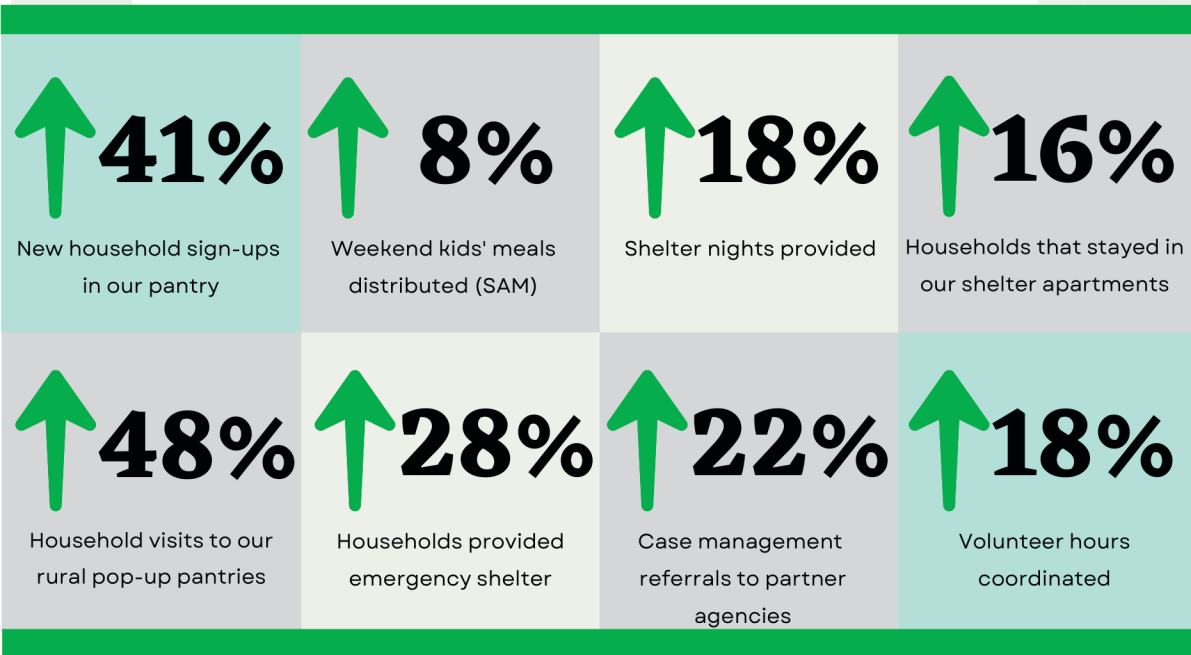


Stepping Up

"People helping people strengthen the Dunn County community by providing food, shelter and support."



Board of Directors

- Jerry Porter, President
- Barbara Fagan, Vice President
- Wendy Slaback, Secretary
- Mark Kalscheur, Treasurer
- Loren Barker
- Tara Bergeson
- Bev Deyo-Svendsen
- Kate Kramschuster
- Maggie Fisher
- Michelle Kloser
- Nina Koch
- Nichole Manson
- Paul Schwartz
- Rod Smeltzer

Year in Review

Dana and I had an interesting discussion about what the colors of the arrows above this message should be. Green usually indicates increases in service, productivity, profit, and the like. Retirement accounts thrive, crop yields surge, and game attendance spikes when emerald arrows show.

Increases in the needs of community members aren't usually seen as a good thing, though. These indicate that people are struggling—and they are. Comparing the end of 2022 to just a year before, Wisconsin families averaged \$154 more in food and housing expenses each month.

And crucial assistance is about to decrease for those most in need. In February the federal increase to Wisconsin's FoodShare program will end. This will reduce the food assistance to 4,200 Dunn County residents by a minimum of \$95 per person—with an average reduction in assistance of \$212—each month.

In response to this coming need, the Stepping Stones Board of Directors directed me to increase our preliminary 2023 food budget. In response to the long lines at our pantry, we will increase distribution hours. In response to the many calls for shelter that we can only answer with waitlists, referrals and apologies, we are building a new shelter.

The goodwill of a broader community can be seen in both the service Stepping Stones provided in 2022 and the impact on lives that we will make in 2023. Your words, your work and your wallet make it so that the needs of your neighbors are met with increased assistance.

This is a good thing.

What color should those arrows be?



Padraig Gallagher, Executive Director



Staff

- Padraig Gallagher
Executive Director
- Dana Neil
Assistant Director
- Kris Pawlowski
Food Pantry Manager
- Heidi Hooten
Shelter Program Manager
- Jill Seichter
Community Connections Program Coordinator
- Mai Nou Hang
Program Assistant
- Lana Anderson
Outreach Coordinator (AmeriCorps)
- Katlynn Pichler
Shelter Program Coordinator
- Rochelle Weber
Part-time Shelter Program Assistant
- Amanda Davis
Pantry Assistant
- Henry Amberson
Maintenance Manager
- Jon Oakland, Angela Wolf
Part-time Warehouse Managers

"The highlight of 2022, for me, was being able to open the food pantry up for shopping, again!"

Pantry

Kris Pawlowski,
Pantry Manager



Change was (and still is) the name of the game in our food pantry program for 2022. An increased need in our community meant an increased need for services. In September, we added another day of pantry hours and are now open five days a week. In October, we added another pop-up pantry location with the help of a grant from the Community Foundation of Dunn County, bringing us up to six pop-up locations. And by March, we will have extended pantry hours. The word *increase* is everywhere but you know what else increased? Your food and financial donations to the pantry; the number of volunteers working the pantry; the amount of food brought in through our Farmers Feed program. So keep those increases coming!



1,690
Households



signed up for pantry in 2022
(in-person and pop-up)

39,377
pounds

of fresh produce brought in
from our Farmers Feed
Dunn Co. Program



149,829
pounds

of food donated from
community members and
organizations



3,674
Visits

to rural pop-up
pantries in 2022

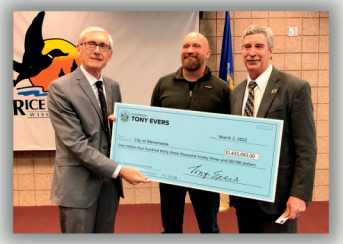


Shelter

Heidi Hooten,
Shelter Manager

"The highlight of 2022 was obtaining the grant for the new shelter and being able to start the work on that coming into being. I look forward to the completion in 2023!"

How can we encompass all the activity in the shelter program in 2022 into a short paragraph? The need for shelter was greater than 2021 (see below), and we were able to shelter 214 households, 58% were Menomonie residents and 69% were Dunn County residents. But there is still more we can do - insert a \$1.4 million grant from the State of Wisconsin for a new emergency shelter. The ground breaking is scheduled with construction starting in early Spring and a fully-functioning shelter by November. We expect 2023 to be quite a bustle of activity with clients and construction, and we look forward to bringing this emergency shelter to life.



214
Households
sheltered
(apartments & hotels)



62
Children
sheltered
(apartments & hotels)



656
Households
seeking shelter



610
Referrals
looking for services (Shelter,
Rental Assistance, Permanent
Housing)



1,370
calls
Case Management for non-
residents



With Covid restrictions lifting in the area, the Community Connections program was able to get back to work, connecting community members in need with our growing volunteer-base. Our most exciting addition to the program was *Van Gogh*, who we were able to purchase thanks to a grant from Feed My People along with sponsorship from WESTconsin Credit Union.

By the end of 2022, we had signed up 80 seniors as part of our Senior Commodity Program, 20 of which are home-delivered by volunteers. It is the highlight of the month for our clients because they get to visit with volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or being a back-up/fill-in, either for deliveries or in the pantry, head to our website to fill out an application. We would love to have you!

11,193 = **5.3**
Volunteer Hours = **Full-Time Employees**

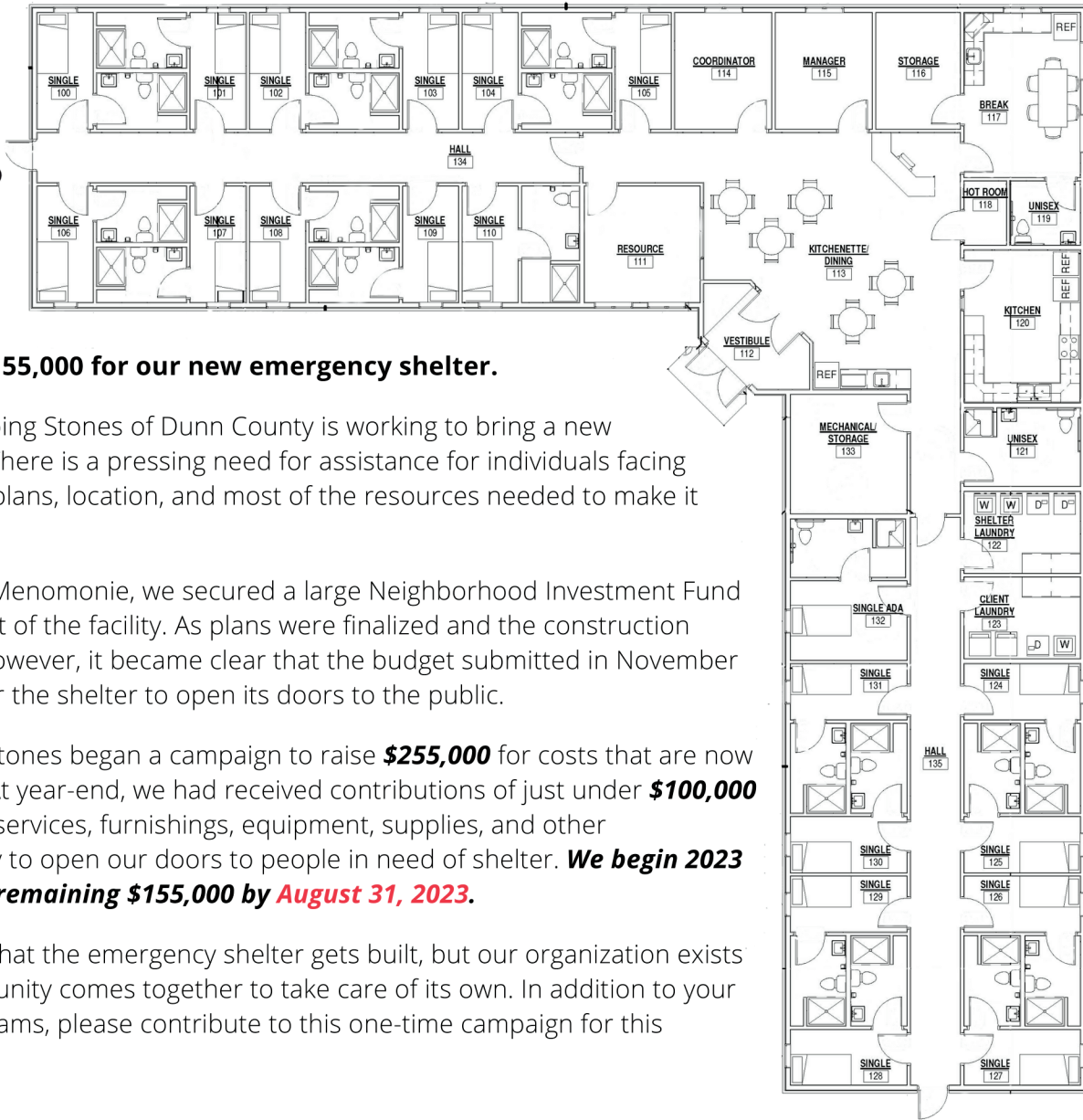
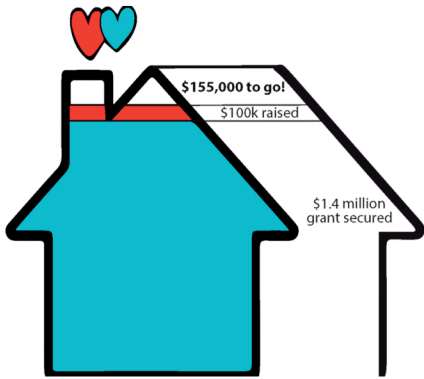
"The highlight of 2022 for me was obtaining a vehicle we could dedicate to Senior Commodity Box deliveries that allowed us to connect volunteers with seniors to be able to bring food and visit."

Community Connections

Jill Seichter,
Community Connections Manager



Emergency Shelter Campaign



We need your help to raise \$155,000 for our new emergency shelter.

As you likely already know, Stepping Stones of Dunn County is working to bring a new emergency shelter to our area. There is a pressing need for assistance for individuals facing homelessness and we have the plans, location, and most of the resources needed to make it happen.

In collaboration with the City of Menomonie, we secured a large Neighborhood Investment Fund grant to cover the estimated cost of the facility. As plans were finalized and the construction market came into more focus, however, it became clear that the budget submitted in November of 2021 would not be enough for the shelter to open its doors to the public.

In late October 2022, Stepping Stones began a campaign to raise **\$255,000** for costs that are now beyond the scope of the grant. At year-end, we had received contributions of just under **\$100,000** to help us with the professional services, furnishings, equipment, supplies, and other contingencies that are necessary to open our doors to people in need of shelter. **We begin 2023 needing your help to raise the remaining \$155,000 by August 31, 2023.**

Stepping Stones will make sure that the emergency shelter gets built, but our organization exists only as a place where the community comes together to take care of its own. In addition to your continued support for our programs, please contribute to this one-time campaign for this necessary facility.

Emergency Shelter Features



20-bed shelter facility for individual adults



Client laundry room and secure storage



Community and dining area



Staffed 24 hours a day



Single-bed rooms with private bathrooms



Community resource office



ADA compliant to reduce barriers



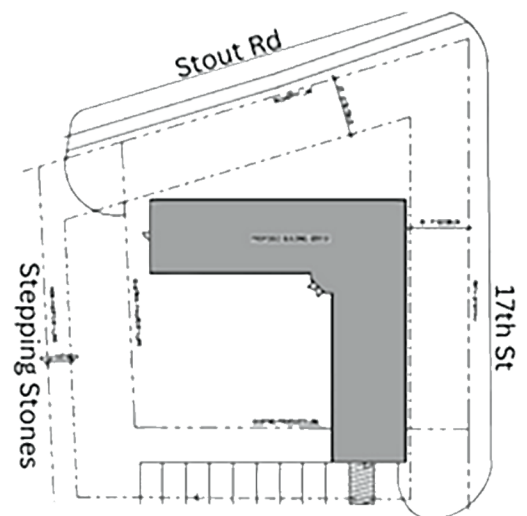
Centrally located and accessible



Common areas visible from a central staff desk



Communal commercial kitchen





Nonprofit
Postage Paid
Permit #327
Menomonie, WI
54751

1602 Stout Rd | Menomonie, WI 54751
715.235.2920 | www.steppingstonesdc.org
development@steppingstonesdc.org

Or Current Resident

Look Inside to See How We're Stepping Up Together!

2023 Events

Saturday, March 25

Menomonie High School | 11am-2pm

Event for All Ages!

*\$10/ticket for all-you-can-eat soup, bread, and dessert
Bucket & Quilt Raffles | Online Auction | Live Music*



The Garden Tour will be placed on hiatus in 2023.

Recently, several veteran committee members have needed to retire. This hiatus will allow us time to bolster the membership of the committee, build on the event's many strengths, and go into 2024 with a clear plan and resources to hold a successful tour.



For event information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Dana Neil.



Dana Neil, Assistant Director



Saturday, Sept. 9

Wilson Park - Menomonie | 5pm-8pm

Free Event for All Ages!

Live Music | Food Trucks | Drinks |

Keep up-to-date on everything Stepping Stones and our events.



Stepping Stones of Dunn County

@steppingstones.dc

www.steppingstonesdc.org

Scan to donate today