Facing Hard Times

During WWII, Etta sent some oatmeal raisin cookies and date bars to Otto, her husband-to-be, who was stationed overseas. He had written to her about how he was having trouble sleeping due to being in the midst of a war zone. She replied, "If you cannot find comfort in sleeping or security, find it here, in butter, sugar, flour, fruit." * Comfort food—everyone loves it. And it usually works to comfort us! Our favorite cookies, mac & cheese, meatloaf & mashed potatoes, tuna noodle casserole, fresh baked bread—to name a few. All food becomes comfort food if you don’t have any or don’t have enough. Whatever fills your stomach helps you feel secure.

All kinds of security

There are all kinds of security—food security, physical and emotional security, financial security—and they’re all tied together. People who come to Stepping Stones often don’t have much of any of these kinds of security.

We hope that through the services we offer they find themselves feeling a little more secure because of the help they receive—whether it’s food from the pantry, a stay at one of the shelters, or some other type of assistance such as help with rent or a utility bill.

Facing Hard Times

Right now, however, Stepping Stones is also feeling some insecurity. We can relate a little too well to what our clients experience! As noted in a recent letter most of you reading this received, Stepping Stones is facing a serious budget deficit.

We're so grateful to all who have already responded with a contribution to help us get back on track. The needs in our community are pressing and we don’t want to have to cut any of our programs. In fact, we wish we could meet even more of the need. No doubt Etta wished she could do more for Otto than send baked goods. It’s so easy to feel powerless in the face of seemingly insurmountable problems and woes. But Etta’s cookies and bars helped Otto get through a terribly difficult experience just as the donations we receive help sustain Stepping Stones.

Thriving, not just surviving

Last year the fluctuation went the wrong way and we’re very concerned about this year as well. We hope it can be turned around—by your help, by more grant support, and by strong fundraising events. It takes all these sources combined to keep a nonprofit organization like Stepping Stones financially healthy and secure. Otto made it through the war and found comfort and security in a long and happy life with Etta. Stepping Stones has been around for decades and will, no doubt, survive these difficult times, too. We hope to thrive, not just survive, so we can do even more to strengthen our community.

Thank you for your partnership in our mission to provide food, shelter and support to low income residents of Dunn County.

Katherine Dutton, Executive Director

*The story of Etta and Otto is told in the novel Etta & Otto & Russell & James by Emma Hooper.
You are cordially invited to
The Stepping Stones’ Garden Tour!
Saturday, June 29th, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

This year’s gardens:
* Jen & Tim Engel, Main St.
* Yvonne & George Nelson, Main St.
* Vicky & Scott Sinz, 13th St. NE
* Sharon Smith & Steve Friede, Blackberry Tr.
* Sue & Brian Wheeler, 461st Ave.
* Sandy & Greg Winter, 540th St.

Advance Tickets—$15, available at:
* Stepping Stones’ Office
* Bobolink Nursery
* Bookends on Main
* * Dick’s Fresh Market
* On-line at www.steppingstonesdc.org

Day of Tour Tickets—$17, available at:
* Stepping Stones and at all gardens on the tour

Tour at your convenience, rain or shine. Volunteers & gardeners will be on site to answer questions. Maps are provided with tickets and routes are marked. Start at any garden, see as many as you choose.

Also lots of great door prizes and a Silent Auction!

2019 Garden Tour sponsors to date are listed on the insert. Thank you so much to the sponsors, gardeners, volunteers, and all who attend, and especially to the wonderful Garden Tour Committee: Jan Harvey, Diane Mercil, Tammy Pellet, Jane Redig, Denise Skinner, and Sharon Tripp.

Proceeds benefit Stepping Stones’ Food Pantry, Shelters, & Community Connections Program.

Pictured here (below & to the left) are just a few of the Silent Auction items available on the Tour. View & bid on these and other items including a barn quilt, bird baths, copper trellises, original artwork, compost, tree trimming, more jewelry, a Samsung tablet, gift certificates & gift baskets, and more!

Rock the Riverfront!
Stepping Stones has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of Royal Credit Union’s 25th annual charity classic, Rock the Riverfront.
Saturday, June 22nd, Phoenix Park, Eau Claire
8 am start for the 10k, 10 am for the 2 mi. walk
Register at: www.rcu.org/event/rock-the-riverfront

All registered participants receive a free shirt, meal ticket, and charity vote.
Team name: Team captain is Katherine Dutton if you want to run or walk with others supporting Stepping Stones!

ACTIVITIES
* Rock Hunt: your chance to win $500!
* Youth races, face-painting
* Inflatables, cash grab booth
* Live music!
* Dunk tank featuring Menomonie Police Chief, Eric Atkinson!
* Food Trucks: a variety of healthy options

Proceeds from the event will go to Stepping Stones, Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation, & The Open Door Clinic in Chippewa Falls. All three will benefit, but YOU get to choose the big winner! We hope you can join us but, if not, you can still vote at the website above!

Votes are $2. The organization with the most votes gets the most proceeds: 1st place - $15,000, 2nd place - $7,500, 3rd place - $5,000.

VOTE EARLY & VOTE OFTEN — it’s encouraged in this election! :)
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For details contact us at 715.235.2920 or info@steppingstonesdc.org.

Transportation is a barrier for many people so it helps immensely when we can bring the food to where it’s needed. More food to more communities means fewer people at risk of hunger in Dunn County!

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8 am start for the 10k, 10 am for the 2 mi. walk
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- Rock Hunt: your chance to win $500!
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VOTE

**Rock the Riverfront!**

**Stepping Stones**
Board of Directors
Kris Korpela, President
Tim Eiden, Vice President
Diane Morehouse, Secretary
Mark Kalscheur, Treasurer
Eric Atkinson
Michelle Becker
Sara Carstens
Andy Fulton
Nina Koch
Jay Ivens
Michelle Kloser
Jerry Porter
Glendy Thompson
Heather Wigdahl

**Stepping Stones**
1602 Stout Rd.
Thurs.-Fri. prior to the tour
Sat., June 29, 9 am—2 pm
(outside by the picnic table)
Potted Plants
(like many you’ll see on the tour),
garden items, t-shirts & hats, and more!

**Save the Date**
for Stepping Stones’ own annual 5k!
5K Walk/Run
Sat., Sept. 28
10 am, Red Cedar Trail
Followed by a yummy Chili Feed!

**STEP UP TO HUNGER!**
Facing Hard Times

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—Katherine Dutton, Executive Director

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Tickets available at Stepping Stones and online at www.steppingstonesdc.org

Stepping Stones of Dunn County

Food Shelters Support

1602 Stout Road
Menomonie, WI 54751

715-235-2920
info@steppingstonesdc.org
www.steppingstonesdc.org

Summer 2019

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