

# INSTEP

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF STEPPINGSTONE  
A PROGRAM OF ECH  
EVERY CHILD'S HOPE  
**SUMMER /  
FALL 2017**

Thank you for letting me  
participate in the trip

Thank you for letting me come to  
that wonderful event. I had a really  
good time and I would love  
to come back. If it is possible  
thank you so much

THANK  
YOU FOR  
A WONDERFUL TIME  
IN JEFFERSON  
CITY!

THANK  
FOR THE  
TRIP IT WAS  
A WONDER

## STEPPINGSTONE YOUTH ATTEND CONFERENCE IN JEFFERSON CITY

The youth in Steppingstone learn a variety of life skills, including leadership. Last July, several youth had the opportunity to develop this skill in a very real way by attending The State Youth Advisory Conference, titled "Reading Our Past, Writing Our Future." Along with four staff chaperones, youth attended workshops, participated in social activities, and developed their own skills as leaders.

In 1992, Missouri established the Missouri State Youth Advisory Board, made up of outstanding youth in foster care or those who obtained adoption or guardianship after the age of 16. These youth represent the youth in their geographic area who are or were in out-of-home placement. The Board provides input to Children's Division and Juvenile Court staff regarding policy and procedures for the Children's Services division. The overall goal of the State Youth Advisory Board is to "empower Out-of-Home youth to provide input into the policies and procedures for Out-of-Home Care, to provide meaningful leadership training and experiences for board members, and to empower board members who, in turn, can empower children and youth who have experienced Out-of-Home care."

The annual Conference was held in Jefferson City over three days. Some of the workshops offered included: "Be Your Own Kind of Hero" (the presentation used well-known super heroes and their childhood stories as an example of how to overcome poor self-esteem), "Milestones" (included projects on how youth can claim and recognize their own personal history), "Breaking the Habit" (how to know when a relationship has become unhealthy, and a general session focused on human trafficking. Youth also enjoyed fun social activities, such as a talent show and a dance. After the conference, youth wrote thank you notes, which are featured in this story.

I would like to start  
with it was grate  
Thank you

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# COLLEGE MOVE-IN DAY!

The last issue of InStep featured a cover story on Mary, a young lady who received a \$25,000 scholarship to Truman State. Mary hopes to study engineering and physics, to pursue her interests in robotics and computer-aided design, and dreams of becoming a skilled inventor and entrepreneur. This past August Mary moved into the dorms and began her freshmen year! Steppingstone staff members Kerry and Jessica moved Mary in to her dorm and helped with the things that parents would usually do: unpacking and setting up the room, making a Target run for extra supplies, and even buying Truman "Mom" T-shirts! The wonderful Auxiliary members contributed to Mary's dorm room supplies, so it truly was a group effort to help Mary go to college with everything she needs to be successful!

Mary sent Steppingstone staff a touching note of thanks. "I want to say that I am deeply thankful. With your assistance, I was able to get all the supplies and dorm room items I needed for college. I no longer have to worry about how I would afford them. Instead, I can focus on school now. So thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I hope each and every one of you are rewarded in your lives like you have rewarded me (not only with physical materials, but with this act of kindness as well)."



## HAPPENING AT STEPPINGSTONE

- Ashley is working as a CNA and recently purchased a car!
- Adam completed a summer internship with Cornerstones of Care and visited colleges over the summer
- Andrea passed portions of her HiSET, as she works toward earning a state-issued high school equivalency (HSE) credential. She is also working toward her goal of being more organized in her personal life.
- James moved into a community apartment
- Paul bought a new outfit for graduation day at Thrift World. After checking out at the store, Paul noticed a woman in the parking lot, struggling to fit her purchases into her car. Paul offered to help, and was able to arrange all the items to fit, and the woman was very grateful. When staff noticed the big smile on his face afterward, Paul explained that it felt good to help someone, and made him feel happy!

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE

St. Louis (314) 427-3755  
Kansas City (816) 356-0187  
[www.everychildshope.org](http://www.everychildshope.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:



# THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

This edition of the ECH newsletter highlights two very important parts of the work we do: partnership with the local community and exceptional staff who do the work each and every day. Both of these pieces are necessary to help kids and families, and both have played in vital role in our history.



You'll notice several stories that explain just a few of the many ways we work with community organizations, foundations, and businesses. ECH was proud to host a recent meeting of the UCAN (United Community Action Network) group. It was a wonderful opportunity to not only highlight the services we provide to the community, but also to continue to strengthen our relationship with the St. Louis County Police Department. In an effort to continue to provide nursing care to address the physical health of our clients, we recently partnered with Deaconess Nursing Ministry. Through our shared vision to help children become healthy and whole, this ministry has been an asset to the children on our campus who require compassionate nursing care.

These community partnerships also extend to the financial assistance our organization relies on to provide hope and healing to the children and families who come to ECH. Lucky's Market donated \$1700 through their Bags of Change program, which will help provide services to the youth in our Steppingstone Transitional Living Program. Bank of America generously donated \$5,000 to the same program, which will allow these youth to have safe and stable housing and support services while they work toward independence.

Of course, community support is only one piece of the pie. One of the things I'm most proud of is our incredible staff and their longevity of service. It takes a special person to commit to this type of work, which while very rewarding, can also be trying and emotionally draining. However, I am privileged to see that commitment in our staff every day. I see it in the dedicated teachers in our Early Ed Center, including Ms. Chism, who was recently recognized for her outstanding work! I see it in the pastoral care that our chaplain, Julie Jennings, provides. I see it in the faces of our staff members who work tirelessly to provide gifts for every child during the coming holiday season.

I am proud to be part of the St. Louis community, which generously supports the mission of ECH, and I am proud of our talented and dedicated staff. I hope that as you read through this newsletter, you are, too.

With Gratitude,

  
Michael Brennan





# RESERVE YOUR 2017 YOP TAX CREDITS!

ECH Every Child's Hope is pleased to offer YOP tax credits for any donation of \$500 or more received now through December 31, 2017. Credits are available to any individual, business, or corporation paying taxes in the state of Missouri.

Our goal is to raise \$160,000 by the end of the year, but we need your help! As you consider your end-of-year giving, remember that we have a limited number of credits available. You may pledge your gift NOW and we will hold credits until November 15, 2017. If we haven't received your donation by then, your credits will be released for someone else's benefit.

The benefit to you as a YOP donor is a 50% Missouri State Income Tax Credit that can be used anytime within the next five tax years. For example, a \$500 donation would qualify for \$250 in state tax credits, along with the standard federal and state income tax deductions.

Thank you for your support in our work to provide healing to the children, youth, and families at ECH. It is only through your continued investment in our services that the vulnerable members of our community can find HOPE for brighter days ahead.

To make a pledge or gift, please call  
Laura Kilcullin at 314-427-3755 or  
[lkilcullin@echmail.org](mailto:lkilcullin@echmail.org).



## 2018=160 YEARS

### Did you know?

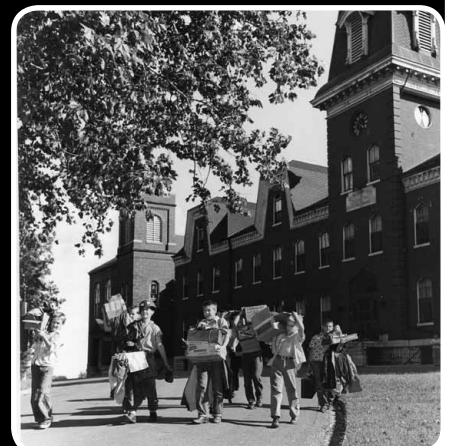
2018 is the 160th anniversary of ECH Every Child's Hope. For 160 years, ECH has provided quality, innovative programs that help children, youth and families heal and grow.

**We need your help . . . please consider joining us in the planning of ECH's 160th anniversary celebrations. Whether you are interested in volunteering for the Gala or planning a more low-key event in the fall, please contact**

**Laura Kilcullin at  
[lkilcullin@echmail.org](mailto:lkilcullin@echmail.org)  
or 314-427-3755.**

**Help us continue this wonderful legacy of providing HOPE to kids and families who so need it.**

**ECH is proud of our 160 years of service and we want to let everyone know!**



# CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Looking for ways to give this holiday season? Help us provide every child in care at ECH with Christmas presents! Your support is vital to our mission to help children heal from trauma and have a sense of normalcy during this season. Call the Development Office at 314-427-3755 for more information or to coordinate your donation drop-off or pick-up.

We are in need of the following new items:

- board games
- jewelry
- perfume/cologne
- sweatshirts and hoodies
- Lego sets
- gift cards for teens: Target, Wal-Mart, iTunes, Amazon
- sports items (balls, bats, gloves, pro sports team clothing)
- coloring books and art supplies
- craft kits
- remote-controlled and Matchbox cars
- pajamas in assorted sizes
- books appropriate for elementary and high school readers
- new stuffed animals
- action figures
- dolls for toddlers and older kids



**"I resonate with the underlying mission throughout ECH to help children and families reimagine their lives, both in the midst of and beyond the circumstances that have brought them into our care."** *Chaplain Julie*

Many of you know our Chaplain, Julie Jennings, who served as chaplain for six years before moving out of state to care for her mother. Now we are thrilled to welcome Chaplain Julie back to the ECH community! In her revised role, Chaplain Julie's primary focus is providing pastoral care and presence for the youth in residential treatment, including initial assessments, time spent with individual residents, on-campus house visits, weekly chapel services and other programs and activities. She is also available to support the other programs of ECH, and local UCC churches. Chaplain Julie will also coordinate volunteers. Chaplain Julie says she's happy to be back at ECH for many reasons, but most of all because of the mission of the agency.

On April 7, ECH celebrated a major milestone-30 years of the Dinner & Auction! From its humble beginnings, the event eventually grew to nearly 500 guests and more than \$100,000 raised per year at its height. Over the years the themes have ranged from the elaborate, like Cirque do Soleil, to the carefree like Hoots & Boots. For the 30th year, the committee decided to celebrate with "An Evening of Pearls & Polka Dots," as the 30th anniversary is the pearl anniversary. Guests dressed up in their best black and white attire and reminisced while photos from previous events played before dinner.

As a special part of the evening, guests could purchase one of 125 boxes of pearl jewelry. 120 boxes contained a pair of genuine pearl stud earrings donated by David Kodner Jewelers. Five special boxes contained either a David Kodner pearl necklace, a Genovese double strand pearl bracelet, a pearl and gold pendant, a pearl and diamond ring or pearl and diamond dangling earrings.

Dale Rohman outdid himself once again with the gorgeous décor, and guests danced to the crooning of Scott Latham and Karl Holmes. After an exciting round of bidding during the live auction, conducted by Randy Karraker of 101 ESPN Radio, guests finished their online bidding through our Gesture auction site. But most importantly, our generous donors helped to raise the necessary funds that directly supports the kids and families at ECH.



Ray and Marcia Hemann



## PEARL & POLKA DOTS DINNER & AUCTION



Natalea Simmons-Beauden, Pat Mercurio, Sharon Fenoglio, and Julie VanEtten





Dean Rohman, Sarah Grus,  
Kay Largura, Dale Rohman



Board member  
Susan Shelton,  
Lyn and Dennis Tyrl



ECH CEO Mike and Joan Brennan



Board member  
Lucille Smith,  
board member  
Annie Williams,  
and Lois Pittman

# MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES : 2/1/17 - 7/31/17



## {IN MEMORY OF}

### **Stanley E. Anderson**

Mrs. Eunice Anderson

### **Jim Audrain**

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Cordes

### **Wilbur Beckemeier**

Mrs. Clarice Beckemeier

### **William Becker**

Gene and Allene Jackson  
Mr. John Thies, Jr. and Family

### **Daniel Benne**

Mrs. Alice Benne

### **Ray and Vivian Bernhardt**

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Bernhardt

### **Rev. Darryl Bockting**

Mrs. Clarice Beckemeier

### **Floyd H. Boemler**

Mrs. Loretta Boemler

### **Laura May Boemler**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Self

### **Lillian Boesewetter**

Ms. Leah Reynolds

### **Norbert F. and Lillian L. Boesewetter**

Ms. Leah Reynolds

### **Vera A. Borgman**

Mr. Lester Borgman

### **Donna Mae Broombaugh**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann

### **John Daub**

Mrs. Marcella Daub

### **Dettleff Family**

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

### **Lorraine Deuser**

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Cordes  
Gene and Allene Jackson  
Ms. Jennine A. Klasing  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Klasing

### **Betty Eldridge**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Self

### **John Feeler**

Mrs. Sue M. Feeler

### **Jenny Ann Garner**

First Congregational UCC, Pierce City, MO  
Mr. Harold Jack George

### **Goessling Family**

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

### **Robert (Bob) W. Grenier**

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Marietta

### **Cecilia Grieb**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann

### **Rev. and Mrs. W.R. Grunewald**

Mr. Peter A. Horton

### **Natalie Hagan**

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

### **Victor and Margaret Hauck**

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Bernhardt  
Mrs. Shirley Brethauer

### **Marie I. Hickey**

Mrs. Sharon Capo

### **Norma Humphreys**

Mrs. Kathy Hawkinson

### **Genevieve Kaiser**

Mrs. Peggy Talley

### **Mayme Kemper**

Mrs. Marie Martin

### **Marie Kesting**

Mr. John Thies, Jr. and Family  
Charles E. Kraus, Sr.  
Raymond and Carolyn Aumann

### **Rev. Melvin F. Lichte**

Mrs. Alberta Lichte

### **Carlene McBride**

Ruth and Elise Daulley

### **McKinley Family**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

### **John L. Morris**

Mr. Paul J. Morris

### **Edna May Moss**

Ruth and Elise Daulley

### **Mother- The Girl Scout Leader**

Rev. Jean Mueller

### **Eleanor Neumann**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann

### **Lucy Neumann**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann

### **Newman Family**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

### **Susan Oelzen**

Miss Susan Deuser  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Klasing  
Ms. Carol S. Pohl  
Mr. John Thies, Jr. and Family

### **Robert, Shirley and Jim O'Reilly**

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly

### **Joseph Palank**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Simon



# MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES : 2/1/17 - 7/31/17



## **Ruth Pfaender**

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hoeper

## **June Piper**

Apple Tree Condominums Committee

Members, Independence, MO

Mrs. Lola Borchers

Mr. Richard Graff

Mr. Harry H. Hommes

Jeff and Marita Ray

Paul and Pamela Sorensen

Mrs. Dorothy Van Hoy

## **Mike Porzelt**

Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Cyliax

Miss Debbie K. Fortman

## **Bobbie Randazzo**

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Aumann

## **Kenneth Rowley**

Mrs. Dorothy Rowley

## **Lawrence Schnelting**

Mr. Tracy Schnelting

## **Mildred Schrader**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Neumann

## **Virginia Sendlein Serb**

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kilpatrick

## **Rose Sieckmann**

Mrs. Vera G. Goessling

## **Roy "Squirrel" Edward Sievers**

Mr. Dennis B. Mertz

## **Aubrey and Alice Stiles**

Mrs. Sally Watts

## **Bernice Stoker**

Mrs. Arleen Bicklein

Mrs. Lynn Feicht

First National Bank of Waterloo

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Huesemann

Ms. Wendy Meister Juenger

Ms. Wanda Quernheim

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Row, Jr.

Nelda R. Saul

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Schaefer

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer R. Waldron

Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Zink

## **George Thompson**

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thompson

## **Rev. I. David Thompson**

Mr. John Faul

Ms. Nancy M. Morr

St. Louis City Fitness LLC, Marcia Wever

## **Marcia Louise Twiehaus**

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Twiehaus

## **Clifton V. Watts**

Mrs. Sally Watts

## **Francis Wernecke**

Mrs. Eunice Anderson

## **Herbert and Ida Wernecke**

Mrs. Eunice Anderson

## **Rev. Wilmer Wernecke**

Mrs. Eunice Anderson

## **Rev. J.F. Wickey**

Mrs. Virginia J. Ziegler

## **Ben F. Willis**

Mrs. Velma M. Willis

## **{IN HONOR OF}**

## **ECH Staff**

Mrs. Betty J. Tope

## **Sharon Fenoglio**

Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Baur

## **Emma Kreienkamp's 100th Birthday**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Viehmann

## **Joan Martin**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

## **John Martin**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

## **Jeanette Meyer's 78th Birthday**

Mrs. Doris Lueken

## **Steve Newman**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

## **Ms. Lois Puchta and**

## **Mr. Don Kruse's Wedding**

Rev. Constance Tanis

## **Ginger and Earl Solomon's**

## **60th Wedding Anniversary**

Mrs. Judith Dennert

## **St. Johns Evangelical UCC, Mehlville**

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hornung

## **Eloise Suenkel's 100th Birthday**

Mr. and Mrs. Arvel Witte

Mrs. Phyllis Witte

## **Ruth Watson**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Watson

## **John Wernecke**

Mrs. Eunice Anderson

## **WINTERMEYER MEMORIALS**

## **Ed Shell**

Mr. Richard Love and Mrs. Lois Love



# CORPORATION & FOUNDATION GIVING



## CASH

America's Farmers Grow  
Communities  
Bloomsdale Bank  
Child Day Care Association  
Emerson Charitable Trust  
Frank A and Alpha H Ruf Fund for  
Evangelical Children's Home  
Herman T. & Phenie R. Pott  
Foundation  
International Brotherhood  
Electrical Workers  
Joe Milner Carpets, Inc.  
Kai Design & Build  
Kimaterials, Inc.  
Ladies Aid, ECH  
Liberty Mutual  
Limited Leasing Company  
Lucky's Market  
Mailings Unlimited  
McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer,  
L.C. Attorneys At Law  
Millsap & Singer, LLC  
Missouri Foundation for Health  
MO. State Employee Charitable  
Campaign  
MOD Super Fast Pizza, LLC  
Old Newsboys Day Foundation  
Paylink Payment Plans, LLC  
Schroeder & Associates, PC  
Security Traders Association  
of St. Louis  
St. Louis Christmas Carols  
Association

State Farm Companies Foundation  
Texas Roadhouse  
Texas Roadhouse Arnold #350  
Truman Heartland Community  
Foundation  
United Way of Central &  
Northeastern Connecticut  
Winkelmann Sons Drug Company

## IN KIND

Andy's Frozen Custard  
Auto Spa ETC  
Bar Louie Kirkwood  
Bentley Studio, Ltd.  
Big Shark Bicycle Company  
Billy G's Kirkwood  
Blanche M. Touhill Performing  
Arts Center  
Bloomsdale Bank  
Blue Chip Pest  
Branneky and Sons  
Bravo!  
Chandler Hill Vineyards  
City Museum  
Clarkson Jewelers  
Community State Bank -  
Bowling Green & Troy MO  
Crayola Experience Orlando  
Crescent Farms Golf Club  
Dewey's Pizza  
Dierbergs Markets Inc.  
Drury Hotels, LLC

Fairmount Park  
Ferguson Brewing Company  
Five Star Burgers  
FMG City Games  
Fortel's Pizza Den  
Gateway Motorsports Park  
Gateway Paintball Park  
Genovese  
Girl Scout Troop 4150  
Glazers Distributors  
Gus' Pretzels  
Happy Hookers  
Helping Hand Me Downs  
Ices Plain & Fancy  
Indigo Massage & Wellness  
KB Smash  
Kendra Scott  
Kennelwood Pet Resorts  
Kimaterials, Inc.  
Kirkwood Brewhouse  
Ladies Aid, ECH  
Lola & Penelope's Pet Boutique  
Massa's  
Mastermind Room Escape  
Millsap & Singer, LLC  
National Blues Museum  
One 19 North Tapas Bar  
Panera Bread, LLC  
Parkview Gardens  
Pevely Farms Golf Club  
PF Chang's  
QuikTrip Corporation  
Renaissance Plastic Surgery  
Safety Basics LLC

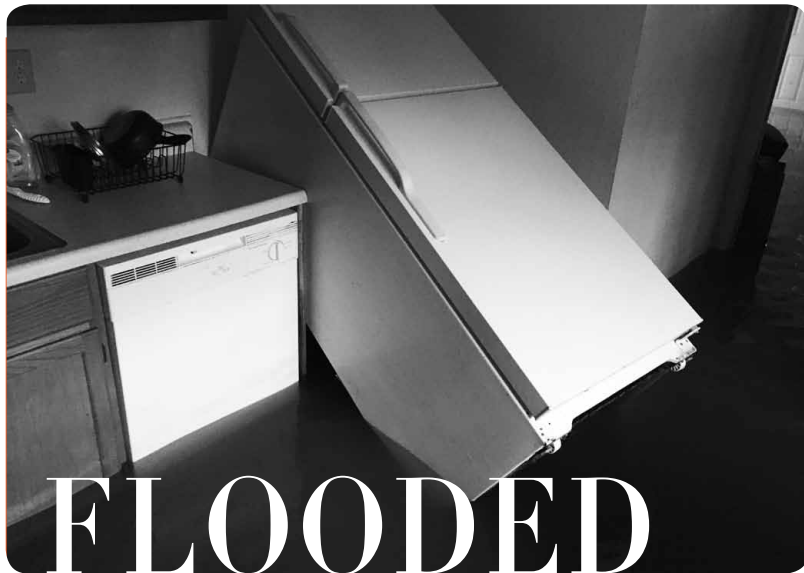
Schlafly Beer  
Schroeder & Associates, PC  
Sheldon Concert Hall  
Silver Dollar City  
Slider House  
South County Senior Law &  
Estate Planning Center  
Square One Brewery and  
Distillery  
St. Louis Blues Hockey Club/  
Scotttrade Center  
St. Louis Christmas Carols  
Association  
Steak 'n Shake  
Sugar Creek Gardens  
The Cheesecake Factory  
Bakery Inc.  
The Fabulous Fox  
Tony's on Main Street  
Total Wine & More  
Valvoline Instant Oil Change  
Walt Disney World Co.  
Walter Knoll Florist  
Waterway Gas & Wash  
Winkelmann Sons Drug  
Company  
Woodard Cleaning &  
Restoration Services





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY HELEN!

Helen, an active member of the Auxiliary and a huge supporter, just turned 93! Her church, St. Matthews, hosted a party in her honor. Helen asked that all of the donations received at her party be split between two charities, which of course included Steppingstone. Thanks for all your support, Helen! 93 sure looks good on you!



# FLOODED WITH LOVE

At the end of the summer, the agency-owned apartments in Raytown suffered historic flooding on three separate occasions within about a month's time. The four lower apartments were severely damaged, having received 19.5 inches of water. Fortunately, all staff and youth were safe, and the youth living in the affected apartments were moved to other open units. Dan, the one-man maintenance department, worked tirelessly, along with other staff, to get the apartments dried out as quickly as possible. The Steppingstone Director has been working with the city of Raytown to address the issues of why the buildings are prone to flooding, and contractors are working on the renovations.

In the midst of this damaging flood, there has been a silver lining in the



form of donations and support from the community! The Auxiliary group met shortly after the flooding, and was quick to offer a donation to help with the costs of repairs and flood mitigation, estimated to be close to \$30,000.

Additionally, Pastor Bob Atkinson emailed the

Western Association Pastors group, asking for prayers and encouraging local churches to donate. Several churches have responded to this need so far. Steppingstone is so grateful for a dedicated group of supporters who are quick to help when an unexpected need arises. We can't thank you all enough!





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

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ST. LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT NO. 937

# Welcome Cesar!

Join us in welcoming a new Case Manager to Steppingstone, Cesar! Cesar brings exceptional case management experience and skills to the program, and he is also bi-lingual. Having Cesar on staff will provide support to our Spanish-speaking youth and their families, while demonstrating sensitivity to the needs of these youth.



# Bienvenido, Cesar!

Acompañenos a darle la bienvenida al nuevo Case Manager de Steppingstone, Cesar. Cesar trae una experiencia excepcional y habilidades a nuestro programa, en adición a su capacidad de ser bilingue en el idioma español. El tener a Cesar como empleado proveera apoyo a nuestros jovenes hispanos y sus familias, en conjunction con sensibilidad y entendimiento por sus necesidades.

