

INSTEP

THE NEWSLETTER
OF STEPPINGSTONE
A PROGRAM OF ECH
EVERY CHILD'S HOPE
FALL/WINTER 2015

BAUR OPEN HOUSE

On September 15, ECH dedicated the newly-renovated Robert A. Baur Steppingstone Center. The building's namesake, Dr. Baur, served as Executive Director for 17 years before retiring in 1998. Dr. Baur is an ordained minister whose dedication to children began in 1961 when he started working with ECH. Dr. Baur served in various capacities at ECH until 1981, when he was named the Executive Director.

Dr. Baur is a true visionary who dared to implement new concepts, including developing Steppingstone, an independent living program for at-risk youth, in 1986. When the program started there was no budget—there was just a need and Dr. Baur knew ECH could meet it. Today the St. Louis program has a budget of 1.3 million dollars and over 80 youth are served in the program each year across both campuses. "We continue to build on Dr. Baur's vision and on the foundation he laid for us," said CEO Michael Brennan.

Dr. Baur delivered a powerful and poignant prayer of dedication. It was a touching moment from the man whose legacy will live on because of his selfless commitment to the children, families, and youth at ECH.

Gracious God, you who love each one of your children and grieve over each sadness and sorrow they must face and who stands with them in each trial and tribulation that torments them, stand with us now as we dedicate and rededicate this house to your glory and to the work to which you call us.

Grant that this house may be a house of peace where those who live and work in this place may find strength and resolve to face their problems and challenges and be reassured by the blessings of your ever present Spirit and the beauty of this house and grounds.

Grant that this house may be a house of learning where both counselor and counselee discover the answers to the perplexing task of living with the direction and resolve so that all may find the avenue to a fulfilling, meaningful, and satisfying life.

Grant that this house may be a place of love, where understanding and acceptance reign and where generosity is uncoupled from worthiness and earnings. May the love that shines here be a reflection of the encompassing love you have for us all.

And finally, O God of compassion, bless this house, but also each of your children who walk through these doors that your kingdom might come in this time and place. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

[The St. Louis Steppingstone Staff]



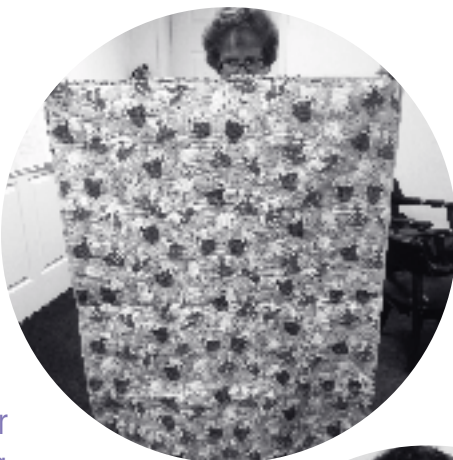
- 2 Steppingstone Happenings
- 3 Letter from the CEO
- 4 Fundraising & Meet Brandi
- 5 Cardinals Care Grant & Christmas Wish List
- 6-7 2015 Dinner Recap
- 8 Tributes & Memorials
- 9 Tributes & Memorials
- 10 Tributes & Memorials
- 11 Amber's Graduation & Amy
- 12 Mules in the Field



[L to R: Duane Lewis (COO), Shari Smith (Board President), Mike Brennan (CEO), Sharon Fenoglio (Director of Development), Oliver Berwin (Board President Emeritus)]

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

• One of the KC Auxiliary members, Christena (Christy) Windemeyer made a baby quilt and donated bags of baby clothes for Hannah who recently had a baby.



• Recently Eric stopped by to visit the Steppingstone staff. Eric is a former client who, after being discharged from Steppingstone, enlisted in the Army. Eric is getting ready to leave for Kuwait. He keeps in contact with one of our current staff who is a veteran and is a good support for Eric since they both have experienced combat. Not that long ago ECH was helping Eric learn various life skills, and now he is in the Army helping to ensure our freedoms!



• Youth care staff have been working on special incentive plans for educational success for a couple of the girls who have previously not experienced much success in school. Donations of gift cards are always useful for these type of incentives. (Walmart, Target, McDonalds, Starbucks, Dairy Queen, Dollar Tree, in the amounts \$5 to \$25.)



• Hannah with her new baby clothes



• Michael was promoted to a manager position at Jimmy John's!

Our Auxiliary met on Sept 14th and presented Steppingstone with a \$1500 donation and TONS of shower gifts. Their generous contribution helps youth set up their agency-owned and community apartments.



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Dr. Rober Baur, Executive
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Robert Becker, Director Emeritus

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Duane L. Lewis, COO
Brandi Behne, CFO
Lynn Durbin, Kansas City Steppingstone Director
Eve Dyson, Family Connections Director
Sharon Fenoglio, CFRE, Development Director
Sharon L. Veit, St. Louis Operations Director

ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE

St. Louis (314) 427-3755
www.everychildshope.org
Kansas City (816) 356-0187
www.steppingstonekc.org

ECH Every Child's Hope is a private not-for-profit childcare agency, voluntarily affiliated with the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries related to the United Church of Christ. ECH Every Child's Hope adheres to Federal and State laws which prohibit discrimination in the delivery of services on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap/disability or religious belief.

Member of: Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies (MCCA), Alliance for Strong Families & Communities
Approved by: Better Business Bureau, Charities Committee, Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis
Founding Member of: The Missouri Alliance for Children and Families

ECH Every Child's Hope is not a United Way Agency.

Follow us on:



A FABRIC OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

For most of us, the holiday season brings anticipation of joyous times shared with family and friends. Sure, there is some stress involved in preparing for all of the special gatherings, cleaning the house, and finding just the right presents. But all in all it's a time to celebrate and enjoy the company of our loved ones and all of those who have enriched our lives throughout the year.

Imagine now that you are a foster child separated from your biological family and living in a foster home or in a residential treatment facility. Besides the trauma of being away from your family, you might have experienced unspeakable traumas that may have led to your placement outside your home.

It's not difficult to grasp that for some of the children and youth we serve at ECH, the onset of the holiday season may be a very stressful and traumatic time. It is important that as caregivers for these children, we are prepared to provide the nurturing and supportive environment that the children need as they cope with the conflicted emotions they may feel as the holidays approach.

I am proud to say that due to the dedication of our committed staff, which includes youth care specialists, therapists, foster care case managers, numerous wonderful foster parents, and biological relatives living in the community, ECH is very successful at positively supporting children during the holiday season.

What does this mean? For some children it means understanding their emotions, their sometimes-challenging behaviors, and it means our dedicated staff working hard to ensure that they can have safe and meaningful contact with their families during the holidays.

Through your on-going support of ECH you, too, are part of this intricate fabric of unconditional love that the children we serve experience during the time we are privileged to guide them on their journey to health and wholeness.

God bless and may we all have a joyous holiday season

Chief Executive Officer, Every Child's Hope



BRIGHT GIVING IDEAS

by Sharon Fenoglio, ECH Development Director

Gifts of Stock

Making a donation of long-term appreciated stock offers a two-fold tax savings:

1. Avoid capital gains tax on any increase in stock value.
2. Receive a tax deduction for the full fair-market value of the stock on the date of the gift.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Charitable gift annuities have become one of the more popular forms of giving for folks over the age of 65. Gift annuities are funded with cash or securities, to provide a guaranteed income to the beneficiary/s based on a combination of monthly rates set by the IRS and the age/s of the beneficiary.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Immediate tax deduction
- Interest rates as high as 7% (determined by age)
- Guaranteed income for your life
- Guaranteed gift to ECH Every Child's Hope after you die

Gifts of Life Insurance

Contribute a life insurance policy by naming ECH as either the owner of the policy or simply as the beneficiary.

Bequest

Consider naming ECH Every Child's Hope as a beneficiary in your will. Unless otherwise specified, all bequests are placed in our Reserve Fund where they combine with the gifts of others to continue to serve children and families in need for years to come.

Tax Wise Giving Options

There are many tax wise options for making a donation to ECH Every Child's Hope. I would be happy to talk with you about your individual needs and interests, and answer any questions you may have.

Call me anytime at 314-427-3755 or 314-267-3195 or write to:
SHARON FENOGLIO, CFRE • ECH Every Child's Hope
8240 St. Charles Rock Road • St. Louis, MO 63114
sfenoglio@echmail.org

MEET BRANDI

ECH Every Child's Hope welcomed Brandi Behne as the Chief Financial Officer in May 2015. Brandi oversees all aspects of the finances and the Business Office for ECH. Before taking the CFO position, Brandi was familiar with the mission of ECH, the company culture and strategic direction through her work at the YWCA.

"I think ECH's greatest strength is the dedication of its people to high quality service and outcomes," explained Brandi. "The work done here impacts individuals and aligns with my personal and professional goals, so it seemed a natural fit."

"Brandi brings a wealth of experience to ECH in the arena of finance both in the not-for-profit and the for-profit arenas," said Michael Brennan, CEO. "Her in-depth knowledge and analytical skills in financial matters along with her excellent communication and collaborative teamwork skills are assets that will further the accomplishment of our mission goals at Every Child's Hope."

Prior to her coming to ECH, Brandi worked as an auditor in public accounting, specializing in not for profits and governmental entities. She then took over the role of Controller at the YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis, where she managed the daily operations of the finance department.



HELP ECH MAKE CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE!

In 2014, ECH helped more than 1,400 people with our community-based, residential and educational programs. These children and families need everything from gifts for special occasions like holidays and birthdays to everyday things like clothing. This is especially true for our children, youth and families in our Foster Care Case Management program and our Family Solutions for Kids program.

If you are able to donate items to these families, please contact the Development Office at 314-427-3755 or email us at ech@echmail.org.



A TECHNOLOGY BOOST FROM CARDINALS CARES

The ECH School recently received money from the Cardinals Care organization to purchase 8 tablets and keyboards for students! These tablets will help students with note-taking and integrating technology into their classroom learning. ECH received the check at a wonderful grant ceremony at Busch Stadium, where Stephen Piscotty spoke about the importance of education.



◀ [Principal Ms. Marlina Hunt-Clark with the tablets]



EVERYDAY ITEMS & HOLIDAY GIFTS:

- BOARD GAMES/CARDS
- MOVIES
- CDS
- BOOKS
- JEWELRY (EARRINGS, NECKLACES, RINGS, BRACELETS)
- SWEATSHIRTS/HOODIES
- CRAFT KITS
- CARS (REMOTE CONTROLLED, MATCHBOX)
- SPORTS ITEMS (BALLS, BATS, GLOVES, LOGO'D ITEMS)
- LEGO SETS
- COLORING BOOKS (ALL AGES)

- TODDLER TOYS
- DRESS-UP CLOTHES
- DOLLS/BARBIE DOLLS AND CLOTHING
- ACTION FIGURES
- STUFFED ANIMALS (NEW)
- MAKE-BELIEVE ITEMS
- WATCHES
- PERFUME/COLOGNE
- HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- CLOTHING
- GIFT CARDS: TARGET, WALMART, ITUNES, AMAZON, CLOTHING STORES

STOCKING STUFFERS:

- GIFT CARDS
- SOCKS
- CANDY
- BOOKS
- FUN PENS/PENCILS

28TH ANNUAL "EXTEND A CARING HAND" DINNER & AUCTION

FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE WERE TRANSPORTED TO AN ELEGANT EVENING WITH FRANK SINATRA ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015. CHICAGO PERFORMER PETER OPRISKO WOWED THE CROWD WITH HIS SPOT-ON INTERPRETATION OF FRANK SINATRA AND OTHER CLASSIC FAVORITES.

ELEGANT DÉCOR DESIGNED BY DALE ROHMAN INVITED GUESTS TO A BEAUTIFUL BALLROOM FILLED WITH LAUGHTER AND MUSIC. RANDY KARRAKER FROM 101 ESPN RADIO SERVED AS MC AND AUCTIONEER, HELPING RAISE MORE THAN \$75,000 FOR THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED BY ECH.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! The annual "Extend A Caring Hand" Dinner & Auction is meticulously planned and executed by a group of dedicated volunteers who meet the first Tuesday evening of every month at ECH. Interested in having fun and meeting new people? Come join the fun of planning and fundraising. Call or email Sharon at 314-427-3755 or sfenoglio@echmail.org

SAVE the Date

2016 DINNER & AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016
THE RITZ CARLTON.



TOP: Chairs Jim & Linda Morice
MIDDLE: Kermine Thies
BOTTOM: Adie & Willie Tompkins

TOP: Domenic Fenoglio & Connor Hunt
MIDDLE: Jessica Brennan & Ryan Engee
BOTTOM: James & Ashley Milam



TOP: Dorothy Vallat Ernst & Katie Faust
MIDDLE: Marlon & Natalea Simmons
BOTTOM: Susan Deuser & Carol Pohl



TOP: Board Member Susan
Shelton & Tammy Mitchell
MIDDLE: Marcia & Ray Hemann
BOTTOM: Marie Carlie,
Shari Smith, Marilyn Bush



MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES : 3/1/15-9/30/15



{IN MEMORY OF}

Elizabeth Ackmann

Ms. Martha A. Ackmann

Rev. Stanley E. Anderson

Mrs. Eunice Anderson

Ted and Robert Behle

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Behle

Urban C. Bergbauer

Ms. Sylvia Bergbauer

Helen Birkenmeyer

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hoffmann
Ms. Kathy Marty and Ms. Judy Stepputat
Ms. Ilene D. Murray
Ms. Gloria Reilly

William Boeger

St. Luke's UCC, Independence, MO

Laura May Boemler

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schrader

Elizabeth (Betty) Bopp

Mike and Nancy Kelly

Herman Brewe

Mrs. Joanne R. Kaimann
Nordwald & Associates Auction Service
Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Schomberg

Judith Marie Burgess

Mrs. Dorothy Vallat Ernst

Opal Burke

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pauls

Albert Cunningham

Mrs. Audrey Goebel

Rev. Arpad DeKallos

Rev. Richard S. Brueseke and Rev. Libby Brueseke

Anna, William, Phillip and Carl Dettleff

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

Carol Dill

Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Baur
Ms. Jeanne A. Dill
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Dill
Ms. Sarah Luebbert

LaVerne R. Dillon

Miss Ellamay J. Rall

Betty Eldridge

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schrader

Edward Fagyal

Mr. Howard Teasley

Phyllis Fuhrig

Mrs. Velma M. Willis

Henrietta Geisler

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Feyh
Mrs. Dorothy Geisler
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Geisler
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Rump

Fay Gillmann

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Gillman

Sterling Glaser

Mrs. Virginia Glaser

Richard, David and Lisa Goessling

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

Eleanor C. Gower

Brian D. Gower

Bob Gray

Mrs. Harriett Gray

Christine Groene

Mr. Allen Holtman
Rev. and Mrs. W.R. Grunewald
Mr. Peter A. Horton

Stephanie Hafer

Ms. Pamela Paris

Natalie Hagan

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

Henry Heier

Ms. Barbara Larson

Joe Robert Hoffmeister

Ms. Joyce Zschille

Arch Johnston

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Mrs. Sibyl M. Kerr

Georgia Klable

Ms. Judith Dehner

Arthur Klasing

Mrs. Jean Klasing

Arlene Krause

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Aumann

Margaret "Vi" Kreienheder

Ms. Joan A. Grawe
Art and Laverne Fink
Randy and Glenda Keeteman
Wayne and Bernice Lindberg
Mrs. Linda Rucker
Ms. Brenda Sanders, Duckett Creek Sanitary District
Don and Kay Sterling

Rev. Melvin Lichte

Mrs. Alberta Lichte

Mary Spark Linstroth

Ms. Mary L. Zeltmann
Loved Ones
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Helen Maurer

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Mr. and Mrs. Glenn C. DeVan

David Moore

Mrs. Ruth Daulley and Ms. Elise Daulley

Dr. John L. Morris

Mr. Paul J. Morris

Al and Verda Dieckmann Moyer

Mr. Richard R. Dieckmann

Harry Mumm, Jr.

Mr. Joseph R. Doyle

Charline Oetting Mernett

Mr. Ray Oetting

Robert, Shirley and James O'Reilly

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly

Robert and Shirley O'Reilly

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly

Parents

Lloyd and Gerry Riney

Jewell Parr

Mr. Thomas A. Parr

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES : 3/1/15-9/30/15



Bob Porzelt

Mr. Steven L. Porzelt

Mike Porzelt

Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Cyliax
Miss Debbie K. Fortman
Mr. Steven L. Porzelt

John Powell

Mrs. Juanita Powell
Louise Radloff
Mrs. Mary Ann Grady

William Otto Ruwwe

Mrs. Helen L. Ruwwe

Michele Ryker Owens

David and Mary Buhr

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Donna and Doug Travis

Amanda J. Schaefer

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Larry and Shirley Ostmann
Mark and Michele Ostmann
Ms. Wanda Ostmann
Ms. Linda Saettele
Bernie and Marie Terbrock
Ms. Lisa Vogt
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Ronald and Diane Weaver
Ms. Martha Young

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Family

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Mrs. Theresa Karcher

Kenneth E. Schneider

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Anna Schumaker

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Melvin and Florence Veit

Ms. Sharon Veit

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Mrs. Sally Watts

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Mr. Kenneth A. Will

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Mrs. Velma M. Willis

Bill Wootten, Jr.

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Ms. Mary L. Zeltmann

Barb Zinnert

Ms. Elaine Brotherton

Wintermeyer Memorials

Rev. James Merrill

Mrs. Lois Love

Rev. and Mrs. H.H.

Wintermeyer

Mr. Vernell Geitz

(IN HONOR OF)

Erica Abbett

Ms. Erica Abbett

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin

Berkemeyer's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koelling

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Branom

Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn A. Doerhoff
Mr. Harry Harrell

Karen Caguin's Birthday

Ms. Carolyn J. Rock

Rev. Sheldon Culver

Anonymous

Lee and Arlene Danuser's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Ms. Janet Juedemann and Family

Mary Ellen Dieckmann's

80th Birthday

Ms. Janet Juedemann

ECH Staff

Mrs. Betty J. Tope

Linda Goodiel's Birthday

Mrs. Grace H. Capstick

Immanuel UCC VBS 2015, Wright City, MO

Immanuel UCC Sunday School,
Wright City, MO

Lorraine Jordan's 91st Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Jordan

Harvey and Charlene Klein's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koelling

Loved Ones

Mrs. Juanita Muck

Frank and Lynn May's Wedding Anniversary

Mrs. Joan Althaus

Pat Ponder

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Lewis

Joyce Ross' Birthday

Mr. Edward Ross

St. Johns Evangelical UCC, Mehlville, MO

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Horning

Paul and Joanne Viehmann's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Marsh
Mr. and Mrs. Ernie W. Viehmann
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vollmer

Rev. Richard Zuch's Retirement

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Buchmeier

CORPORATION & FOUNDATION GIVING ○○○○

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 Barantas Group, LLC
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 Cardinals Care
 Church Women United in MO, Inc.
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 Ernst & Young LLP
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 Fredman Brothers Furniture
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 Lockridge Cleaning Co.
 Mailings Unlimited

McCarthy, Leonard &
 Kaemmerer, L.C.
 Mepco Finance Corporation
 Missouri Arts Council
 Missouri Foundation for Health
 Missouri State Employee
 Charitable Campaign
 Nordwald & Associates Auction
 Service
 Old Newsboys Day Foundation
 Paylink Payment Plans, LLC
 Peters Painting
 Presbyterian Children's Homes
 and Services of Missouri
 RBF & Co. Wealth Advisors
 ricAnello creative consortium, lc
 Schroeder & Associates, PC
 Security Traders Association of
 St. Louis
 Soroptimist International of
 Greater St. Louis
 St. Peter's Cemetery
 Sterling Bank
 Strategic Technology Group
 The Deaconess Foundation
 The Greater KC Community
 Foundation & Affiliated Trust
 Tri-Star Tire Sales, Inc.
 Truman Heartland Community
 Foundation
 Unique Stone Concepts
 Western Oil, Inc.
 Winkelman Sons Drug Company

IN KIND

All About Love & Care
 Anheuser Busch Companies, Inc.
 Belden Technologies, Inc.
 Blanche M. Touhill Performing
 Arts Center
 Bloomsdale Bank
 Blue Sky Tower Grill
 Braneky and Sons
 Cafe Napoli Restaurant
 Cannoli's
 Charlie Gitto's On the Hill
 Chick-Fil-A
 Community State Bank - Bowling
 Green & Troy MO
 Fortel's Pizza Den
 Garden of Life Spiritual Center
 Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri N4
 Glazers Distributors
 H & H Health Associates, Inc.
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 James Avery Jewelry
 Jiffy Lube/Hartland Automotive
 Services, Inc.
 Juniper Restaurant
 Kansas City Chiefs Football
 Kappa Phi Sorority
 Kennelwood Pet Resorts
 Kimaterials, Inc.
 Lockridge Cleaning Company
 Menards
 Otterbox
 Panera Bread, LLC
 Parkview Gardens
 Que Cherie Media

Raging Rivers WaterPark
 Renaissance Plastic Surgery
 River City Rascals
 Schlafly Beer
 Schroeder & Associates, PC
 Silver Dollar City
 St. Louis Blues
 St. Louis Cardinals
 Steak 'n Shake
 Target
 The Cheesecake Factory
 Bakery, Inc.
 The Fabulous Fox
 The Pageant in the Loop
 Upper Limits Rock Gym
 Urban Chestnut Brewing
 Company
 Valvoline Instant Oil Change
 Wallis Companies
 Western Digital Foundation
 Winfield's Gathering Place
 Winkelman Sons Drug
 Company



STEPPINGSTONE SUPPORT EXTENDS TO COLLEGE

Amy just started at a local community college, where she is living in the on-campus dorms. She is in state custody (Children's Division) and has been working hard to achieve her dream of a college education. Surprisingly, the Children's Division approved for Steppingstone staff to follow Amy for a month, to support her transition to college (since she turned 18, Amy no longer qualifies for program funding from the state).

Imagine being an 18-year-old and making the huge leap to living on your own at college, and not having family support or guidance. Fortunately, Amy knows she can contact Steppingstone if she needs anything. Recently her care manager visited Amy on campus and reported that she is adjusting well. Knowing she isn't all alone in an unfamiliar environment will allow Amy to focus on her studies and enjoy making new friends.

A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

After graduating last May, Amber is now enrolled at Penn Valley Community College and is working hard to find educational success. Throughout her time in Steppingstone, Amber has made her weekly therapy a high priority, and has grown emotionally while recognizing that she won't have much support from her family to achieve her goals. Amber is determined to achieve success, and is diligent in attending college, looking for a part-time job and spending time with her ailing grandmother. According to Steppingstone staff, Amber continues to follow-through on her program responsibilities and had made great improvements in her independent living skills.

AMBER





STEPPINGSTONE:
A PROGRAM OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE
5100 NOLAND ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64133

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MULES IN THE FIELD



The Steppingstone campus has pastures from when the program had horses. Twice a year it gets cut, and whoever cuts it gets the hay for free. This time the man who cut the pasture brought his mules to do the job! You just never know who you're going to see around campus!

