings
- Co-ordinate tax returns with an accountant who donates his time and work with the families on paying down debt, and saving opportunities
- Encourage Mom to take parenting classes
- Co-ordinate Easter Food Baskets, Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Baskets, Mother's Day Gifts, and donated Christmas Gifts.

The year 2010 saw a total of seven families with fifteen children in the *Stepping Stones* Program.

As of January 1, 2011 we have five families with eleven children ranging in ages from one year to fifteen years old. Two families left in 2010; one woman was able to work on a new career

Stepping Stones Annual Report - 2010 *(Continued from page 3)*

choice – cosmetology - and is excited to begin. We have celebrated with a former family in 2010; Mom graduated from a program that has taken her six years to complete and is now a medical coder.

Thank you to Karen Stewart and Molly Howelison, our Case Managers from Bridge Communities. Without your dedication, guidance, resources and hard work we would not be able to properly help our families.

Thank you to all the mentors, especially those of 2010 who personally helped our families: Renee Lange, Bobi Siembieda, Christina Griffith, Carla Tonk, Suzi Briggs, Troyce Malone, Linda Geysler, and Mary Montavon. These mentors saw their assigned families weekly, giving them support comfort and guidance.

OUTREACH TEAM

Lynn Cieslewicz and Beverly Petrosius

Newly created in 2010, the Outreach Team formed with the intention of creating new relationships and awareness in the community. We purposefully reach out to new groups to share the mission of *Stepping Stones*, tell our story and how others can lend support. In 2010 we reached out to churches, businesses and to local organizations

The Outreach Team manned an Informational *Stepping Stones* booth at the Dynamic Professional Woman's Network health and wellness Expo in January. We connected and met with Allegra Printing and followed up on their \$1,000 grant. We promoted

Stepping Stones events by attending meetings of the Bloomingdale Chapter of the DPWN. At the golf outing, we gained a new hole sponsor, new golfers and seven outside volunteers the day of the outing. Through DPWN we had new participation at the Lynfred Winery Fund Raising event and received donations from their members. We reached out to the Bloomingdale Women's Club. They sponsored a hole at the golf outing and are interested in working with and for us in the future.

In 2011, our goal is to further engage support from these local women's groups, and to reach out to local Chambers of Commerce. We plan to hold an educational seminar on the coercive controls that one person can exert upon another, the impact on children and explain the various behaviors of domestic violence.

FINANCE TEAM

Deb Baumgart, Chair

The Finance Team has the dubious task of making ends meet! As in any other business, our Finance Team prepares the budget, maintains records, monitors our investments, insurance, audit, tax preparation and all other generally accepted practices associated with *Stepping Stones*. These volunteers come with a multitude of accounting degrees and we are fortunate to have members willing to donate their time that would add administrative costs to *Stepping Stones*. Financials are complicated in nature however this team handles their responsibilities with ease. Members of the Finance Team are: Deb Baumgart,

Jennifer Haws, Sue Johnson, and Lorean Sneed. A complete Statement of *Stepping Stones*' Financial Position is located on the website www.steppingstonesroselle.org.

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Scott Petersen, Chair

The domain name, DNS hosting, website and email are all hosted by iPowerWeb. Web statistics for the domain steppingstonesroselle.org are available on a monthly basis, for 2010 the website received 43,702 hits, 2722 unique visitors and 3635 visits. In addition to the website, a Facebook page for *Stepping Stones* Roselle was added in 2010. We have 404 interactions with the site, and 24 postings. In 2011, the Facebook page will be maintained by the Public Relations Team. A recurring issue through 2010 has been inconsistent database usage and methods, non-existent access to the central database, and non-existent updates of the central database. The central database is in a proprietary application, residing on a volunteer's laptop. We have already started the process of gathering up and consolidating all volunteer, attendee and vendor lists from all events in the past years. We know that many of these lists might not exist, but going forward it will be a mandate for all events to get the information in the central database/spreadsheet. Getting this resolved will be the primary focus of the Technology Team in 2011.

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PROGRAM EVALUATION TEAM

Lois Maschio, Chair

Program Evaluation has been working on laying the foundation for evaluating the *Stepping Stones* program. Program evaluation identifies a systematic method for collecting, analyzing, and using information to answer basic questions about projects, policies and programs. The Team needs to identify the decisions intended to be the focus of the evaluation.

A measure of Outcome Evaluation determines if the program goals and objectives have been achieved with our clients. Our clients need to develop the skills they need to be able to leave the program and live self-sufficiently with "financial and emotional independence." We need to develop a standard of criteria to evaluate if the program has achieved that goal.

The client evaluation was a major goal for Program Evaluation in 2010. Construction of a Client Exit Survey was completed by Betty Wentland and Lois Maschio and it was presented to the *Stepping Stones* Board in April of 2010.

PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Linda McDermott, Chair

The Public Relations Team promotes the activities and fundraisers of *Stepping Stones* and it's accomplishments in order to increase donations and solicit volunteers all in order to help women who have been affected by domestic violence to become independent.

The goals for 2011 are:

- 3 Newsletters to keep our primary audience up to date: Spring, Summer and Winter
- Monthly e-mail blasts for current news
- 2 Fundraising Letters
- Review "Opportunities to Serve" and Information Brochures
- Create Mentor Brochure
- Take photos at events for promotional purposes
- Keep Website and Facebook Page relevant and current

Members of the Public Relations Team are: Linda McDermott, Heidi Kessler, Vivian Thorne, and Nicole Vasold.

HOW YOU CAN HELP STEPPING STONES – BE A MENTOR

Mentoring is simply the presence of a caring individual who provides support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and a constructive example. You may remember someone from your own life who served as a mentor, someone you could trust and turn to for support and encouragement, someone who made you feel special.

Mentors can fill any number of roles, but all *Stepping Stones* mentors have one thing in common; they care about helping their clients achieve their potential and discover their strengths.

Stepping Stones mentors help their clients:

- Set goals and start taking steps to realize them
- Make healthy choices about day-to-day living
- Think through problems at home or at work
- Stay motivated and focused while facing daily obstacles

The mentors' main purpose is to help clients define and achieve their own goals. Goals will vary, depending on each client's circumstances. By sharing experiences, mentors encourage positive choices, promote high self-esteem, support achievement and introduce their clients to new ideas.

For more information on being a *Stepping Stones* mentor please call Pat Olinger at 630-440-4784.

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual Golf Outing

June 21, 2011
Klein Creek Golf Club
Winfield, IL
More details to come.



Immediately He spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed.

Mark 6:51

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

Time: 8:45 a.m. Registration, 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Training

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
630-687-7837

The Board

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Lisa Gallagher, DBA

VICE-CHAIR

Betty Wentland

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Lois Maschio, RN,
ND

Nicole Pesch

Scott Petersen

Sue Rezmer-Socha

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