Endings & Beginnings

Fall is such a beautiful season. Still, I don’t like it much because, of course, it means winter is coming! Like spring, fall is a season of endings and beginnings. Warm temperatures end, cold ones begin. Daylight shortens, nighttime lengthens. Leaves fall and snow falls. Grrr.

There are endings and beginnings at Stepping Stones, too. We’ll have some staff changes soon. — Cyndi Greening, our part-time Communications Specialist, resigned due to teaching fulltime at Stout but Barbara Lyon, current editor of the Dunn Co. News, will be stepping down from that position to join us. Jim Welch, one of our part-time Warehouse Managers, will be retiring fulltime and Jim Carr, newly retired Knapp school custodian will be stepping in. Lucky for us, many people find that part-time jobs are a great way to ease into retirement!

Another beginning will be the start of the Winter Haven season on November 15th. The Stout Rd. shelter next to the pantry is switched over from two apartments to fast foods, and tidying up.

Training Session Options for NEW Volunteers

Mon, Oct 29, 6 pm
Thurs, Nov 1, 6 pm
Thurs, Nov 8, 6 pm
Thurs, Nov 13, 6 pm
Thurs, Nov 20, 6 pm
Thurs, Nov 27, 6 pm

Update Session for RETURNING Volunteers

Thurs, Oct 23rd, 6 pm

To register and indicate which session you’ll attend: communityconnect@steppingstonesdc.org

We also need help spreading the word about the need for volunteers.

Volunteer a Spared World

Volunteer. Be read. Help others. Make a difference! A small act of kindness can ripple through a community and make a big difference. Go read books and help others.

Come for a Visit

We’d love to have you come to Stepping Stones also. Stop by anytime for a quick tour if you’ve never been here, or consider bringing a group you’re part of for a meeting. Our conference room can hold about 20 people and we’ll even put the coffee pot on!

Our community is stronger when we work together for positive change. Thank you for helping to make that happen.

- Katherine Dutton, Executive Director
Help us get ready!

**Stepping Stones’ Empty Bowls**
Saturday, March 2, 2019, Menomonie High School, 11 am—2 pm

**Paint Bowls**
Contact us to organize an after school or evening event for your youth or adult groups to have some creative fun by painting bowls for our inventory. We keep the bowls for the event but request a $5 suggested donation per bowl to help cover the cost of supplies.

**Bake an Extra Dozen**
From now thru February, whenever you’re making a batch of cookies or bars just bake extra! Pop them in the freezer. Then drop them off at Stepping Stones the week of the event. We’ll either use them for dessert at the lunch or for the bake sale.

**Make Soup**
We can make arrangements for your group to whip up a batch of soup at an approved kitchen. We will then freeze & store the soup until the event.

**Have your Youth Group Make Place Mats**
Coloring place mats is a great activity for younger kids and helps to make our table settings look extra special on the day of the event.

**Join the Empty Bowls Committee**
We welcome help with the planning, promotion and organizing of the event.

**Plan to Attend**
- Tasty soup lunch and a hand crafted bowl that you choose.
- Browse and bid at the silent auction.
- Live music performed by local musicians.
- Fun with friends and support for your neighbors in need.

For more information contact Kris Pawlowski at Stepping Stones, 715.235.2926, foodpantry@steppingstonesdc.org

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We CAN make a difference!

22nd Annual

Cooperative FREE Breakfast
Saturday, October 27 • 8 – 11 AM

**Thank you to these businesses offering savings:**
Acoustic Café
Advance Auto Parts
Circle C
Dairy Queen
Denny’s Restaurant
Duke & Dagger
Erbert & Gerberts
Exit 45 Restaurant
Log Jam
Marion’s Legacy
Raw Deal
Silver Dollar Bar & Grill
Tabby’s Café
Toppers Pizza
Waterfront Bar & Grill

**Stepping Stones Discount Cards — Only $10**
Most discounts are 10% off all purchases so the card quickly pays for itself & it’s reusable!

**STEPPING STONES DISCOUNT CARDS ORDER FORM**
Please send _____ cards at $10 each plus $1 postage & handling per order.

Total enclosed: $ __________

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**Kids Against Hunger Milestone**
Congratulations to our local Rotary Clubs who have now packed over 1 million Kids Against Hunger meals! Businesses, churches, and other service groups help purchase and pack the nutritious rice based meals that are distributed worldwide as well as through western Wisc. food pantries. The first Menomonie packing event was held at Menomonie High School on October 18, 2012.

“‘We continue to be emboldened by participant feedback regarding the ‘making a difference’ feeling. We are serving more than hungry people, as we are giving a lot of people exposure to the value of service.”

- Bryan LaVoy
Rotary Club Member

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**Please join us for**

‘A Night to Remember’ Christmas Concert
Featuring Sue Orfield & Emilie Menz
Saturday, December 22, Mabel Tainter Theatre
Two shows: 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Tickets can be purchased online at: [www.mabeltainter.org](http://www.mabeltainter.org)

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**Join us for Dad’s Belgian Waffles**
Cooperative Displays | Kids Activities | Face Painting
And a food & funds drive for the pantry!

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Tim Eiden, Vice President
Diane Morehouse, Treasurer
Dave Williams, Secretary
Eric Atkinson
Michelle Becker
Lora Bernaud
Sara Carstens
Andy Felton
David Fly
Jay Ivens
Mark Kalscheur
Michelle Kloster
Glendy Thompson
Heather Wigdahl

**Staff**

Katherine Dutton, Executive Director
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Heidi Hooten, Stepping Stones Shelter Program Coordinator
Jill Seichert, Community Connections Program Coordinator
Cyndi Greene, Development & Communications Specialist
Pang Koo Yang, Administrative Assistant
Jim Welch, Food Pantry Assistant & Warehouse Coordinator
Henry Amberson, Maintenance & Warehouse Coordinator

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Local author and friend of Stepping Stones, VI Rilev (on the right), wrote a poem patterned after The Night Before Christmas and her niece, Mary Elworthy, illustrated it in beautiful watercolors.

A heartwarming book for all ages!

$10 • Proceeds to Stepping Stones
Available at Stepping Stones & La dee dah (311 Main St. E, downtown Menomonie) or send a check w/ a note in the enclosed envelope to order by mail. Please add $1 for postage & handling.

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“We continue to be emboldened by participant feedback regarding the ‘making a difference’ feeling. We are serving more than hungry people, as we are giving a lot of people exposure to the value of service.”
- Bryan LaVoy
Rotary Club Member

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Saturday, December 22, Mabel Tainter Theatre
Two shows: 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Tickets can be purchased online at: www.mabeltainter.org
Proceeds benefit Stepping Stones’ Food Pantry, Shelters, & Community Connections Program
Don’t miss this fabulous holiday show!
An economist. That pretty much sums it up.

Grrr.

if you're a member of the
Katherine Dutton, Executive Director

Grrr.

not a matter of

—

when

but

if

2018

—

an unanticipated expense will occur.

have a car, a house or apartment, a kid

or a pet

No More Growls

Change is inevitable. But it doesn’t necessarily have to be the ‘growly’ kind!

Change is much easier to accept when it’s good. Many of us look hopefully to the upcoming elections to bring positive change. It’s a time to make our voice and vote count. I also find hope in the way our community supports Stepping Stones.

Fall also brings the beginning of ‘the giving season.’ Without this support our services would not be possible.

Stepping Stones’ services. They’re often not in the best place when they first come to Stepping Stones.

Sometimes change happens very slowly. Many families continue to struggle financially although the recession has ended. Unemployment is down, low wage jobs are at a premium, but the average U.S. household is earning almost 20 years ago, according to data from Bankrate.com. At the same time, costs for essentials such as housing and child care have surged faster than the rate of inflation. Greatly tightening household budgets.

There are endings and beginnings at Stepping Stones. We’ve seen staff changes soon.

We also need help spreading the word about the need for volunteers. Please tell your friends, family, colleagues, church groups, civic organizations, etc. If there are no volunteers to take a shift the shelter must close and we don’t want that! Volunteers must be 18 or older.

Volunteer & Spread the Word!

Winter Haven season will be here soon and we need your help! The shelter can sleep up to 9 people. There are 2 volunteer shifts per night and 2 volunteers are needed for each shift—7:30 pm — 10:30 am and 1:30 am — 7:30 am. Duties include checking guests in, serving coffee & snacks, ensuring everyone is settled for the night and awakened in the morning, setting out breakfast foods, and tidying up.

Training Session Options for New Volunteers:

Mon, Oct 29, 6-7 pm
Thurs, Nov 8, 6-7 pm
Thurs, Nov 15, 6-7 pm
Thurs, Nov 15, 6-7 pm
Sat, Nov 10, 10-11 am
Mon, Nov 5, 6-7 pm
Tues, Nov 13, 6-7 pm

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Tues, Nov 13, 6-7 pm
Thurs, Nov 8, 6-7 pm
Tues, Nov 13, 6-7 pm
Thurs, Nov 22, 6-7 pm
Tues, Nov 27, 6-7 pm
Thurs, Nov 29, 6-7 pm

All training sessions are held at Winter Haven at 1518 Stout Rd, next to Stepping Stones.

Volunteering is a season of giving and gratitude. We’re so grateful to the volunteers who have given their time to our organization. We need volunteers—people who have a heart for something other than themselves. We are looking for people who can offer their time, talents, and resources to help others.

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