



Fall 2011 Newsletter

The New Building cont'd.

to ultimately serve others. The new facility truly represents the giving spirit of a community that strives to feed those in need and give them hope for years to come. - Jim Boecker

It is deeply moving to realize that this welcoming place, respectful of all who will come, work, and volunteer, is the result of a shared community vision, and of many generous financial gifts and hours of volunteer service. - Marion Lang

I consider the new building, and the work done in it, to be one of the great achievements of our community. I'm very proud to have been a part of making it happen. Now we have a base from which we can strive, for the next 20 years or so, to change our mission from aiding those in need to reducing or eliminating the conditions which create that need. - Phil Steans

Please help celebrate this wonderful achievement by joining us for the **Grand Opening, Sept. 29th** (details on the back of this newsletter).

The New Building

It's hard to believe that at this time last year we were hoping we'd be ready to break ground before a deep freeze, and now here we are in our beautiful and very functional new facility.

There's a sense of "if you build it, they will come." In August over **1200** visits were made to the food pantry. This is almost double our monthly average in 2010. The new building allows us to stock sufficient food and provide better customer service. The larger space provides more client privacy and makes it possible for more people to use the pantry at the same time.

While we're grateful and relieved to have enough space, adequate parking, two bathrooms (!!), etc., the reality is that the high numbers of people coming to Stepping Stones for all of our services has much more to do with hard times than with the new building.

For many people, the economic recovery is not happening very quickly, if at all. Gasoline and heating fuel prices are at an all time high along with health care costs. But the federal energy assistance program has been cut by 50% for 2012 and the enrollment for BadgerCare (medical assistance for single adults) is currently frozen. There's high unemployment and a prevalence of part-time and/or temporary jobs that don't provide benefits.

People don't have the opportunity to get back on their feet. They need some 'stepping stones', and that's why we're here.

Stepping Stones' board members, who have worked overtime the past couple of years to help make the new building a reality so that we might better fulfill our mission, were recently asked to share some reflections about it. Here are a few of their comments:

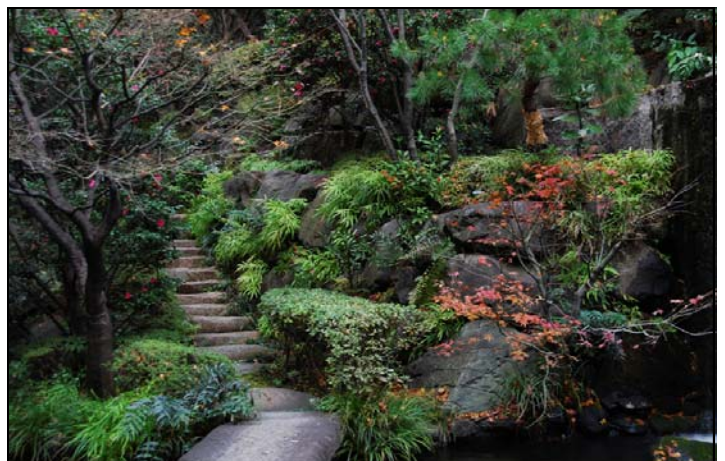
The new building is a wonderful and well-thought out space that will serve the community well for years to come. I feel a sense of welcome, professionalism and dignity when I walk in, and I believe clients, staff and visitors feel the same...I hope the community takes pride in Stepping Stones and continues to work together to overcome the root causes of poverty, hunger and homelessness. - Julie Bendel

The opening of the new Stepping Stones building is a testament to what can be done when community leaders, volunteers, businesses and individuals come together for a common purpose



The Old Building

The old building will have a new life in its use by the United Way of Dunn County for a free store, called the C3 Center. The United Way currently distributes donated furniture, appliances and household goods from a storage space outside of town. The Stout Road location will be much more convenient for customers and donors and is a great complement to Stepping Stones' programs. For more information about the C3 Center please contact the United Way at 715.235.3800.



The mission of Stepping Stones is **"People helping people strengthen the Dunn County community by providing food, shelter, and support."** We seek to be a step on the path to a better life for people who could use a helping hand.

Do you have stepping stones in your garden or know someone who does? We're collecting photos and would like to feature them in future newsletters. Please send submissions to director@steppingstonesdc.org.

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
Linda Thompson
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
David Vanyo
Maintenance & Warehouse
Coordinator

Silent Auction Items Needed

We're looking for items for the Silent Auction to be held as part of our Grand Opening & Fall Fest. So far we have everything from a compost barrel to a hand carved walking stick; a restaurant gift certificate to a spice rack! The sky's the limit but items should have a minimum value of \$20-\$25. Please deliver donations to Stepping Stones by Mon., 9/26. (A good opportunity for cleaning out the 're-gifting' closet for a good cause!)



Sharing a Bountiful Harvest

Thanks to all who have donated fresh produce to the Food Pantry during this harvest season.

The Community & Jail Gardens have provided an abundance, as has the Hmong Menomonie Alliance Church, and many other generous individuals and produce growers who had a surplus.

It's wonderful to have fresh fruits and vegetables to distribute to clients, and they greatly appreciate it!

Wish List

For the Stout Road Building

Hoses & sprinklers
Weed whip & hedge trimmer
Grass spreader
Garden tools
Shovels & rakes
Mops & brooms
Shop rags
Power tools
Flashlights

For the Shelter

New or gently used bath towels, hand towels, & wash cloths
Bedside lamps

For the Shelter & Pantry

Personal care products: shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, razors, t.p., tampons, Kleenex, etc.
Diapers, any size
Eco-friendly cleaning supplies

CROP WALK, ROCK & ROLL

Sun., Oct. 9, 1:00 pm

Starts at Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
910 - 9th St., Menomonie



We all care about hungry people, but what can one person do? You can join in our local CROP Hunger Walk to raise your voice against hunger and raise funds to help hungry people around the world and here in our own area.

Parade-1 mile, Walk-6 miles, Bike-10 miles, or Rock-1 hour

Sign up at most local churches, at Stepping Stones, or contact Event Coordinator Julie McNaughton, 715-235-9377

CROP: Communities Responding To Overcome Poverty

25% of proceeds go to the Stepping Stones Food Pantry



Gifts & Memorials to Stepping Stones

Since the last newsletter, contributions were received in honor of:

Bernice Gatz's 90th Birthday
from Laverne & Donna Weber
Sharon Moseler's 72nd birthday
from Bette & Lloyd Drossart
Jack Register's 80th Birthday
from Deborah & Kevin McGrath
Don Roberts & Joni Cash's marriage from Bruce Clark
Eva & Lloyd Rogers from Judith & Edward Ristow
Ruth Ann Schoenoff from Mary Ellen Schwanke
The Allen Scott family from Nancy Bjornson
Jeanne Sprader from Scott & Mary Howard
Phil & Randi Steans from Susan & Pinckney Hall
Paralyzed Veterans of America
from Marshall & Josephine Quilling
Violet Waller from Mary & Gene Krueger

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

Bremer Bank Hunger Awareness
Cedarbrook Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Erb Chiropractic
Grace Episcopal Church Gift of Grace Event
Knights of Columbus
Lammer's Food Fest Benefit Auction
M & I Bank
Mayo Clinic—Red Cedar
New Hope & Little Elk Creek Lutheran Churches
Oak Ridge Lutheran Brethren Church
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Pallet Service Corporation
Peace Lutheran Church
Pioneer Grill & Saloon Bean Bag League
Rock Elm United Methodist Women
St. Joseph's Catholic Congregation
St. Joseph's PCCW
Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church
Simply Dunn *Business After Hours*
USDA Rural Development
Wal-Mart Foundation

Contributions were received in memory of:

Maida Isabel Ault from Bill & Janice Kohnke
Marion Coffin from Roger & Anita Klamm
Florence Ellison from friends and family
Barb Hintz from Jeanne Stevenson
Eugene Johnson from Mary & Stan Hensley
Maynard Larson from Phyllis Larson
Richard Long from Sandra Long
Bob & Ada Minter from Susan Minter
Bernard Moravitz from Gloria Berger
Thelma Nelson
from Barb & John Deutscher, Rick & Linda Zank
Kenneth Olson from Ethel Frank
Leona Rompala from John & Dute Rompala
Mary Spindler from Si & Betty Olson, Margi Stauss
Ruth Stainer
from Jerry Cognetta, Ethel Frank, Jeanne Sprader
Harold & Frances Stevens from Ruth & Carlyle Gilbertson
Mary Styer from Dick & Lynn Quilling
Dennis "Denver" Timm from Arlys & Don Olson

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.)

Special thanks to 7th grader Evan Husby and his friends who hold an annual car wash for charity and chose Stepping Stones as the recipient this year.

Way to go Evan!

What a great example of how everyone can do something to help their neighbors in need.



Gifts in Kind

We are also very grateful for all the donations of food, personal care items, household goods for the Stepping Stones Shelter, and other miscellaneous items that come our way! A few other things we can always use are **plastic grocery bags** and **egg cartons** for the pantry, motel **soaps & shampoos** you may collect on your travels, and **empty ink jet cartridges** which we recycle for cash (because every little bit helps toward operating expenses!).

Please join us for our
**Grand Opening
& Fall Fest!**



Thursday, Sept. 29th
Open House: 3:30 ~ 6:30 pm
Ribbon Cutting at 4:00 pm

Music, Food, Tours,
Silent Auction, Door Prizes
& More!



The New Home of
Stepping Stones of Dunn County



1602 Stout Road, Menomonie

Thank you for your support of Stepping Stones.



www.steppingstonesdc.org
info@steppingstonesdc.org

715.235.2920

Return Service Requested

1602 Stout Road
Menomonie, WI 54751



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Postage Paid
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Menomonie, WI
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