

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

Pathways

March 2008

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.

Pebbles from the President

By Betty Wentland, Chairperson

Providing a Safe Pathway For Women of Domestic Violence

As chairperson of the Board of Directors, I have been pleased to witness the dedicated efforts of all fifteen board members of *Stepping Stones*, who not only meet regularly to determine policy and future goals of the program, but serve on a team that maintains the needs of our clients. The board members assure that *Stepping Stones* is well managed and that the donations received by individuals, corporations, and grants are properly used. Working together with Bridge Communities, our board and volunteers endeavor to face the challenging fact that domestic violence victimizes women and their children, many times leaving them depressed, abandoned, and homeless. We have comforted a total of 10 families this past year, providing them not only with a safe environment, but also with hope for a brighter future. We pray that each time a family graduates from our program they will leave empowered with the knowledge that they are worthy individuals and deserve a better life.

Two board members will be leaving this year, after serving since the conception of *Stepping Stones*. Deaconess Rogene Lis has served as a board member for five years, was chairperson of the P.R. Team, and a member of the Resource Team. Sandy Theis has served on the board for five years, was chairperson of the Finance Team, treasurer, and mentor along with her husband, Chuck. Both Rogene and Sandy will be deeply missed. I thank them for their devoted commitment over the past five years. A third Board Member will move onto our Advisory Board. Detective Mike Dugan will serve as our key educator on domestic violence.

In this year's annual report you will read about the accomplishments and goals of each team. All teams work collectively to assure the personal growth and safety of our clients. I am proud to be a part of *Stepping Stones*.

Together we can make a difference.

SAVE THE DATE!

5th Annual Spring Tea – Sunday, April 13th, 2008

2nd Annual Golf Outing – July 24th, 2008

Dinner Dance and Auction – October, 2008



2007 ANNUAL REPORTS

Development Team Annual Report for 2007

Betty Wentland, Chair

This team develops and coordinates all fundraising events. A grant writer is responsible to search for grants that *Stepping Stones* is eligible to receive, creates the grant package, and applies for the grant. The team secures financial support from individuals, churches, and corporations.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2007

- March – Spring Tea
- July – Golf Outing
- October – Dinner Auction
- Grants:
 - Square D
 - Matching Funds
 - Thrivent for Lutherans

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2007

- *Stepping Stones* raised \$70,000 from fundraising events and grants.
- Financially we supported six families with their apartment rentals and additional needs.

GOALS FOR 2008

- Non-a-thon letter to be sent in February
- Spring Tea – April 13, Belvedere Banquets – “Women for Women”
- Golf Outing – July 24, Fox Run
- Dinner Auction – date to be determined
- Research endowments Committee formed
- Approach women’s groups for lecture and information about *Stepping Stones*
- Mike Drugan to address groups on domestic violence
- Invite women to major fundraising events

With God’s help and the generosity of many, *Stepping Stones* will continue to support women and children who need our help in order to find a pathway to security and peace.

Executive Director Annual Report for 2007

Dorothy Wiese and Diana Eckert

2007 accomplishments: continued with presentations, attended workshops, assisted on committees, worked with Bridge/Chad regarding location of 6-flat for future *Stepping Stones* clients.

2008 goals: increase presentations, attend workshops, assist with clients as needed, assist on committees, attend mentor training again, and work with Bridge Communities’ Partner planning group.

Mentor Committee Annual Report for 2007

Jeanine Warton, Chair

The Mentor Committee is responsible for meeting weekly with our families to discuss all objectives to reach the 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. Our quest is for women to become self-sufficient, by learning financial responsibility and securing stable housing.

The year 2007 saw a total of 10 Families with 18 children in the *Stepping Stones* Program. As of December 31st, 2007, we have five families with nine children ranging in ages from six months to nine years old. Five families have left in 2007 with very successful accomplishments. Four women have secured full-time

employment and stable housing. Two of those women have also been able to save over \$5,000. One woman is on a career path of nursing and provides stable housing for her three young children.

We have established a Mentor “Thank You” committee and presently are working on establishing exit criteria for mentors. We welcome potential new mentors to attend at any time. The Mentor educational/information meetings are held the 1st Thursday evening of each month.

The 1st 2008 Bridge mentor training classes were held Saturday, March 1st and March 15*.

A special thank you to Karen Stewart & Molly Howelison, our Case Managers from Bridge Communities. Without your dedication, guidance, resources and hard work we would not be able to properly help these families. Thank you to all the mentors, especially those of 2007 who personally helped our families: Maria Patton, Sherry Hayes, Helen Stanisvich, Renee Lange, Aleese Ekola, Jane Hove, Caria Tonk, Marie Conlin, Suzi Briggs, Molly Olson, Donna Pacione, Lois Maschio, Robin Samec, Pat Sexton, Troyce Malone, and Pat Franson-Olinger.

May God Bless each and every one of our mentors, their families and all the families of *Stepping Stones*, past, present and future.

Program Evaluation Annual Report for 2007

Lois Maschio, Chair

Current committee members: Lois Maschio, Linda Zerwin, Susan Pearson, Betty Brenton

Former members: Ken Reid, Diane Middlebrook, Gwen Magner

The program evaluation committee has been attempting to develop a clear understanding about the intent and design of the *Stepping Stones* program and its implementation. We need the help and support from the *Stepping Stones* Board in identifying stakeholders as well as assurance that the *Stepping Stones* board members are in agreement with a program assessment and evaluation and open to accepting and acting on the findings.

The future goals of the program evaluation committee will be to tackle each phase of the evaluation process as we acquire the support and commitment from the *Stepping Stones* Board and appropriate data and/or resources. This could take as long as a year or more. In the meantime, program evaluation has created a profile of each of our clients and some simple statistic of our overall client profile. An objective is to keep the profile updated and to develop a time-line of clients entering and exiting from the program.

Public Relations Committee Annual Report for 2007

Rogene Lis, Chair

The Public Relations Committee promotes the activities/fundraisers of *Stepping Stones* and it's accomplishments.

Accomplishments for 2007

- Non-a-thon fundraising letter, February 2007
- Spring Newsletter, April 2007
- Fall Newsletter, August 2007

- Winter Newsletter, December 2007
- Thanksgiving Donor Letter, November 2007
- Created "Opportunities to Serve" brochure, distributed for PR purposes
- Created a thank you letter with a return donation form
- Updated and printed fundraising envelopes, letterhead, envelopes, brochures
- Increased press releases to churches, municipalities and newspapers
- Updated and printed informational brochure
- Helped to promote the Spring Tea, the Golf Outing and the Annual Dinner Dance
- Presentation Manual & Power Point in development
- Helped to increase donations
- Improved our system of acknowledging and thanking donors
- Went from two newsletters to three newsletters for the year
- Helped promote successful fundraising events
- Created and updated promotional materials

Goals for 2008

In addition to repeating the above accomplishments...

- Complete Power Point presentation for PR and informational purposes
- Double the mailing list to increase newsletter circulation
- Capture email addresses for informational, PR and marketing purposes
 - Take photos at all events and collect email addresses so we can provide a link to photographs
- Continue to look for new communication avenues
- Create a promotional kit

- Press releases to promote fundraising events
- Document each client family and their successes, for historical and anecdotal purposes only
- Increase communication through electronic media
- Act as a helping resource for other teams
- Train volunteers to present Power Point at corporations and organizations
- Create increased awareness of *Stepping Stones* in surrounding churches, organizations, corporations, and community residents in Roselle, Itasca, Addison, and Bloomingdale

This committee would like to recognize and thank Mark Boroughf from Printing Plus in Roselle, Renate Marquardt from Trinity Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Members of the committee are Rogene Lis, Chair, Lynn Cieslewicz, Heidi Kessler, Linda McDermott and Vivian Thorne.

Resource Team Annual Report for 2007

The Resource Team provided information technology support for the *Stepping Stones* organization. We maintain the web site and provide data storage and retrieval. The *Stepping Stones* web site is <http://steppingstonesroselle.org>. Much energy has been devoted to database issues. A new plan will be implemented, and additional staff will be needed to support this endeavor.

Current team members are Aaron Steen, Elmer Wuensche, Jenn Sievers, Ken Reid, Linda Johnson, Robert Guico, and Rogene Lis. This year Ken Reid took a leave of absence, and Julie Miller more then ably filled in during the time he was gone. She has since left this team, after many years of outstanding service to *Stepping Stones*.

Scrapbook for *Stepping Stones*!!

On Friday, February 1st, Rogene Lis and Jenn Sievers held a scrapbook party at Trinity Lutheran Church to benefit *Stepping Stones*. Thanks to Creative Memories Consultant Lorean Sneed, who donated her time and supplies, they were able to raise \$1,985. It was a fun night, with plenty of laughs and artistic work on those scrapbooks. 72 people came to support our cause and enjoy the company and food. The prizes were exceptional.

Thank you, Rogene, Jenn and Lorean! This is just one good example of how to raise money for *Stepping Stones* and have fun at the same time.



Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show *Sunday, April 13th • Belvedere Banquets, Elk Grove* *Hope to see all of you there!*

On Sunday, April 13, 2008, *Stepping Stones* will hold its 5th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show - Women For Women. We will again be gathering at the Belvedere Banquet facility in Elk Grove Village. Last year 214 women enthusiastically applauded when co-chairs Jenn Sievers and Linda Zerwin challenged the attendees to bring a friend in 2008 and expand the Spring Tea to 450 women! So, now is the time for Spring Tea veterans to begin inviting their guests. Seasoned hostesses can expect their host packets in the mail. Need an invitation for your guests? The Spring Tea also has a complimentary, official invitation that features last year's winner, "Tea at Tiffany's" by Kathy Kean.

For those of you who are interested in hosting a table, please contact

Linda [630-973-9214] or Jenn [630-873-0291] or email them at: springtea@ameritech.net. If you would like to attend, but cannot host a table, individual seating is available. If you would like to host a table, but are concerned about filling the seats, let us know! We can pair you with women who would like to attend but have not been invited by a hostess.

The Spring Tea and Fashion Show also includes a "Special-Tea Boutique" featuring many local vendors offering jewelry, fashion accessories, candles, soaps, scrapbooking items, food items, and much more. Enjoy complimentary Mimosas and orange juice while you browse. The area for our boutique has tripled. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a vendor for this event.

To further honor last year's winner, Tiffany & Co. has donated a Sterling Silver Heart Toggle Bracelet and the Silver Heart Toggle Necklace. This set is valued at \$600!! Raffle tickets will be available for \$5 each. We will also have a silent auction and a general raffle of select gift baskets. Tickets for the general raffle will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The general raffle allows our guests to select the item they would like to win and drop their ticket[s] into that raffle basket.

Tickets for the event will be \$40 per person. Tickets that are pre-paid by March 25, 2008 will be \$35. Our goal is to raise \$25,000! Please join us for an afternoon of "Women for Women" fellowship in support of ladies who are victims of domestic violence. And, bring a friend!



Donations

November & December 2007
**Our sincere thanks for
your financial support!**

Amperage Electrical Supply, Inc.
Debbie & Len Baumgart
Carol Stream Women's Club
Margaret Clayton
Merri Downs
Ronald & Diana Eckert
George & Mary Eiermann
Lisa & Joseph Gallagher
Wes & Jennifer Haws
Daniel & Dorothy Hildebrandt
Nancy Lichthardt
Nuveen
Frank & Kathleen Oldfield
Pactiv Corp
Thomas & Jacqueline Romanello, Jr.
Sam's Club Foundation
Jim Sargis
Rita Simmons
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Trinity Lutheran Church
Betty Wentland

A special thanks to the Carol Stream Women's Club for their donation of bags of toiletries, like shampoo and lotions, for our clients!



Running for *Stepping Stones*

Help Rob Burns celebrate his 60th Birthday

On April 21, 2008, at the starting line of the Boston Marathon will be Roselle resident Rob Burns. He graciously ran on behalf of *Stepping Stones* for Women of Domestic Violence at Boston in 2004. His family, friends and *Stepping Stones* supporters pledged \$13,000 for the cause, enough to support one client family for a year. Rob finished that race in 3 hours and 49 minutes! A couple of weeks later, The Miracle Field was dedicated, a project he helped spearhead through the Rotary Club. Ironically, five months later his neck was broken in an accident, potentially ending his running career or worse. Two plates, six screws and three months later he was running again.

This year, to celebrate his 60th birthday, Rob Burns has again qualified for the Boston Marathon. So, instead of "Over the Hill" gag gifts, you can pledge your support of Rob as he participates in the "marathon of all marathons" on behalf of women with children who are victims of domestic violence. Rob says that he would be "tickled pink" if he can finish this year with a time of 3:50.

Rob Burns has been an avid supporter of *Stepping Stones*. He is a volunteer on the "move in" committee which basically means he's one of the guys we enlist to help move furniture around. He and his wife, Patty, attend many *Stepping Stones* functions. Even at the Women's Spring Tea you can find him helping ladies unload their cars.

Thanks, Rob, for all you do and Happy 60th Birthday.

Donations can be sent to: *Stepping Stones* for Women of Domestic Violence, PO Box 721156, Roselle, IL 60172. Or you can make a donation on line at: www.?????.org

God's Blessings Come in Mysterious Ways

We don't always know where our support is going to come from. But we do recognize it is always a blessing. Judy Rogers, the Senior Vice President of Itasca Bank and Trust, retired on December 31, 2007, after 30 years of service! Rather than presenting her with a watch, Itasca Bank and Trust made a donation to the charity of her choice to honor her service. So in honor of Judy Rogers, the Itasca Bank and Trust has donated \$2,500 to *Stepping Stones*.

Jack Mensching, Bank President, had this to say about her. "Judy is very people-oriented, she cares strongly not only about our customers, but also about all the people she works with. Whatever her reason for picking *Stepping Stones* for this donation, part of it is because she has a big heart. Judy has been with Itasca Bank for over 30 years and we're going to miss her as an employee and as a friend." Thank you, Judy, from all of us at *Stepping Stones*.

If we don't love ourselves, we would not love others. When someone tells you to love others first, and to love others more than ourselves; it is impossible. If you can't love yourself, you can't love anybody else.

- Ching Hai

Congratulations!

Colin Thomas Drugan was born in January to our Advisory Board member, Mike Drugan and his wife, Lisa. We wish his parents, and his sister and two brothers the very best!



P.O. Box 721156
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630-235-3389

The Board

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