

Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries

“Helping Hands”

Volume 3 Issue 6

NEWSLETTER

June 2011

Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries
P.O. Box 256
142 Dellinger Road, Urbana, OH 43078
(937)652-1303

e-mail: info@steppingstonesoutreach.org
website: www.steppingstonesoutreach.org

“MISSION: Establish Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries by providing gap services for children, adults, and families in need serving Champaign County.”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- Thank You!
- The Numbers for May

Page 2

- Director's Diary

Page 3

- Stepping Stones Life Skill Series
- Upcoming Events
- To Lend a Hand

The month of June has been one of many blessing for Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries. The blessings are too many to mention here, but several organizations deserve special thanks and recognition for supporting our ministry.



A heart-felt “Thank you” goes out to Ramada Inns of Columbus for donating many rooms of furniture to Stepping Stones and picking up the expense of transporting the furniture to Urbana. Through your generosity, we have truly been able to fulfill a great need in our community. We especially want to thank all of the volunteers who have worked so hard to bring these furnishings to Stepping Stones. Without your hard work and willingness to help, receiving the donations would not have been possible.

Stepping Stones was able to collaborate with Vancrest of Urbana in order to receive the latest donation from Ramada Inn. The two organizations shared the furniture which enabled Vancrest to update furnishings in several rooms and allowed Stepping Stones to give beds, dressers, and other pieces of furniture to over 100 Champaign County families in need. Vancrest of Urbana has since blessed Stepping Stones with a \$6,000 donation to support the ministry. Thank you, Vancrest!

Another very important event that occurred this month was a grant which was awarded to Stepping Stones from the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Urbana. The \$5,000 grant will go very far in helping Stepping Stones to provide food through our food pantry and continue to offer our Life Skill classes. Thank you very much, Fraternal Order of Eagles!

The Numbers for May

Total number of people served:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Pantry	1392
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meals Served at Free Friday Night Dinners	510

Stepping Stones helps our community by offering:

- ❖ **Active Case Management**
- ❖ **Career Development**
- ❖ **Life Skills Classes**
- ❖ **Mentoring**
- ❖ **Transportation**
- ❖ **Transitional Housing**
- ❖ **Helping Hands Store- Clothing and Household Items**

Stepping Stones hours of operation:

Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Evening hours to be announced

Food Pantry

9 a.m. – noon, Monday – Thursday. Closed the third week of every month

Helping Hands Store

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday Thursday. Closed the third week of every month

Director's Diary- Carlene Sands, Stepping Stones Director

“Dare to reach your hand into the darkness to pull another hand into the light” Norman Rice

When you look at others, especially people you may not know that well, do you ever wonder what their lives have been like or what kind of burdens they have born? Do you wonder what influences have been present in their lives that have created who they are today? Did they grow up with both parents in the home or were they the product of a single-parent household; did they have the chance to play little league or take gymnastics; did anyone ever take them to church or teach them the song “Jesus Loves Me?” Each of us are made up of a million moments that shape who we are and what we become with no two experiences ever being even remotely the same. Of course none of us can ever fully know or understand the journeys of anyone else other than our own. Sometimes our lives are going in one direction and in a moment that course is forever changed by the smallest decision, observation, or experience. Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever had one of those “Aha moments” that alter the way you look at your life or alter its direction? Sometimes the change is a more subtle, gradual realization that your life is not going to ever turn out the way you once thought it would. We each have an opportunity to leave a positive or negative impact in the lives of those around us. It can be as simple as a smile and a kind word to a stranger or as involved as being a mentor to teach someone life skills. We each have opportunities every day to leave a positive impact, to show love, to offer hope. The next time you find yourself getting a little irritated with the person who cut you off in traffic or who jumps into the “12 items or less” line at Wal-Mart with their overflowing cart, remind yourself that you have the power to leave a negative or positive mark on that moment. You have an opportunity to act out of love and make a positive impact, or at least not add to a negative situation and maybe even “reach into the darkness by showing someone “the light” of compassion, understanding, and God’s love.

Stepping Stones Life Skill Series –

There is still time to join in our current session of Stretching Your Dollar classes. The dates for the remaining classes are listed below and all begin on Tuesdays at 12:30. Call 652-1303 to register. If you have previously enrolled in this series but have missed one of the classes, you are welcome to attend just those sessions. The classes are scheduled as follows:



July 5th – Basic Cooking

July 12th – Make Your Own – Laundry Detergent and Dish Soap among other household items

July 19th - The Truth about Bankruptcy and Tips on Building/Rebuilding Your Credit

Evening class sessions will be offered again starting in September. Look for the dates in our July newsletter.

We will also be offering another session of the Within My Reach classes taught by The Marriage Resource Center. This class is for women in all stages of a relationship or who want to learn skills to improve future relationships. The next session is scheduled to begin Thursday, August 18th and runs for six consecutive weeks. If you are interested in more details about that class or would like to register, please call 652-1303.

Upcoming Events

Friday Nights Out –

These events continue to be a huge success! Every Friday evening there is a free hot meal served at 142 Dellinger Road in Urbana. There are door prizes, great fellowship, and delicious food. All are welcome!

The time of the dinner is 6:00 p.m.

Summer Holiday Schedule: There are some Friday nights that we will not be having the dinner due to holidays or other events. ***There will not be a Friday dinner on the following dates:***

Friday, July 1st – July 4th Weekend

Friday, August 12th – last night of Champaign County Fair

Friday, Sept. 3rd – Labor Day Weekend

To lend a hand:

If you would like to make a donation of your time, please stop in and see us. We would love to have you! To make a much-appreciated donation to Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries, please send it to the address below:

Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries
C/o Carlene Sands
P.O. Box 256
Urbana, Ohio 43078

Please make checks payable to Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries.

This newsletter and its content are copyright of Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries.
©SSOM 2010 all rights reserved.

Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries
P.O. Box 256
Urbana, OH 43078

To: _____



Congratulations Class of 2011!