

Stepping Stones

“Make a Difference to Children” Month

Providing transitional housing and supportive services to youth aged 16-20 who are experiencing homelessness

Summer 2009

July was National “Make a Difference to Children Month,” sponsored in part by the Hugs and Hope Foundation (www.hopesandhugs.com) to encourage friends, family, adults and donors to reach out in some way to make a positive impact to the youth in their lives.

Here at Stepping Stones, we’d like to encourage you to do the same and to let you know of some of the ways we are trying to make a positive difference in the lives of youth between the ages of 16-20 that are experiencing homelessness.

As a result of some form of family breakdown or dysfunction, millions of youth across the country, thousands of youth in the state of Indiana, and hundreds of youth here in Monroe County experience homelessness.

At Stepping Stones, our first goal is to provide these youth with a safe housing experience for up to two years. Our residents are provided with a furnished apartment and a room of their own.

As we address their needs for housing, we couple that with intentional, person-focused case management and supportive services to help them break the cycles of poverty and homelessness.

Since approximately **75% of homeless youth have or will drop out of high school**, one of the most important ways to make a difference in their lives is to provide them with the encouragement and opportunity to pursue their high school diploma or GED equivalent. **This makes a difference for the rest of their life!**

To date, of the 36 youth that have been in our program, 28% are still enrolled in high school, 62% have graduated with a high school diploma or GED and, of those, 23% have taken higher education courses.

While education is crucial, it cannot be attained without person-centered case management. When youth must spend their time focusing on obtaining food, medical care, or employment, they are unlikely candidates to graduate from high school. That’s why Stepping Stones, with its dedicated staff, board, and volunteers, focuses direct care time and energy on insuring that our youth receive mainstream resources like Food Stamps, Medicaid, and preventative medical care. We also take care to ensure that they learn the skills necessary to live independently and prevent adult poverty.

As we strive every day to make the most powerful impact we can in their lives, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** These tough economic times have affected us all. More youth are becoming homeless due to increasing stress and lack of resources amongst their families. Help us continue to provide our youth with the opportunities they need to break the cycles of homelessness and poverty by donating to Stepping Stones today!

The state has awarded us \$7,535 in credits through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), so we need to raise \$15,070. When you make a donation of at least \$100, you will receive 50% back in state tax credit, *and* your donation can be claimed as a federal deduction. Click on the “**Donate Now**” button on our website, steppingstones-inc.org, to make a contribution today!

Check out our annual report online at:
<http://www.steppingstones-inc.org/Resources/News/2008%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Here is what other agencies in the Bloomington area are doing to make a difference!

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Creates successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them, contributing to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for all.

www.bbbbsci.org

Boys and Girls Club

Enables all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.

www.bgcblloomington.org

Boy Scouts

Helps to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

www.hoosiertrailsbsa.org

Girl Scouts

Builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

www.tuliptrace.org

Girls Inc.

Inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

www.bloomington.in.us/~girlsinc/

Rhino’s Youth Center

Provides entertainment and engagement for the youth of our community in a safe environment, free from alcohol, tobacco, drugs and violence.

www.rhinosyouthcenter.org

Youth Services Bureau

Provides services in an effort to strengthen families, divert youth from the juvenile justice system, and to foster positive youth development.

www.youthservicesbureau.net

**** Upcoming Event!****

Join us in the **back room of Nick’s English Hut on Thursday, August 20th, from 5 to 8 pm** for a fun opportunity to raise money for our organization! **Natalie’s tips plus 20% of all food sales in the back room** will go directly to Stepping Stones.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Stepping Stones, Inc.
P.O. Box 1366
Bloomington, IN 47402

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Tax Credits are Available!

We've been awarded with \$7,535 worth of state tax credits through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)!

HOW IT WORKS

- For every donation over \$100, you can receive a 50% state tax credit.
- Your NAP contribution can also be claimed as a federal deduction.
- You have the opportunity to make a powerful impact on Stepping Stones and the homeless youth we serve!
- Contact Warren Wade at (812) 339-9771 or wwade@steppingstones-inc.org to claim yours!

Stay up-to-date on how Stepping Stones is making a difference to youth with updates, pictures, events and more by:



Becoming a fan of us on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stepping-Stones-Inc/45592145978>



Being our friend on MySpace!
<http://www.myspace.com/steppingstonesbloomington>



Following our Tweets!
http://twitter.com/Stepping_Stones

Or you can do it the old-fashioned way by visiting our website at:

www.steppingstones-inc.org