



Winter-Spring 2016 Newsletter

Anniversaries are often a time to look back and remember history, but looking forward is equally important! Needs for the services Stepping Stones provides have risen dramatically over the years and we want to be able to continue to meet them in the future.



As Stepping Stones looks to the next 30 years and beyond, the organization must consider its long-term financial stability.

Happy Anniversary to Us!

This year Stepping Stones is marking its 30th anniversary—30 years of providing service to low income residents of Dunn County.

What was happening 30 years ago? Some tragedies—the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, the Chernobyl disaster occurred, and Mad Cow disease was identified. More positively—IBM unveiled the first laptop computer, the Human Genome Project was launched, and gas was .89 cents per gallon. **And** caring people in Menomonie, Wisconsin were planning ways to help their neighbors in need!

Formerly known as Interfaith Volunteers, the organization's first program was called Caregivers and was started by several local churches concerned about the unmet needs of elderly people in Dunn County. Volunteers were linked to seniors and people with disabilities to provide services which enabled them to live independently longer. This program is now called **Community Connections** and includes other services such as emergency financial assistance and referrals.

In 1994, community leaders began investigating the need for a homeless shelter. This resulted in the opening of the House of Hope Shelter on So. Broadway (now called **Stepping Stones Shelter**), offering transitional and emergency shelter, case management, and housing referral services. In 2014, in order to address increased need, Stepping Stones expanded the shelter program to **Winter Haven** on Stout Rd. so more people could be served.

In 1996, the organization's third program, the **Food Pantry**, began to offer free food to low income households. Initially, the pantry was located in the basement of the Broadway shelter as a compliment to services already provided there, but growing demand required successive moves to larger facilities. Since 2011 the pantry and Stepping Stones' offices have been located at 1602 Stout. Rd.

Last year we began an endowment at the Community Foundation of Dunn County. It's currently called an *Acorn Fund* and was started with an investment of \$2,000 and a promise to grow the fund to \$10,000 within 5 years time.

Stepping Stones would like it to gradually become a *Mighty Oak Fund* in order to ensure that we can always assist low income residents of Dunn County. Toward this end, Stepping Stones friends and supporters are invited to contribute to the endowment and/or make a planned gift.

Including Stepping Stones in your estate plan is a way to perpetuate your values into the future by leaving a legacy of hope for those in need in our community. For more information please contact Stepping Stones at 715.235.2920 or director@steppingstonesdc.org.

Plans are in the works for a festive fall event to commemorate our anniversary, so stay tuned. For now, though, we want to say **THANK YOU** for helping us provide stepping stones to our neighbors in need—for the past 30 years as well as the next 30!

Stepping Stones + Soup = **EMPTY BOWLS!**



Sat, 3/5, 11 am-2 pm, Menomonie Middle School

See **YOU** There!

Stepping Stones Board of Directors

Dave Williams, President
Kristin Korpela, Vice-President
Lora Benrud, Treasurer
Diane Morehouse, Secretary
Joe Aronson
Michelle Becker
Tim Eiden
Michelle Hamilton
Jay Ivens
Mike Lauer
Deanna Munoz
Amy Payne
Jill Seichter
Tricia Sorensen
Heather Wigdahl

Staff

Katherine Dutton
Executive Director
Kris Pawlowski
Assistant Director & Food
Pantry Coordinator
Heidi Hooten
Stepping Stones Shelters
Program Coordinator
Jane Redig
Community Connections
Program Coordinator
Pang Kou Yang
Administrative Assistant
Dave Bergstrand
Maintenance & Warehouse
Coordinator
Jim Welch
Warehouse Coordinator



SOUP
It's what's for lunch!
Sat., March 5

Thank You & Welcome

THANK YOU so much to out-going board members Derrick Oberle, Christian Peterson, and Luanne Prochnow. Their dedication and contributions are greatly appreciated and will be missed!

WELCOME to in-coming board members Joe Aronson-- Manufacturing Manager at 3M, Jay Ivens-- Community Member & Educator, Jill Seichter-- Social Worker at DHS Aging & Disability Resource Center, and Heather Wigdahl--Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.



The 2016 RotaryFest will be held Sat., April 23 at Vision Quest.

For more info. go to www.menomoniesunriserotary.org.
The raffle drawing will be held that night but you don't need to be present to win.

Wish List

For the Pantry

- Vacuum (commercial preferred)
- Grocery bags (cloth, paper, or plastic)
- Plastic ice cream buckets w/ lids

For Winter Haven

- \$10 gas cards
- Pillows (new or gently used)
- DVDs—family friendly

For the Shelters & Pantry

- Can openers
- Personal care products
- Diapers, any size
- Cleaning supplies & garbage bags
- Used printer cartridges—**ink jet ONLY**
(we recycle them as a fundraiser)

MarketPlace Foods is again helping to fight hunger by 'matching the cash'! During the month of February, MarketPlace is accepting cash donations for in-store credit for food pantries in communities with MarketPlace stores and will match those gifts up to \$20,000.



Last year Stepping Stones received almost \$10,000 in-store credit for the food pantry. A little bit extra at the check-out goes a long way at the pantry!

Thank you to all who contributed!

Quilt Raffle

Proceeds from Stepping Stones' ticket sales for the annual quilt raffle that's part of the Menomonie Sunrise RotaryFest will benefit the Food Pantry. This beautiful quilt, made by the Menomonie Peace Work Quilters, is called **Stars for Stepping Stones**.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.
Stop by the Stepping Stones office to get yours.

They are also available from any Board Member and at Empty Bowls.

**Mark your
calendar for**

**Stepping Stones'
Annual
Garden Tour**



**Saturday,
June 25, 2016**

**Sponsorships welcome at
www.steppingstonesdc.org**

Stepping Stones' News & Notes



Good-Bye & Thank You to Dave Bergstrand

Dave Bergstrand has been Stepping Stones part-time Maintenance & Warehouse Coordinator for three years following his retirement from the Dunn Co. Highway Dept. and a stint as a Food Pantry and warehouse volunteer. Dave has brought so many gifts to this position especially his superb maintenance 'know how' and his great people skills. But now he's ready for full-time retirement and looks forward to spending more time with his family. We look forward to welcoming him back as a volunteer!

Note to Thrivent Members

Please consider designating Stepping Stones for your Thrivent Choice Dollars®. Through this program, eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial can recommend places for Thrivent to distribute part of their charitable funds each year. If you're a Thrivent member and need more information, visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice, call 1-800-847-4836, or contact your local Thrivent representative. 2015 Choice Dollars must be designated by March 31, 2016. Thank you to all who have already designated Choice Dollars to Stepping Stones!



Winter Haven

Up to 10 adults can stay at the Stout Rd. Winter Haven Shelter which is staffed each night by trained volunteers. It's been very full this season and continues through March 31. Special thanks to our tremendous crew of overnight volunteers along with many others who've made it possible for the shelter to be open often during the day as well.



H & R Block Nonprofit Referral Program

For every new client who has H & R Block Stepping Stones, H & R Block will contribute \$20 to us. Our local H & R Block is located at Red Cedar Plaza, 2321 Hwy 25 N, Menomonie,



prepare their taxes and mentions being referred by H & R Block. Our local H & R Block is located at Red Cedar Plaza, 2321 Hwy 25 N, Menomonie, WI 715-235-0021.

Did You Know?



Stepping Stones is on Facebook! Please look for and 'like' us! When we post info. about events or issues please share them with your friends and help spread the word about Stepping Stones and the needs in our community.

Stepping Stones' Discount Cards are Now Half Off—\$5 Each!

The Stepping Stones' Discount Card offers savings at a variety of businesses and restaurants around town. Stop by the Stepping Stones' office to purchase the cards, or send a note w/ payment in the enclosed envelope. Carry the card with you, and get a discount or special deal at all the places listed to the right (details on the card).

All proceeds support the programs of Stepping Stones. (cards are good through the end of August)

Thank you to the following businesses offering savings on the Stepping Stones' Discount Cards

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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Acoustic Café | Exit 45 Restaurant |
| Advance Auto Parts | Golden Leaf Café |
| Barrel Room | Little Caesars Pizza |
| Cancun Mexican Grill | Log Jam |
| Cedar Country Coop (Cenex) | Marion's Legacy |
| Dairy Queen | Toppers Pizza |
| Denny's Restaurant | Waterfront Bar & Grill |

<p>Community Coming Together</p> <p>Menomonie Middle School</p>		<p>LOVING that Soup!</p>		<p>Get your FULL bowl at Empty Bowls :)</p> <p>Sat., 3/5/16 11 am—2 pm</p>
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EMPTY BOWLS

Tasty Soup & Bread, Drinks & Desserts

FUN for a Good Cause!!

**Saturday, March 5
11:00 am —2:00 pm**

Menomonie Middle School
Beautiful Handmade Pottery & Wooden Bowls

Silent Auction

Artwork, gifts, quilts, crafts & much more!

Children's Activities, Displays, Music, & Bake Sale, too!!



Proceeds benefit Stepping Stones & Menomonie Area Bread for the World.
Silent auction items accepted at Stepping Stones through Feb. 29.



Advance Tickets Available at Stepping Stones or on-line at www.stepsstonesdc.org

\$15 includes bowl, \$5 meal only

Day of Event: \$17 includes bowl, \$7 meal only
Free lunch—children under 5

KEEP CALM & EAT SOUP at EMPTY BOWLS!

Thank you for your support of Stepping Stones.

or Current Resident



715.235.2920
info@stepsstonesdc.org
www.stepsstonesdc.org

1602 Stout Road
Menomonie, WI 54751



Nonprofit
Postage Paid
Permit #327
Menomonie, WI
54751