

Stepping Stones

Transitional Opportunities for Youth



2006 Report to the Community

A RESIDENT'S PROFILE:



A future wide open now

Jolees, 17, enjoys playing the guitar and hanging out with her boyfriend. However, three short years ago, her life looked completely different. Having just been adopted by a family in Indiana, Jolees came to America from Haiti with hardly any English language skills and no idea of what to expect from American life. She felt completely dependent on her adopted family for everything, and wondered when she'd get a taste of the freedom she longed for while in Haiti. After a tumultuous period with her adopted family, they each mutually decided that the match was less than desirable. Jolees was once again alone, but this time with no home to call her own.

Jolees came to Stepping Stones in December of 2005 and has been here the longest of any of

our residents. She now goes to high school and will graduate in December 2008. After graduation, Jolees wants to go to college and study counseling, and hopefully give back in the way that she has been given to. Jolees calls her experience at Stepping Stones "very positive" and believes that there are "more people there for me than ever before." Jolees feels that Stepping Stones has granted her more independence. By proving herself through the program, she has earned more trust and freedom.

Jolees' future is wide open. She now feels more hopeful about her life and future, and that things will get better "no matter what." We are so thankful and fortunate to have Jolees in our program. We wish her the best on her journey with us and afterwards.

Driven by...

our **mission** to provide transitional housing and supportive services to youth aged 16-20 who are experiencing homelessness.

A Look Inside:

LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT	2
LOOKING BACK AT OUR SUCCESSES	3
FINANCIAL PICTURE	4
LOOKING AHEAD	4
OUR PARTNERS	5
OUR STAFF AND BOARD	6

For more information about Stepping Stones, you can go online at www.stepsstones-inc.org or contact Sheri Benham at 812-339-9771.

P.O. Box 1366, Bloomington, IN 47402

Stepping Stones Transitional Opportunities for Youth

A Letter from your Stepping Stones Board President

The issue of homelessness is a growing concern nationally. Displacement and uprootedness may be *the* concern of our epoch. Stepping Stones is a modest and ambitious attempt at stopping the cycle of homelessness within our immediate surroundings. Modest because we cannot house and assist every teen experiencing homelessness in our community. Many of them sleep in cars, couch surf, stay at the Youth Shelter for extended periods, or are on the verge of being forced from their home because of conflict with parents, or because their parents are struggling with substance abuse, poverty, or mental illness. Stepping Stones is an ambitious endeavor because the problem is growing and federal funding does not cover all of our needs.

“...we need programs that are based on second and third chances, true inclusion, and a broader notion of what a home is.”

As the Stepping Stones Board President, I am very pleased with how far we have come since the initial planning stages almost three years ago. It's wonderful to know that Sheri Benham's spark of inspiration has come to fruition. The power of an idea that takes root and gradually finds its way into a people's consciousness is what helps to build and sustain a community. Particularly during these times of division, strife, and displacement, we need programs that are based on second and third chances, true inclusion, and a broader notion of what a home is. I am proud to say that Stepping Stones is meeting many of those needs, and is constantly open to the process of discovering how we can improve the services we provide.

What attracted me to Stepping Stones is the organization's vision of providing our youth with a home, one of our most basic human needs. Our vision is to assist our youth in moving away from the difficult margins and encourage them to enter a more caring circle of support. Instead of social isolation and invisibility, we hope to guide our residents to a place of interdependence, not passive dependence. We want to help these vulnerable young people find a place where they can feel safe and learn to explore their own internal resources within a positive environment.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Torneo

The Importance of Life Skills

Every Tuesday evening, residents meet for our “community night.” During these meetings, they take turns preparing meals, have a group check-in, make announcements and celebrate successes, holidays and birthdays. Having life-skills workshops are an integral part of our community night. Some of the topics over the past year were:

- Drug awareness
- Dating violence
- Calming and meditation techniques
- Politics and voting
- Buying and eating healthy foods
- Money management
- Time Management
- STD and HIV awareness
- Maintaining good health
- Personal mission statement and goal-making
- Creating and maintaining healthy relationships
- Guest speakers on career choices
- Career assessments

2006 Report to the Community

Looking Back at our Successes

Program Accomplishments and Statistics

- We provided housing and supportive services to **15 teens** in our Independent Living Program; 8 females and 7 males
- Six residents were 16-17 years old, while eight were 18-19 years old. One resident was 20 years old.
- Five residents were white, 10 were black.
- Our occupancy rate was **83%**.
- Average length of stay was five months
- **All** of our residents attended high school or worked toward a GED.
- One teen **graduated** from high school and two residents earned GED's while the other residents continued their education.
- We started a weekly tutoring program by partnering with the School of Education and community volunteers. Residents who have D's or F's are required to attend, and attendance is encouraged for everyone else. They were also encouraged to bring their friends. Residents were able to complete and turn in homework more consistently and learn study skills, thus **improving their grades**.
- 87% of our residents **had jobs** with one resident keeping her job for over six months.

Fundraising Achievements

- We expanded our Apprentice Program which was originally funded with a \$1,200 grant from Community Foundation. We received an additional \$2,500 donation from a private foundation and \$1,200 from Janice Lilly and Cary Buzelli to support the program. This program allows residents to learn a new skill of their choosing. They write a proposal for taking a class that includes a time frame and budget which Board members review and approve. So far, two residents purchased guitars and took guitar lessons!
- The Unitarian Universalist Church selected Stepping Stones as the social justice organization to receive 25% of the weekly offering. We received \$3,020 in 2006.
- We participated in the annual Homeward Bound Walk-a-Thon for the first year and raised \$6,592!
- Natalie Cabanaw, a longtime waitress at Nick's, generously donated her tips one evening and Nick's tossed in a percentage of their nightly sales for a culmination of \$926!

Grant Funds Received

- Partnered with Monroe County Youth Services Bureau on the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Supportive Housing grant for \$78,000.
- Received \$5,830 from Housing Trust Fund that we used to house a teen mother for thirteen months before she found permanent housing.
- Awarded \$750 from Monroe County CARES to implement a drug awareness program.
- Awarded \$5,000 from Community Foundation which allowed us to host an AmeriCorps VISTA for one year.
- Awarded a Capital Compassion Funding Grant from the Indiana Youth Institute. Funds will be administered in 2007.

"...providing our youth with a home, one of our most basic human needs."

2006 Report to the Community

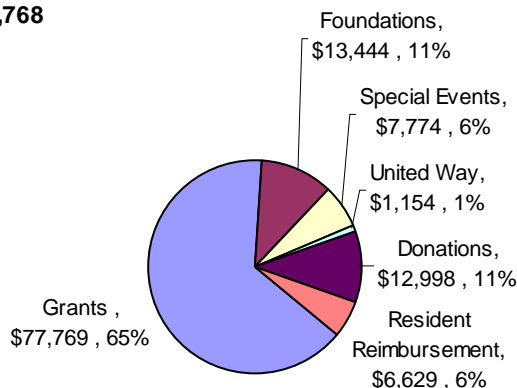
Financial Statements

2006 Revenue and Expenses

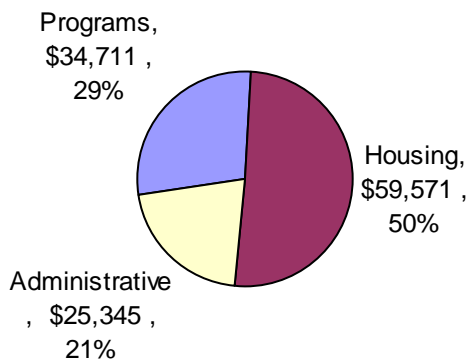
Support and Revenue	
Grants	\$ 7 7,769
Foundation	\$ 13,444
Special Events	\$ 7,774
United Way	\$ 1,154
Donations	\$ 12,998
Resident Reimbursement	\$ 6,629
Total Revenue	\$ 119,768

Expenses	
Housing & Utilities	\$ 59,571
Board Staff & Volunteers	\$ 432
Community Center	\$ 5,710
Americorps VISTA	\$ 3,556
Marketing & PR	\$ 1,692
Miscellaneous	\$ 342
Operations	\$ 8,148
Payroll	\$ 34,421
Program Expense	\$ 4,229
Training & Education	\$ 1,525
Grand Total Expenses	\$ 119,627

Support & Revenue 2006
\$119,768



Expenses 2006
\$119,627



"...providing our youth with a home, one of our most basic human needs."

Looking Ahead

- We are looking at ways to expand our housing and life skills classes to other teens in need. We have applied for a Transitional Living Program Grant from Health and Human Services that would allow us to expand from six to 10 residents as well as hire additional staff.
- On July 19th, Nick's will be hosting a fundraiser for us from 5 p.m.-8p.m. Waitress Natalie Cabanaw will donate 100% of her tips and Nick's will donate 20% of their food sales that evening! Please join us!
- We are planning a Halloween walk and race! More details to come!

Stepping Stones

Transitional Opportunities for Youth

Community Supporters *

\$2500 and up

Anonymous
Unitarian Universalist Church

Jack & Sylvia King
Jean Knowlton
Bess & Joe Lee
Michelle Mattoon

\$600—\$1499

Anonymous
Beth Myers

Jane McLeod
Dave & Barb Miller
Matt Murphy
Gale & Dan Nichols

\$250—\$599

Bill C. & Patricia Brown Foundation
Cathy Brown
Anonymous
Phil & Ruth Ann Cooper
Steve Englert
Dan & Beth Lodge-Rigal
Quality Surfaces
Tom & Dee Rillo
Martha Sattinger
St. Mark's Church
Anonymous
Mimi Zolan

Dave & Martha Nord
Fred & Pegi Risinger
Alan & Ann Schertz
Michael Shermis
Starks Family
Holly Stocking
Tom Saucier
Joseph Torneo
Town & Country Real Estate
Tri Kappa
Unitarian Universalist Church Women's Alliance
Wayne & Vivian Winston

\$100—\$249

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Jeff & Carol Buszkiewicz
JoAnn Campbell
Cathi Crabtree
John & Melissa Davis
Robert & Elizabeth DeVoe
Sheila Evans
Emma & Eric Ford
Jesse Goodman
Nancy & Steve Hafer
Peter & Catherine Haralovich
Anne & Chris Haynes
Jerry & Lynette James

\$50—\$99

Sandra & Frank Acito
Mary & Dick Benham
Bloomington Hospital
Bill & Glenda Breeden
Chris Clothier
Dennis Fisher
Casey Fredericks
Peggy Gaither & Ben Sturbaum
Steve Ingle
Las Arribes, LLC
Jack & Mary Madore
Helen Malin
Valerie Merriam & John Irvine
Fran & Will Moore
Roberta & Conrad Mueller

Patty Pizzo
Russ & Kate Salmon
David & Dotty Sharp
David & Janet Shirley
Linda & Brent Sievers
Erdine Simic
Linda Simon
Gene & Ellen Stern
Brad & Stacy Tucker

\$1—\$49

Gina Alexander
Del Backs
Sita Cohen
Lydia Finkelstein
Paula Gordon
Daniel King
Georgia Koushiefes
Max Lauchli
Veronica Leonard
Barry & Denise Lessow
Anonymous
Lois & Reza Pishgahi
William & Vicki Polansky
Frankie Presslaff
Patricia Shields
Jeanne Speakman
Margaret Strong
Lawrence Taylor
Ali Terry
Fred Turner

In-Kind Donors

Bakehouse
Carol Berney
Bloomington Hospital
Crystal Pure
Greg Daniels

Harris Cleaning
Trojan Horse
Starbucks

Community Partners

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Bloomington Hospital
Bloomington Volunteer Network
Center for Behavioral Health
Hoosier Hills Food Bank
Housing Network
Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues
Indiana University School of Education
Indiana University School of Social Work
Martha's House
Middle Way House
Monroe County United Ministries
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
Non-Profit Alliance
Positive Link
Purdue Extension Education
RSVP
Salvation Army
Shalom Community Center
Workforce Development
Youth Services Bureau

* **List does not include donations received through Homeward Bound**

2006 Report to the Community

Our Stepping Stones Team

Board of Directors

Cathy Brown, Indiana University School of Education +
Ryan-Taylor-Byers, St. Thomas Lutheran Church *
Jeff Chalfant, Monroe County Judge
Steve Englert, Treasurer, Ivy Tech Community College
Sheila Evans, Bloomington Hospital Community Health Education
Tim Kinder, Small Business Development Center
Tonja Kinder, Monroe County Public Defender
Helene O'Leary, Indiana University Foundation
Teresa Saksa, Solution Tree +
McKenzie Shields, Secretary, May Agency *
David Torneo, President, Youth Services Bureau
+New board member in 2007

* Left the board in 2006

Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Sheri Benham
<i>Resident Assistants</i>	Teresa Saksa Christy Boggs
<i>AmeriCorps VISTA</i>	Kristin Lawson
<i>Interns</i>	Laura Ingram Gina Wertz Amanda Voils

Chris Abert	Jessica Gago	Amy Matney	Jody Schostak
Lisa Beedy	Nancy Hafer	Stacey Metavuli	Niki Stout
Sue Berg	Velma Harrison	Kim Meyer	Nellie Summerfield
Cynthia Bretheim	Hans Huffman	Sola Millard	Alicia Taylor-Byers
Melinda Bristow	Greg Ingram	Regina Moore	Dave Torneo
Erica Cardenas	Laura Ingram	Katie Newman	Sophia Travis
Marge Chittum	Hilary Johnson	Martha Nord	Rachel Vilensky
Jen Coleman	Quinn Johnson	Niko Nyenhuis	Ollie Waldo
Norma Culbert	Jasynda Lacy	Kara Parker	Lara Weaver
Esther Duroska	Nicole Lucas	Jeremy Podany	
Sheila Evans	Sharon Lucas	Eric Rensberger	
Laura Feagans	Mary Madore	Bet Savich	
Neil Frederickson	Angela Manlove	Lilia Santiago	
Joanne Frye	Greg Marchant	Paul Schoonmaker	

Advisory Committee

Gina Alexander, The Villages
Roberta Kelzer, YMCA
Suzanne Koesel, Center For Behavioral Health
Steve Galvin, Monroe County Judge
Chuck Holloway, Aurora High School
Nancy Hughes, Family Solutions
Richard Rampley, WorkOne
Michael Reinke, ICHHI
Michael Shermis, WisdomTools
Jim Sims, Indiana University
Cindi Skoog, MCCSC Social Worker
Lindsey Smith, Office of Family & Children
Ron Thompson, Youth Services Bureau

***We couldn't do
what we do
without our
supporters,
dedicated
staff, board
members
and
volunteers.***



Thanks for all your support!!

