

IN STEP

THE NEWSLETTER
OF STEPPINGSTONE
A PROGRAM OF ECH
EVERY CHILD'S HOPE
SUMMER 2014



Ms. Erin...
Thank you for all you've done!!!
I truly thank God for you!
God Bless Ms. Erin.

This is a note written to one of our care managers. One of the Steppingstone youth has a mother who lives in a supervised care setting. Ms. Erin helps Michelle have fairly routine visits with her mother. It's these small acts of kindness that our staff in Steppingstone does that makes it easier for the youth in our care to have hope that there is a brighter future for them.

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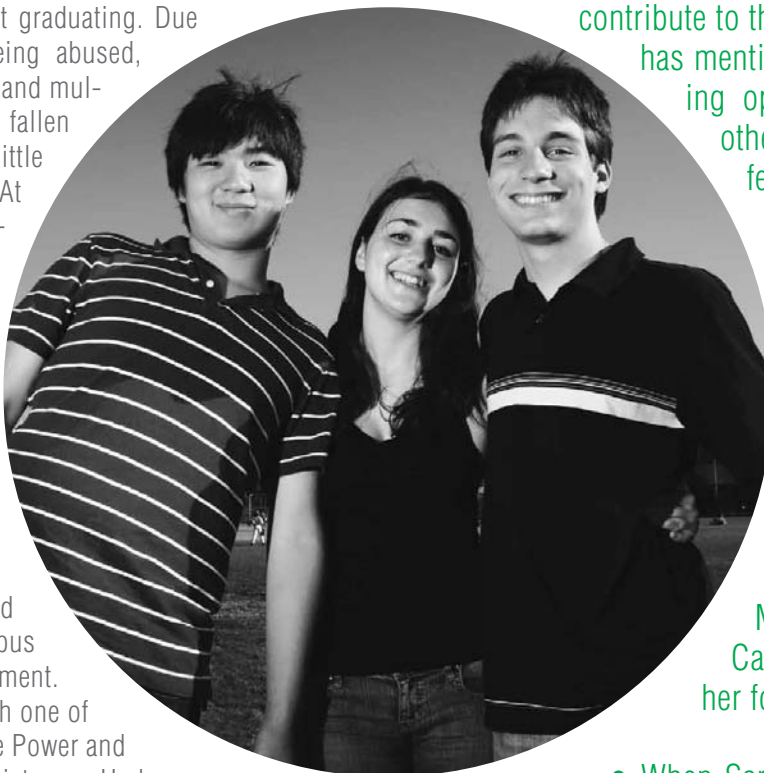
THE YOUTH OF STEPPINGSTONE'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Being 19 with a one year old and another on the way would be tough for any young lady, but for Annie, she not only raised her one child while at Steppingstone, she also received her CNA certification through a local community college. After delivering her second child, Annie found a job at a local long term care facility. She is saving money for additional nursing education and training. Steppingstone has been there every step of the way for Annie and her self-esteem has really grown.

"I now believe I can really accomplish things," says Annie.

Jacob was at risk of not graduating. Due to circumstances of being abused, removed from his home and multiple placements he had fallen behind in school with little hope of catching up. At Steppingstone he enrolled in the Missouri Option Program through the Raytown School District. He met all the program requirements and then successfully passed the HiSET exam (high school equivalency test). He graduated in May with a high school diploma and is currently living off campus in a Steppingstone apartment.

He recently got a job with one of the clean-up crews in the Power and light Entertainment District area. He has taken his job seriously and would spend about an hour riding on public transportation just to get to work. He had saved enough money to buy a car that he is very proud of. Jacob is learning to budget his money. Recently, he was heard saying he didn't realize how expensive owning a car was.



- We currently have 15 youth living in one of our Steppingstone owned apartments.

- Kathy has been a part of Steppingstone since 2009. Just recently we have completed all our work with Kathy and she is now managing all aspects of her life.

- Lisa is scheduled to attend Journalism camp in July. She has saved up part of her paychecks to contribute to the cost of the camp. Julie has mentioned before that "by having opportunities just like the other kids at school, helps me feel better about my life"

- Within the first week of arriving to Steppingstone John obtained employment.

- Steppingstone will hold Julie's spot in the program while she visits her mom for 3 weeks. Mom is now residing in Canada and Julie hasn't seen her for over a year. (Erin CM)

- When Sara first arrived to the program she had a car, however, the car was not licensed or insured. After a few months of putting in extra money in her savings account, Sara finally has enough money to license and insure her car. She is very excited.

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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 EveryChild'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), Child Welfare League of America

Approved by: 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:



As you review this latest edition of the Home News please take note of all the creative ways our wonderful ECH caregivers work to engage the children in therapy, educational learning and everyday fun child centered play activities. The children we serve in all of our programs often have serious emotional, behavioral and educational challenges.

However, it is important to remember that they are children and need the opportunity to experience the pleasures of childhood that maybe sometimes due to their life experiences they have not been able to enjoy. In the following pages you will notice serious issues being addressed, learning taking place but also activities designed to allow the children to recapture the wonder of their childhood through experiential activities.

One of my joys at this time of year is driving on campus or looking out my office window into the park and seeing the children engaged in activities that strengthen their bodies, minds and souls. The sound of laughter and watching them learn to play and work together collaboratively is uplifting to both me and the ECH staff that provide these opportunities on a daily basis. These are experiences and skills that we work with the children to transfer to utilize when they are struggling to successfully deal with life's challenges and disappointments. These same types of experiences are also being provided to hundreds of additional children through our Family Solutions for Kids program that serves children and families in their own communities in St. Louis County.

Thank you for assisting us to provide children with these life experiences and the tools that they need to build a better future for themselves.

Michael Brennan
Chief Executive Officer
Every Child's Hope





[STUDENTS FROM ST. CHARLES WEST HIGH SCHOOL]



[BOARD MEMBER DAVID VIEHMANN AND HIS WIFE GAIL]



[FRED & JULIE VAN ETEN]



[COO DUANE LEWIS WITH HIS WIFE BEV]



[DEBBIE AND JOHN WEBER]



A roaring good time was had by the more than 330 guests who attended the 27th Annual "Extend a Caring" Hand Dinner & Auction on Friday, April 4, 2014. Chaired by Jim & Linda Morice, guests were transported to glamorous old time Hollywood for an evening of fine dining, dancing and fun. Most importantly, a net of nearly \$49,000.00 was raised to better serve the children and families of ECH Every Child's Hope.



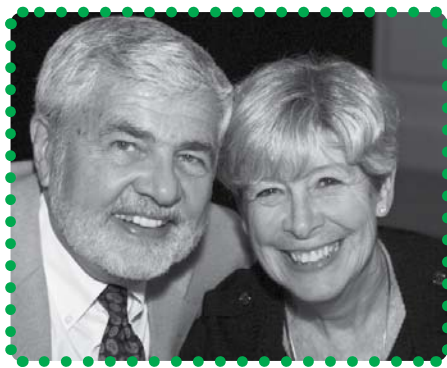
[SANDIE END-SCHROEDER AND JERRY SCHROEDER]



[LINDA AND JIM MORICE, CO-CHAIRS]



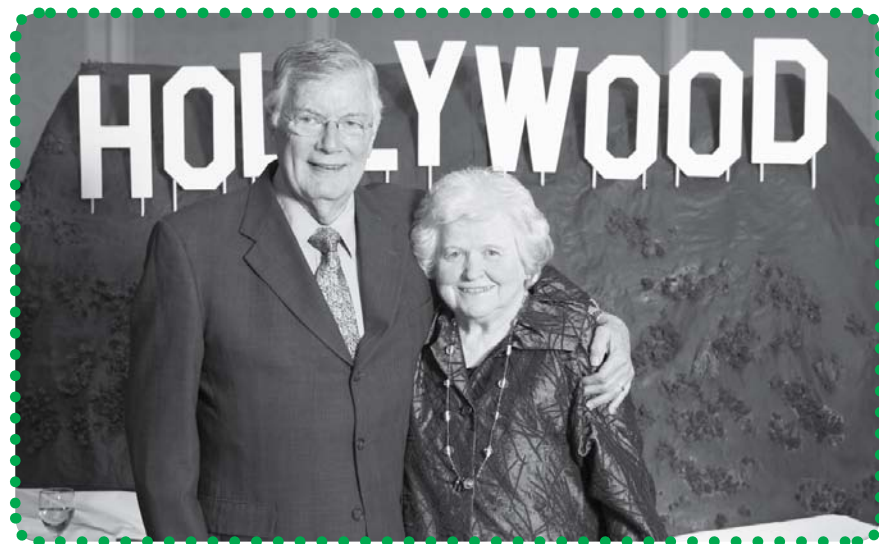
[GLEN & SHIRLEY CORDES WITH VIRGINIA & RUSSELL VIEHMANN]



[REV. KEITH AND BETTY KARAU]



[ZACH AND JEREMY FETTIG]



[DR. BERNARD AND LEILA DAVIS]



STEPPINGSTONE CENTER READY TO OPEN

With the Baur Steppingstone Center nearing completion, staff and residents of Steppingstone are getting excited.

"Right now, staff have offices across the St. Louis campus. The Baur Steppingstone Center will allow for the entire program to be in one central location," explained Duane Lewis, COO. "It will finally give Steppingstone a physical identity, something the program has never had before."

In addition to giving a central location and physical identity, the Baur Steppingstone Center will open up three apartments on campus that right now are being used for offices. The Life Skills area will be expanded, offering more computers for the young people to apply for jobs and continuing education. It will also give the staff and clients more meeting space.

"Besides the increase in the number of computers and the enlarged Life Skills area, one of my favorite things about the Baur Stepping-

stone Center is it becomes a one stop shop, so to speak, for the kids and staff," says April Libke, Steppingstone Director. "If a young adult comes in with a question, there will always be someone to help. This is also going to allow us to serve more at-risk and homeless youth."

It has cost \$160,000 to renovate the current space for the Baur Steppingstone Center. We have not quite met our goal and we still need your help. Please consider donating to the Baur Steppingstone Center. Contact the Development Office at (314) 427-3755 or email Sharon Fenoglio at sfenoglio@echmail.org.

ECH still has YOP Tax Credits available. Gifts over \$500 are eligible for 50% of your donation minus gifts and services. You must have a Missouri Tax Liability to qualify. Contact the Development Office at (314) 427-3755 for more information or visit our website at www.everychildshope.org.

10 THINGS

TO HELP ECH AND STEPPINGSTONE WHILE HAVING A GOOD TIME

Why not plan an activity that raise funds, awareness and help for Every Child's Hope and Steppingstone while having fun with family and friends at the same time? We have put together 10 things you can do this with your children and friends.



The Development Department will help you with printed materials to hand out. Please contact either Sharon Fenoglio or Laura Kilcullin for more information about any of the ten items or if you have an idea of your own. Help the children, youth and families served by ECH and Steppingstone in an unique way.



1

GARAGE SALE: Have a Garage Sale. Put your old stuff out in your garage. You don't have to price anything. Just tell people all proceeds will go to ECH Every Child's Hope and have them make an offer on your stuff.

2

PLAN A CAR WASH: Have your group put on a car wash. All proceeds will go to ECH Every Child's Hope.

3

HOST A POOL PARTY: Host a pool party at either your own pool or your neighborhood pool. Invite people to bring summer toys and pool toys for the summer program and children of ECH Every Child's Hope.

4

BAKE SALE: Have a bake sale at your church or your place of employment. All proceeds go to ECH Every Child's Hope.

5

COLLECT CHANGE: Collect your change throughout the summer. At the end of the summer, send your change to ECH and help the kids get back to school supplies.

6

HOST A PICNIC: Host a picnic in your own backyard or at a local park. Ask people to bring a dish to share and donate new or gently used household items for Steppingstone youth and families in our Family Connections programs.

7

LEMONADE STAND: Have your children set up a Lemonade Stand. Post Signs saying proceeds go to helping the Children of ECH Every Child's Hope.

8

HOST A "BIRTHDAY" PARTY: Host a birthday party at your home for the kids of ECH. Ask people who are attending to bring a present suitable for a teen aged boy or girl to put in our birthday room.

9

WORK PROJECT: Get a group of people to come to ECH or Steppingstone to do a work project on campus.

10

SIMPLY DONATE: Simply donate to the program of your choice at ECH Every Child's Hope and receive in-depth information on that particular program.

Memorials & Tributes



(IN MEMORY OF)

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Dr. Mark Akers

Marie Albrecht

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Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Finke
Ms. Lucille Howard
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Schelp
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Stemme
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Mr. and Mrs. Christian K. Albrecht

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Ms. Charlesta Zekert

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Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bessie

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Herbert Wintermeyer

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Mr. and Mrs. Louis Witte

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Ms. Joyce E. Yoo

Savannah Young

Mrs. Doretha Gilbert

Fred and Florence Zeiting

Mr. Raymond H. Zeiting

Mary Ellen Zell

St. Peter's UCC, Billings, MO

Eugene and Ruth Zeltmann

Ms. Mary L. Zeltmann

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Linda Kroll

Mrs. Lois Love

Katie Spross

Mrs. Lois Love

Herbert and Henrietta Wintermeyer

Mr. Vernell Geitz

Mrs. Mary Jo Martin



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{IN HONOR OF}

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Anonymous

Payton Agnew

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Quartuccio

Rev. Karen Aitkens' Ministry

Mr. and Mrs. Don Eversmeyer

Elmer Allemann

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Oliver D. Dressel

Ms. Joy Dressel and Mr. Bill Brinkhorst

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Mr. and Mrs. Brian Fitzgerald and Family

Miss Carole Thompson

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Mr. and Mrs. William R. Gladden

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Mrs. Grace H. Capstick

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Morris and Ruth Grattendick

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Grattendick

Carole Hasten

Ms. Pam Makis

Clarence and Jane Holland

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bruce

Richard and Brenda Isaacs' Anniversary

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Bridget Jackson

Mrs. Paulette Kirkwood

Rev. Karen Knott

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Shari L. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sanditz

James L. Vajda's Birthday

Ms. Laura King

Doris Van Leer's 90th Birthday

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Zion UCC, Troy, MO

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Herman T. & Phenie R. Pott Foundation

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Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc.

Truman Heartland Community

Foundation

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VFW Ladies Auxiliary 3944

Visiting Nurse Association

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Ameren UE

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Boeing Company

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Monsanto Matching Gift Center

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PNC Bank

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River City Rascals

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St. Louis Christmas Carols Assoc.

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Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc.

The Hairy Elephant

The Melting Pot Restaurant

Thies Farm and Greenhouses

United Surgical Partners

Upper Limits Rock Gym

Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Vom Fass St. Louis

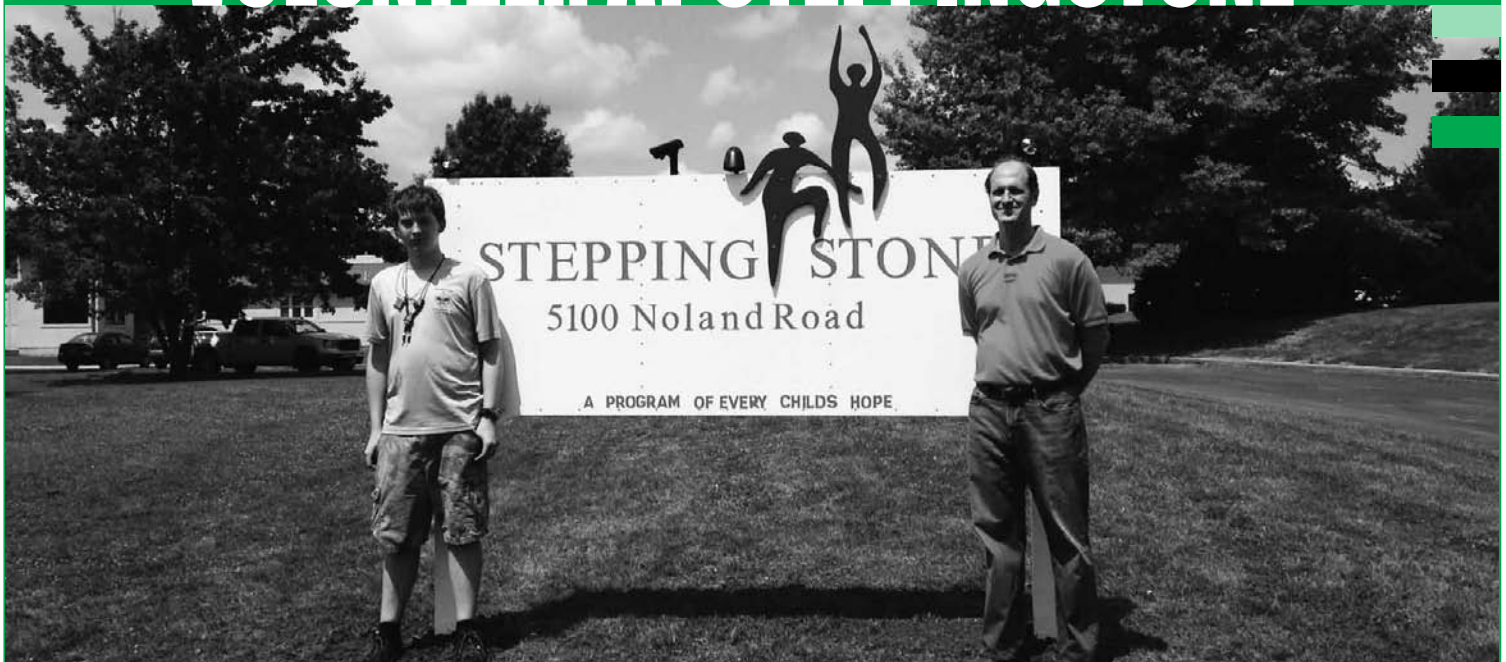
Walter Knoll Florist

Winkelmann Sons Drug Company

Women's Exchange

Xtreme Paintball Park

VOLUNTEER AT STEPPINGSTONE



Eagle Scout candidate Austin Finely (left) and scout troop 262 from Lee's Summit, built and installed a new sign (complete with solar lights) and did some landscaping work behind the administrative bldg. With Lynn Durbin, Steppingstone Director. If you are interested in volunteering at Steppingstone, call 816-356-0187.

MOVING UP

One of the roles of Steppingstone staff is to help the youth they serve reach their highest potential. We work with each young person, treating them as individuals. It was a great achievement for Stephanie to get ready to move into an apartment off campus. For quite a while, she had been living in the middle of the girls' house and it was too loud. As she toured the new apartment, she took pictures of each room to send to her family and friends. She was very excited to see all the extra space she would have. She was warned however that it would take a few days to get her moved and settled in to her new apartment and she would have to be patient, something she struggles with. But Stephanie was undaunted. She said she was too excited and would never do anything to move from her new apartment.

Many times the kids that come to Steppingstone are floundering. Besides caring for their well-being, we also provide them with some basic necessities.

For every new young person moving into our Group Living, we provide:

- Alarm Clock
- Sheets
- Pillow
- Blankets
- Back Pack
- Lock Box
- School Supplies
- Pillow Cases
- Laundry Basket

For each young adult moving into our apartments, we provide:

- All Furniture, lamps and window treatments
- Cleaning solutions and supplies
- Trash Cans
- Washer and Dryer

Each Young adult must provide:

- Towels
- Bed Linens
- Pots and Pans
- Dishes
- Television
- Cooking Utensils



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

Address Service Requested

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DATABASE UPDATE

We hope you enjoy receiving the Home News Newsletter and other information regarding ECH Every Child's Hope. Please cut out the form below and send it to us so we have your correct mailing information. Thank you!

- ☐ I would like to receive information via regular mail.
- ☐ I would like to receive information via email.
- ☐ Please remove me from you mailing list.

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Name: _____

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ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE 8240 ST. CHARLES ROCK RD. ST. LOUIS, MO 63114