Empty Bowls
Saturday, March 28, 2020  •  11am – 2pm  •  Menomonie High School Commons

Five Generations
Okay, so these puppies are all the same generation but you get the idea! If you google ‘five generation photos’ you’ll find a lot of them of people. But if I’d used one of those you’d be wondering, who is that? Is it some local family? That would be distracting.

Also, I read somewhere that people like to look at photos of puppies. They’re used a lot in advertising. And I wanted to catch your eye so you’d read this!—

So, what is it about five generations? On average, that’s how long it takes in the U.S. for a low-income family to reach median income—meaning if you’re born into poverty you and your descendants will likely stay in poverty for a long time.

Gone Are the Days
Gone are the days of parents working hard so their children can have a better life. Now parents in low-income families would have to be thinking about their great, great, great-grandchildren as the ones to benefit.

The reasons have to do with access to education, good work opportunities, and social safety nets. There are not enough of these things in the U.S. A recent CNN Business report said children born into poorer families have a better shot at the American Dream if they’re born in Canada or Australia.

In fact, the U.S. ranks 27th out of 82 countries on citizens’ ability to fulfill their potential regardless of their socio-economic background. That doesn’t seem fair, does it? Whereas, in Denmark, for example, a child born into poverty has a similar likelihood of earning a good income in adulthood as a child born into a wealthy family.

How About those Puppies?
The puppies all look healthy now but that could change quickly. They’ll probably get adopted into new families soon. What if one doesn’t get enough to eat because his humans can’t afford dog food? What if another one gets left alone all day because her humans can’t afford doggy daycare? Those puppies will not thrive at the same rate as puppies in more affluent homes.

You see where this is going. Children who don’t get enough to eat are more likely to have anemia, asthma,

We Can Do Better
The U.S. ranking can improve and people can have a better chance at the American Dream if we work towards a more just society. Now is the time, especially in this election year.

—Katherine Dutton
Stepping Stones Director
News & Notes

Financial Update

We are so pleased and grateful to let you know that we ended last year in the black! 2018 & 2019 were very tough years for Stepping Stones financially due primarily to the loss of some grant funding and grant cycles. But thanks to some special events and contributions (like those noted below) and our very generous donors, we managed to meet the challenges and make up our 2018 deficit.

Every year starts fresh with the hurdle of meeting that year’s budget. But there’s nothing like a high bar to keep our staff and board energized for the task. We’re so grateful to new and on-going supporters for helping to make our mission of providing food, shelter and support to low income residents of Dunn County possible. We couldn’t do it without you!

Grateful Appreciation

These groups did special fall or holiday fundraising projects/events for Stepping Stones’ programs and we really appreciate it!

Big Elk Creek Church—Christmas Trees for Pantry Clients
Boyceville United Methodist Church—Gift Basket Fundraiser to Help the Homeless
Cedarbrook Church Advent Conspiracy
Culver’s Calendars
Express Employment Professionals
Members of St. Joseph Church (and Others)—T Save for Holiday Dinners
Menomonie High School FFA Corn Drive
Menomonie Area Girl Scout Troops’ Cookie Rally

Thank You & Welcome

THANK YOU so much to out-going board members:
Eric Atkinson, Michelle Becker, Kris Korpela, Diane Morehouse
Their dedication and contributions are greatly appreciated and will be missed!

AND WELCOME to in-coming board members:
Kamsey Keyes Cleveland—Co-Owner & Office Manager, Keyes Chevrolet
Bev Deyo-Svendsen—Academic Dept. Associate, UW-Stout
Nichole Manson—Recovering Addict & Advocate for Sustainable Food Usage
Karen Miller—Retired Principal Planning analyst, Hennepin County
Wendy Slaback—Pastor, Menomonie United Methodist Church

Calling All Thrivent Members

2019 Choice Dollars® expire March 31, 2020. Don’t miss this opportunity to designate yours to Stepping Stones to help support the food pantry and shelters. Go to thrive.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt. Thank you to all who have already designated Choice Dollars to Stepping Stones! Also, if you’re looking for projects for an Action Team let us know. We have ideas!

Empty Bowls Sponsors (as of newsletter printing)

Gold Medal: Golden Ladle
Anthem Blue Cross
Blue Shield
Auth Consulting
Keyes Chevytown
Mayo Clinic Health System

Silver Medal: Silver Spoon
Dairy State Bank

Bronze Medal: Colfax Chevrolet
Conagra Brands
Prevea Health
WESTconsin Credit Union

For a full list of Empty Bowls sponsors through the Pewter Cup level visit www.steppingstonesdc.org.

Step Up to Hunger Sponsors

Gold Medal: Colfax Chevrolet
Conagra Brands
Ellen & Fred Ochs
Skinner Law Firm, LLC
Thrivent
WESTconsin Credit Union

Silver Medal: Jim & Patti Walker

Bronze Medal: Bookends on Main
Cedar Corporation
Katherine Dutton & Jeanne Foley
Express Employment
Terry Riordan
Gleny & Steve Thompson

Thank You to these sponsors for their generous support!

WISH LIST

Bath Towels & Washcloths (new or gently used)
Trash Bags (any size)
Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
Soap, Lotions, & Shampoos (from your travels)
Ice Cream Pails w/ Lids
Eco-friendly Garbage Bags
Eco-friendly Cleaning Products (we recycle them for cash)

For more information about Empty Bowls, call 715-233-1111, ext. 8013.
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- Boyceville United Methodist Church—$750 Gift Basket to help the Homeless
- Cedarbrook Church Advent Conspiracy
- Culver’s Calendars
- Express Employment Professionals
- Members of St. Joseph Church (and Others!)—Turkey Giveaways
- Menomonie High School FFA Corndale
- Menomonie Area Girl Scout Troops’ Cookie Rally

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- Keyes Chevytown
- Mayo Clinic Health System

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(from this past fall’s 5k)
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- Anthem Blue Cross
- Silver Medal
- Blue Shield
- Jim & Patti Walker
- Bronze Medal
- Colfax Chevrolet
- Conagra Brands
- Ellen & Fred Ochs
- Skinner Law Firm, LLC
- Thrivent
- WESTconsin Credit Union

Thank You to these sponsors for their generous support!

Summer is Coming!
Mark your calendar for Stepping Stones’ Annual Garden Tour Saturday, 9 am–2 pm June 27, 2020

Garden wisdom:
A comfort zone is a beautiful place but nothing ever grows there.
- Author Unknown

Discount Cards — Now only $5!
Get 10% off and other great savings at many local restaurants and businesses! Good through August, cards are now half off. Stop by the Stepping Stones’ office to purchase or order online at: www.steppingstonesdc.org.

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Stepping Stones
Board of Directors
Sara Carstens, President
Tim Elden, Vice President
Mark Kalscheur, Treasurer
Heather Wigdol, Secretary
Kamsey Keyes Cleveland
Bev Deyo-Svendsen
Andy Felton
Jay Ivens
Michelle Kloser
Nina Koch
Nichole Manson
Karen Miller
Jerry Porter
Wendy Slaback

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Katherine Dutton
Executive Director
Kris Pawlowski
Assistant Director & Food Pantry Coordinator
Heidi Hooten
Stepping Stones Shelter Program Coordinator
Jill Seichert
Community Connections Program Coordinator
Barbara Lyon
Development & Communications Specialist
Mai Nou Hang
Pastor, Menomonie United Methodist Church
Pang Kou Yang
Administrative Assistant
Henry Amberson
Gary Barnett
Maintenance & Warehouse Manager

WISH LIST
- Bath Towels & Washcloths (new or gently used)
- Trash Bags (any size)
- Upcycled Items (new or gently used)
- Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Soaps, Lotions, & Shampoos
- Ice Cream Pails w/ Lids
- (Any size)
- Used Ink Jet Cartridges (we recycle them for cash)
Empty Bowls

Tickets and information:
- **Advance Tickets**
  - Available at Stepping Stones and online at www.steppingstonesdc.org
  - $18 with bowl, $5 meal only
- **Same-Day Tickets**
  - $18 with bowl, $5 meal only
  - Children under 5, no cost for meal

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

 proceeds benefit Stepping Stones Food Pantry, Shelters, and Community Connections Program.

Lunch includes savory soups, bread, desserts, and beverages.

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**How About those Puppies?**

The puppies all look healthy now but that could change quickly. They’ll probably get adopted into new families soon. What if one doesn’t get enough to eat because his humans can’t afford doggy daycare? Those puppies will not thrive at the same rate as puppies in more affluent homes.

You see where this is going. Children but adults and seniors, too. For seniors, being even marginally food insecure is equivalent to being 14 years older than they really are. 14—wow. It’s bad enough getting old (I can say that because I’m 60 now)!!

If one of the problems is safety nets that means we need to strengthen them. As little as a $10 increase to monthly SNAP benefits (Food Share) has been associated with better health for recipients. This means fewer hospitalizations and less health care spending. A decrease in SNAP benefits, of course, means the opposite.

Food pantries and homeless shelters are also part of the safety net. We need places like Stepping Stones to be robust enough to help as many people as possible.

**We Can Do Better**

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