

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

Pathways

December 2007

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

Autumn is a glorious time to sit back and reflect on what *Stepping Stones* and you have done for our families. As I drove to work this morning I put on my sunglasses and realized that the fall colors of the trees were much more intense and brilliant than without my glasses. It made me think that perhaps the lives of the six women and 10 children that are currently in our program have their lives made a little brighter by *Stepping Stones* coloring their lives with our services. I wish you could see the faces of our clients change from gloom and frustration to radiance and calm after they realize they are on the right path. There is a warm feeling when we witness a mom with three children, who last year had no home or security, now begin to look forward with confidence and to take charge of her life.

Since June 1, 2003, 16 moms and 31 children have received your help. Their lives have been permanently changed. You have altered their future and vividly colored their plans for a new and productive journey. Thank you for your support. Thank you for another year filled with hope!

SAVE THE DATE!

Scrapbook for Stepping Stones!!

Join us on Friday, February 1st, 2008, to benefit *Stepping Stones*. A registration fee of \$20 will reserve table space to work on your scrapbook, the use of die cut machines, punches, scissors and other cutting tools, great snacks and the opportunity to purchase any papers, stickers, or other supplies you might need from Creative Memories Consultant Lorean Sneed. The full \$20 will be donated to *Stepping Stones*, (make your checks payable to *Stepping Stones*) as will a percentage of any purchases made that evening. What a great way to make some progress on your scrapbooks and benefit a great cause!



The event will be held in Trinity Lutheran Church's Family Life Center from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and is limited to the first 60 registrants. To register, please contact Jenn Sievers at 630-462-3694, or Rogene Lis at 630-894-3263 or by e-mail Rogene@trinityroselle.com.

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

2nd Annual Golf Outing – July 24, 2008

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

My Boat Is So Small: Creating a Safe Harbor of Hope...

On Sunday October 14th, the Roselle United Methodist Church (RUMC) focused on *Stepping Stones* as the church participated in the 16th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is coordinated by the Children's Defense fund and endorsed by more than 200 faith group denominations.

This year's theme for Children's Sabbath was "Creating a Safe Harbor of Hope and

Health Care for *All* Children."

Tables were set up in front of the church sanctuary with signs representing things all children should have access to, such as: Safe Housing, Clothing, Balanced Nutrition, Medical and Dental Care, Education, Loving/Empowering Environment, etc. This served to highlight to our RUMC members the work *Stepping Stones* does to create a safe harbor of hope for abused women and their children.

Childcare and School:

An important component of Stepping Stones Recovery

Instead of telling you how *Stepping Stones* has made a difference in the life of a mother and child, we'll let the mother tell you in her own words. Here are excerpts from a letter we received.

"My daughter and I are in the *Stepping Stones* program... But as a full-time student and a part-time worker, I did not know how I would be able to afford (childcare). Trinity Childcare Center came to our rescue in more than one way with answers to my prayers.

My daughter was enrolled in a Pre-K program for special needs children with an IEP for both emotional/behavioral issues and speech/language issues. But it was Trinity Childcare Center that took my daughter in and worked with her like no other place would have been able to do.

At first my daughter came into the



school with an inability to follow directions, unable to keep her emotional outbursts from becoming physical.

Through the guidance of Mrs. Darby, we were able to come up with a parenting strategy to curb that type of behavior. Through

God's hand in having Mrs. Neal as her teacher, my daughter would have a life changing experience.

My daughter has never loved school or a faculty as much as she has at Trinity Childcare Center. She has matured so much with not only a greater understanding of the things around her, but also how to react in a positive way when wanting to express her emotions. Where I have been unable to succeed, this loving and compassionate staff has been able to.

This is no ordinary school. This is one that not only wrote off a lot of cost for us to be able to attend, but the people

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR DESERVING FAMILIES

Your generosity is what makes *Stepping Stones* work. The Christmas holidays are underway and we'd like to make it a special one for our client families, and we can't do it without you! While all gifts are appreciated, donating gift cards will really help.

- Gas Stations
- Jiffy Lube
- Grocery Stores (Jewel, Dominicks, Caputos)
- Wal-Mart
- Kohls
- Target
- Shoe Stores like Payless
- Meijer
- K-Mart

Or be creative!

- Spa certificate for Mom
- Hair Dressers
- Bookstores/Toystores for the whole family
- Circuit City/Best Buy

Please send the gift cards to *Stepping Stones*, P.O. Box, 721156, Roselle, IL. 60172. Your gift will provide much needed relief to our clients. Thank you.

there gave donations to my daughter and I when we were in more need than they were aware. I will forever be indebted to this school, this church, the teachers, and the caring staff. One day when I am watching my little girl walk across the stage for her college diploma, or interact lovingly with her children, it will be this place that I will remember.

I cannot express enough gratitude for what we have been given, for we have been given a second chance at having a successful life; and it is because of you."

Thank you to all our supporters!

All Aboard! *An Island Cruise*



Lorean Sneed helped to register cruise passengers.

On Friday, October 12, we “set sail” from Addison aboard the Empress with 120 passengers for our 5th annual dinner auction.

Upon boarding, each passenger received a floral lei and had a souvenir picture taken on the “the lido deck”. Among the activities offered by our *cruise directors* were Wine & Dine featuring Lynfred Wine with Specialty *Island Cruise* labels and gift certificates from local restaurants. For the first time we offered a raffle of *Create Your Own Holiday* with a first prize of \$2500 towards travel, 2nd prize of \$500 and 3rd prize of \$250. We were honored by Southwest Airlines donation of two tickets to anywhere they fly in memory of their employee, and our board member, James Ekola. Passengers also worked their way around the “promenade deck” bidding on the great items donated by so many *Stepping Stones* supporters.

1 Corinthians 7:7 says “But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.” And so *Stepping Stones* also honored their

mentors and several individuals and groups for their contributions throughout the past year. Honorees included: Bridge Communities, The Chicago Italian American Charitable Organization [CIACO], Ms. Gwen Magner, Ms. Julie Miller, Roselle Methodist Church and Pastor Susan Jacques, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Trinity Lutheran Church.

After the delicious Surf & Turf dinner, our Empress passengers had the opportunity to bid on an incredible selection of live auction items, while enjoying fellow shipmates. Before the live auction began, everyone searched for fish food under their chair to determine who would get to take home the gold fish and orchid centerpieces that were designed and donated by Petal Pushers Floral.

New to the live auction this year was an opportunity to *Raise The Paddle* to



Deckhands volunteered their time and help.



Passengers are welcomed aboard with a lei.

support two needs which continue to plague our client’s efforts to establish a firm, independent footing in the business world – child care and auto maintenance. The opportunity to make a cash donation for these two critical needs was met with a heart-filled response as our passengers made their tax-deductible donations.

After reaching port, everyone disembarked with smiles and the knowledge that their evening of fellowship will support the client families of *Stepping Stones* as they begin their new, safe voyage with emotional and financial security.

On Behalf of the entire *Stepping Stones* “Crew,” your Cruise Directors Deb Baumgart, Diana Eckert and Linda Zerwin would like to thank all who sponsored, donated, attended [especially our volunteers] the *2007 Island Cruise*. We especially thank our *Luxury Suite* sponsors Harris Bank and Porte Brown. Thanks to the generosity of so many, \$9,000 is now available to help these families.



Donations September & October 2007

Martha Adame-Garcia
Adreani Foundation
Advantage National Bank
Alliance Mechanical
Arianna's Flowers
Artful Touch Spa
Ball Mart
Debbie and Len Baumgart
Robert and Joan Beauprez
Jolene Bell
Carol and Dave Behnke
Bentley's Pancake House
Pam Bertrand
Bistro Maisonette
Kenneth and Karen Black
Nancy Blasé
Anthony and Jean Bonavolonta
Susan Briggs
Patricia and Robert Burns
Kathleen Cahill
Carol Stream House of Carpet
Charlie's Charhouse
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook
Chicago White Sox Charities
Chicago Wolves
Chris' Hallmark
Michael and Lynn Cieslewicz
Siegfried and Marjorie Clausner
Daily Herald
Joseph Devlin
Dick Wickstrom Chevrolet
Betty Dixon-Brent
Jolene Dunn
Eaglewood Resort and Spa
Ronald and Diana Eckert
Edible Arrangements
George and Mary Eiermann
Judith Ekola
Aleese Ekola
Elgin Symphony Orchestra
Empress Banquets
Alfred and Marjorie Engel
Darlene Fafinski
Judy Feldhauser
Stephen and Muriel Finkel
First Chicago Bank and Trust
Friendly Ford of Roselle
Patrick and Mary Fleming
Lisa and Joseph Gallagher
Joyce Gerrish
Glendale Lakes Golf Club
Florica Gociman
Kurt Grapenthin

Daniel and Deborah Hauser
Harris Bank
Wes and Jennifer Haws
Health Emporium
Cheryl and Lawrence Henshaw
Scott and Sylvia Hibbard
Kathleen Hill
Jane Hodgkinson
Patricia Hop
Itasca Bank and Trust
Itasca Country Club
JP Jewelers
Susan and Tim Johnson
Karen Birchfield Photography
Richard and Racquel Karpinski
John and Jill Kelm
Kids in Need
Kirlin's Hallmark
Carlene Klinetobe
Robert and Lenora Knapp
Alan and Kathleen Krack
Mark and Bridget Lazare
Len's Ace Hardware
Steve Libera
Walter and Rogene Lis
Little Gourmet
James and Solveig Lombardo
Lynfred Winery
Maggy Magoo's
Matt and Gail Maish
Stephanie Makofski
Mandarin Bistro
Mark Drug
Mary Martindale
Arthur and Lois Maschio
James and Linda McDermott
Moments in Time Photography
Annie and Charles Morley
Mr. Natural Services
Rev. Charles and Karen Mueller
Michael and Barbara Murray
Robert and Laura Myers
Patricia and Thomas Neuber
Pam Nordbrock, Southern Living
Norwood Builders
Nuveen Investments
Mollie Olson
Robert and Monica Ott
Donna Pacione
Parkway Bank
Grace Ann Pastorelli
Petal Pushers
Pina's Culinary Experience

William and Lauren Plasschaert
Ralph Polifka
Prairie Technology
Ravinia
Kenneth and Sandra Reid
Ristorante Villagio
Thomas and Jacqueline Romanello
Roselle Chamber of Commerce
Roselle Dental
Darlene Rosenquist, Tastefully Simple
Val Rygel, Mary Kay
Salerno's Rosedale Chapel
Robin Samec
Ronald and Christine Sass
Sassy's Originals
SD Direct Messenger Service
Jacquelyn Schelling
Thomas and Cindy Schramm
Robert and Pat Sexton
John and Marlene Shales
Stephen and Jennifer Sievers
Marilyn Slattery
Dan and Lorean Sneed, Creative Memories
Southwest Airlines
Glenn and Susan Spachman
Spavone's
Sterling Home Mortgage
Debra Stockton
Lyla and John Striet
Charles and Sandra Theis
Eleanor Thorsen
Susan Thurbee
Tripar International Inc.
Marilynn and William Tumminaro
Jan Van Deusen
Village Addicts
Vine Tastings
Jane and John Walters
Robert and Jeanine Wartin
Craig Was
Holly and Scott Wentland
Betty Wentland
Wallace and Dorothy Wiese
Cheryl Winter
Adrienne Worrell
Raymond and Beverly Young
Eli's Cheesecake Factory
Suzanne Young
Zechman Supply
Linda Zerwin and Wilbur Seelye
Richard and Janet Zoellick



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

The Board

CO-DIRECTORS

Diana Eckert
Dorothy Wiese, Ed.D.

CHAIRPERSON

Betty Wentland

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Lynn Cieslewicz

SECRETARY

Linda McDermott

TREASURER

Debbie Baumgart

MEMBERS

Jolene Bell
Michael Drugan
Lisa Gallagher
Deaconess Rogene Lis
Lois Maschio, RN, ND
Kenneth Reid, MSW
Sandra Theis
Jeanine Wartan
Linda Zerwin

ADVISORY BOARD

Pastor Thomas Kim
Roselle Chief of Police
James Kruger, Jr.
Pastor Charles Mueller, Jr.
Mayor Gayle Smolinski
Robert Burns
Donna Gorski, MSW

“Be of good cheer. Do not think of today’s failures, but of the success that may come tomorrow. You have set yourselves a difficult task, but you will succeed if you persevere; and you will find joy in overcoming obstacles. Remember, no effort that we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost.”

Helen Keller

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!



Stepping Stones for women of domestic violence
PO Box 721156, Roselle, IL 60172

Pre-Sorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 319
Carol Stream, IL