

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Capital Campaign Ramps Up for Stepping Stones' New Building!

To raise funds for the new building, land, and an organizational endowment, Stepping Stones has launched a \$1.1 million Capital Campaign, *A Legacy of Caring & Service*. Grants have been written and some gifts from prospective major donors have been sought. Stepping Stones is now pleased to announce that to date \$654,048 has been pledged to the campaign.

We are so grateful for this incredibly generous support but realize there is still almost \$450,000 to go. We are now beginning the more public phase of the campaign which will include fundraising events (see the back of the newsletter for information on some coming up soon) and a mailed appeal later this spring.

It looks as though there will not be any additional matching opportunities but we are still hopeful we can meet the goal, with the community's help! Giving levels are as follows: *Cornerstone* - \$100,000+, *Keystone* - \$50,000+, *Foundation Stone* - \$25,000+, *Capstone* - \$10,000+, *Gemstone* - \$5,000+, *Touchstone* - \$1,000+, *Pathstone* - \$500+, and *Stepping Stone* – under \$500.

In addition to early contributions from individuals, the following groups have made major gifts or pledges to date: ↗



Cornerstone Level: The Otto Bremer Foundation, The 3M Foundation

Capstone Level: Big Dot of Happiness, Big Rivers Insurance, Cedarbrook Church, Dairy State Bank, First Congregational Church, Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, WESTconsin Credit Union

Touchstone Level: Dunn Energy Cooperative, FFA-Menomonie High School, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Red Cedar Medical Center, Talen Trust

Pledges and gifts may be made through the Community Foundation of Dunn County, PO Box 498, Menomonie, WI 54751; telephone: 715.232.8019.

Only gifts specifically designated are being used for the new building. Basic program support is still critical as we seek to keep pace with ever increasing needs for service. Contributions in the envelope enclosed for this purpose are gratefully received and go to program costs.

That was then...fall of 2010 when the construction site was just a pile of dirt, and the grocery bag showing how far we had to go on raising funds for the new building was almost empty. Pictured are Board Member Marion Lang, Campaign Co-chairs Donna Stewart & Toby Ellison, and Stepping Stones' Executive Director Katherine Dutton.



This is now...spring of 2011—the grocery bag is over half full, the building is completely enclosed and all the walls are up inside! Volunteers have logged over 600 hours on the project. Pictured here is Stepping Stones' Board President Phil Steans happily hard at work.

Stepping Stones Board of Directors

Phil Steans, President
Julie Bendel, Vice-President
Kathy Gram, Treasurer
Christian Peterson, Secretary
Jim Boecker
Bob Cleary
Sandy Ericksen
Marion Lang
Rob MacDougall
Siphewe Mainjeni
Luanne Prochnow
Christine Ruth
Rich Yonko

Staff

Katherine Dutton
Executive Director
Lana Anderson
Food Pantry Coordinator
Angélakay Athena
Community Connections
Program Coordinator
Heidi Hooten
Stepping Stones Shelter
Coordinator
Pang Kou Yang
Shelter & Admin. Assistant

Wish List

For the Stout Road Building

Dust Buster
Ice melt
Garbage bags, any size

For the Shelter

Bowls—all sizes
Storage containers
Family friendly DVDs

For the Shelter & Pantry

Personal care products:
shampoo, soap, toothbrushes
& toothpaste, razors, t.p.,
tampons, Kleenex, etc.
Diapers, any size
Dish soap, laundry detergent

Looking Ahead . . .

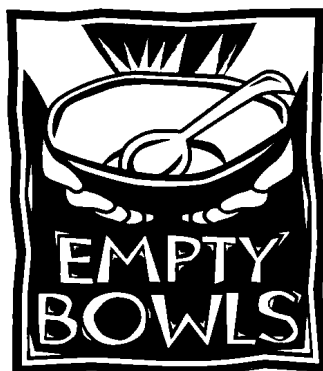
Mark your calendars
for
**Saturday,
July 9th, 2011**
for the 10th Annual
**Stepping Stones
Garden Tour!**

And watch for
the annual
“Gift of Grace”
Variety Show in May
at the Mable Tainter



Sponsored by Grace
Episcopal Church

Plans are still underway. For updates
on performers and the date see:
www.facebook.com/giftofgraceshow



Thank you for a wonderful event!

On Saturday, March 5th, well over 400 people gathered at Menomonie Middle School for a simple lunch of bread & soup and to help fight hunger both locally and globally. \$6,000 was raised to support Stepping Stones and Bread for the World, a citizens advocacy group which promotes hunger fighting policies.

Thank you to the faithful event organizers; all who donated delicious soup & bread, beautiful bowls and art for the silent auction; the wonderfully talented musicians; the youth who made thought-provoking placemats; the many dedicated volunteers who helped set up and take down, the kitchen crew and the servers, those who staffed tables and activities; and to all those who came to enjoy the day and help to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors in need.

Participants chose from among hundreds of handmade and vintage bowls to take home as a reminder that hunger exists everywhere but, together, we can work to overcome it.

2010 Statistics

Food Pantry: 600,600 lbs. of food were distributed compared to 492,000 lbs. in 2009, an increase of 22%. The average number of visits per month was 688 compared to 640 in 2009. In late 2010 and early 2011 monthly averages have been closer to **800**.

Stepping Stones Shelter: 286 people received shelter compared to 160 in 2009, an increase of almost 80%. Fifty-four households were provided with rent assistance.

Community Connections Program: 3,000 volunteer hours were logged to provide ~700 supportive services such as transportation, yard work, and companionship. 395 households received Direct Assistance to help with expenses such as heat, electrical bills, fuel, and clothing.

Gifts & Memorials to Stepping Stones

Since the last newsletter contributions were received in honor of:

Their 4 Grandchildren from Richard & Geraldine Ernst
Dave Holmstrom's Retirement from employees at the Andersen Corporation
Kathleen, Selmer & Tami Larson from Richard Larson
Pr. Brad & Amy Peterson from O.K. & Roberta Hedlund
Rebecca, Jody, Brian & Bob from the Hosford-Rich Senior Citizen Community Club
The marriage of Don Roberts & Joni Cash from Bruce Clark
Ruth Ann Schoenoff from Mary Ellen Schwanke
The Allen Scott family from Nancy Bjornson
Jeanne Sprader from Scott & Mary Howard
Paralyzed Veterans of America from Marshall & Josephine Quilling

Thank you so much to all who chose to honor and remember friends, family, colleagues, and loved ones by gifts to Stepping Stones.

(Gifts given as tributes to Stepping Stones Capital Campaign will be listed upon campaign completion.)

Contributions were received in memory of:

Rhonda Blomquist from Family & Friends, June Grambo, Diane Morehouse, Janice & Andrew Neitzel, Amy Riddle-Swanson
Ava Deutscher from Richard & Judy Tarbox
Robert Eilbes from Roger & Anita Klamm
Mary Fledt from Si & Betty Olson
Clayton Ganong from Ethel Frank
Tom Gordon from Dorothy Succow
Dorothy Hansen from Margi Stauss
Arlys Knutson from Bob & Audrey Gayhart
Kathleen Larson & Selmer Larson from Vernetta Larson & family, Sheila Rathke & Randy Chevatal
Victoria Lee from Allan Lee
Maurice Michelbook from Al & Lorayne Baldus, Si & Betty Olson
Barb Mrdutt from Joan Keller, Rose Mary Stoll
Helen Neman from Dute & John Rompala
Lyle Peterson from Jim & Jeanette Daines
Ruth Peterson from Leslie Peterson
Amy Nelson Rogers from Tiiu Feirn
Mary Spindler from Si & Betty Olson, Margi Stauss
Ruth Stainer from Jerry Cognetta, Ethel Frank, Jeanne Sprader



Special thanks to:

Marketplace Foods

for their contribution of 193 Holiday Pantry Bags & 66 Basic Pantry Bags donated by their patrons!

Menomonie Market Food Co-op

for their donation of proceeds from their "Hill 'O Beans" program. Participants receive 1 bean per visit in return for bringing in their own bag or other reusable container. The beans are each worth 5¢ which is donated to one of 3 causes of the shopper's choice. Stepping Stones received 12,905 'bean votes' in 2010!

Taco John's

for choosing Stepping Stones as one of the beneficiaries of proceeds from their drive-thru window collection container.

The following businesses, churches, and organizations also made donations:

All States Ag Parts
BOMAC Vets Plus
Cedarbrook Church
Gamma Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi
Johnson Bank
Manpower
Menomonie High School Dance Team
Menomonie United Methodist Church
New Hope & Little Elk Creek Lutheran Churches
Oak Ridge Lutheran Brethren Church
Our Savior's Women
Pallet Service Corporation
River Heights Student Council
Rock Creek Lutheran Church
Salem Iron Creek United Methodist Women
Trinity Lutheran Church—Boyceville
VFW Auxiliary
Xi Kappa Sorority

Stock Your Pantry & Help Others!

Friday, March 25th,
Menomonie Market Food Co-op
will donate 5% of sales to
Stepping Stones' building project!



Shoppers who give \$1-\$100 or more at the register will be entered into a **prize** drawing.

Shop 7 am - 8 pm
Menomonie Market is located at 521 E. 2nd St.
(downtown next to Bremer Bank)

As an extra incentive to shop that day there will be 5% off the entire bulk department!



The new Food Pantry, warehouse & office building is taking shape!

April Raffle Fundraiser for Stepping Stones' New Facility

Stepping Stones will be partnering with member establishments of the Dunn County Tavern League as well as other businesses and individuals to sell raffle tickets throughout the month of April as a community-wide fundraiser for the new building. Prizes so far include:

- 42" flat screen TV from the Walmart Distribution Ctr.
- \$200 savings bond from Bremer Bank
- Cash prizes
- A Romance Package (including roses & Legacy chocolates) from Super 8
- One night's stay at Country Comfort B & B
- A Gift Basket from Junction Liquor
- Gift Certificates from Motel 6, Skoog's, & Ted's Pizza

Additional prizes are being sought. Tickets will go on sale April 1st & will also be available at the Stepping Stones, 1620 Stout Rd. There will be a closing celebration

Thursday, April 28th at the Pioneer Grill.

The raffle drawing will be at **7:30 p.m.**
(You do not need to be present to win.)

Thank you for your support of Stepping Stones.



www.steppingstonesdc.org
info@steppingstonesdc.org

715.235.2920

Return Service Requested
Menomonie, WI 54751
1620 Stout Road
(formerly Interfaith Volunteers)



Nonprofit
Postage Paid
Permit #327
Menomonie, WI
54751