



Celebrating 40 years of service in our community!



Stepping Stones Agencies Newsletter

JANUARY 2020

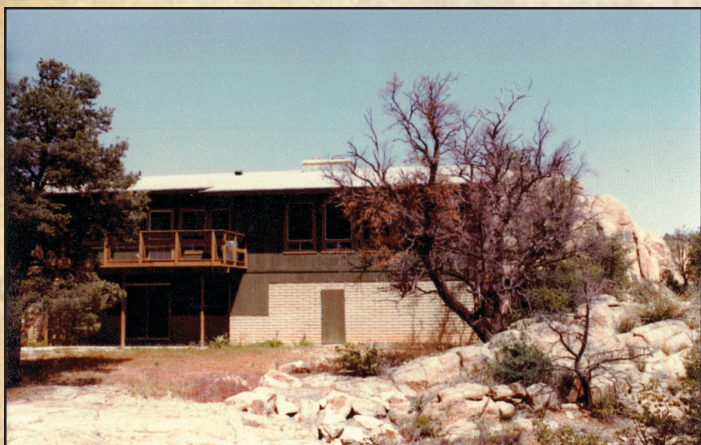
40th anniversary

Remembering The Times

Special Edition

40 YEARS OF EMPOWERMENT

SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES SINCE 1980



Stepping Stones' original shelter in West Yavapai County.

IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW NEEDS TO TALK
WITH AN ADVOCATE, PLEASE CALL US AT

928.445.HOPE

ADVOCACY SERVICES WE OFFER INCLUDE :

- » 24/7/365 HELPLINE
- » EMERGENCY
SAFE SHELTER
- » TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING
- » EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT GROUPS
- » SAFETY PLANS FOR
ADULTS & CHILDREN

"My time at Stepping Stones was life changing. It helped me connect with other women who have gone through similar violence that I experienced. It helped me learn boundaries and structure in my life. Having support while getting back on my feet empowered me that I can do things on my own and helped me take control over my life."

- 2014 advocacy program participant

"Three months ago I thought I was going to die, then the cops showed up and helped me call Stepping Stones. But now I have a job at the thrift store and I make my own money. I can't believe it. Life is so much better than I could have ever thought."

- 2015 advocacy program participant

100% OF
PROCEEDS
STAY LOCAL &
SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITY!



Stepping Stones' first thrift store grand opening.

ADVOCATES AVAILABLE ON OUR 24/7/365 HELPLINE 928.445.4673

JANUARY IS ALL ABOUT NEW BEGINNINGS

ANNA'S STORY: "I THOUGHT I COULD GIVE THESE GUYS WHAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THEIR ENTIRE LIVES."

As a child, Anna* witnessed her father severely abuse her mother. After being abandoned, she became a ward of the state. "I grew up in lock down facilities and group homes. But I felt rescued. I never wanted my life to turn out like my parents. I became strongly independent and continued my education."

Even with her drive to be independent and live differently than her childhood experiences, Anna found herself in more than one abusive relationship as an adult. From an emotionally abusive first husband to engaging in physical fights with her daughter's father where "my blood covered the walls and floor," Anna found herself living in the same abuse she swore she wanted to leave behind.

"It didn't matter if we had to deal with repeated domestic violence court cases and court ordered placements in the domestic violence shelters or if he nearly broke my back and dislocated my jaw. No matter what happened between us, I stayed."

Finally, in her most recent relationship, they were on a road trip with her children and she drew the line when her fiancé was driving under the influence of alcohol putting them all in danger. They got into a physical altercation at a rest stop and he left them there. "Sheriff's deputies rescued us that day and brought us here to Stepping Stones."

Now living in safety, Anna is working hard to rediscover her independence and safety for her family. She's discovered through



If you want to start a new beginning, call our advocates today. You don't have to live in our shelter to receive services. 24/7/365 Helpline: 928.445.HOPE (4673)

NEW BEGINNINGS START WITH SAFETY

Finding a new beginning for families often starts with a phone call. Once they are in a safe place, they can then begin the hard work of finding freedom from all forms of abuse. Adults who have participated in Stepping Stones programs are asked to take an anonymous survey upon completion of the program to provide feedback on how they feel their lives have improved since graduating. In the first three quarters of 2019 (Jan 1 - Sept 30), those who participated shared:



97% feel they will remain free from abuse when they left the program.

94% reported their child gained skills that will enable them to keep themselves safe in the future.

97% feel they are regaining control of their life.

98% feel they know how to plan for their continued safety.

one-on-one advocacy and our educational support groups that she needed to take an honest self-inventory and reflect on her experiences. "I thought I could give these guys what they didn't have their entire lives. I knew how they felt since all I wanted was the same. I realized as well that I couldn't nourish these men to change for the better themselves, but instead, this [realization] strengthened me. I'm living proof that mayhem can mold and transform into a courageous, strong, and intelligent spirit."

If you or someone you know is in need of safety and freedom from all forms of abuse, call our 24/7/365 Helpline and speak with an advocate - 928-445-4673.

** Name changed*

ADVOCATES AVAILABLE ON OUR 24/7/365 HELPLINE 928.445.4673

START OFF THE NEW YEAR RIGHT WITH US!



by Jesus Gutierrez

Even if you didn't make any resolutions, most start the year out with new goals to pursue and a fresh start! From living a much healthier

lifestyle to giving back and making a difference in our community, this is the perfect time of year to plan out 2020. If your new year's plan is to make a positive impact in our community, then know there are plenty of volunteer opportunities at Stepping Stones to do it. Here are just a few positions currently available. Do any of these statements fit your personality or skills?

Are you an outgoing person and love to help others? Why not

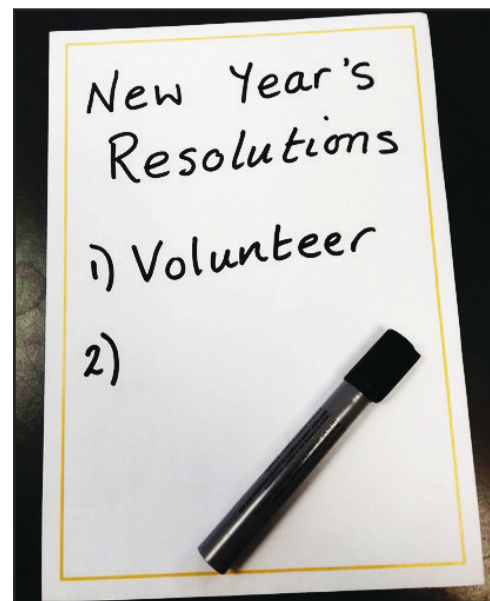
help guests find that treasure they've been looking for. That can be helping them find clothes to prepare for the winter, a fun birthday gift for a relative, or even locate an upgraded dresser to add to their home. Become our very own Guest Support!

Are you very detail oriented and can follow step by step instructions? Help sort and price donations as our Items Specialist! Because of our AMAZING donors, donations come in daily to support the families we serve. This position is perfect for someone who wants to help keep our thrift store running smoothly and successfully!

Do you like working on a computer and are tech savvy? Do enjoy helping out in an office setting? If you are a rare gem who is detail oriented, can enter data, scan documents, and keep files organized, we have just the

spot for you! This position is perfect for anyone who has great computer skills and doesn't mind working with files (both paper and digital!).

If you or anyone you know are interested in volunteering, please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Jesus at 928.772.4184.



NEW BEGINNINGS WITH A TAX CREDIT DONATION



Did you know that you can still make a tax credit donation to Stepping Stones up until tax day in April? You can choose where your tax dollars go with the Arizona State Qualifying Tax Credit Program. It's easy as 1-2-3!:

1. Make a donation to Stepping Stones - up to \$400 if filing single, and up to \$800 if filing married, and we'll send you a receipt!
2. When you file your Arizona state taxes, include form 321 with your donation information and our special organization code: 20034 (Always check with a tax professional regarding donations).
3. Receive a dollar-for-dollar tax

credit for your donation and keep your tax dollars local! This credit is not the same as a tax deduction and you don't need to itemize to benefit! AND you can do receive this credit along with the Schools Tax Credit and Foster Care Tax Credit.

Thank you for making a difference for local families by keeping your tax dollars right here in the community!

For questions or making a donation, call Cori or Alexis at 928.772.4184.

Please check with your tax professional for information regarding donations. Stepping Stones' official Qualifying Charitable Tax Credit code from the State of Arizona is: 20034.

ADVOCATES AVAILABLE ON OUR 24/7/365 HELPLINE 928.445.4673

A LOOK BACK AT THE BEGINNING: FAITH HOUSE 1980

Four decades ago and before hundreds of thousands of hours of advocacy services were provided, Stepping Stones Prescott began as the Northern Arizona extension of Faith House. Faith House was the first domestic violence shelter in the country based in the Phoenix area. Beginning with a 21-bed home in Prescott, Stepping Stones grew to providing 24/7/365 advocacy services through the Helpline, one-on-one advocacy, and housing for adults and children affected by domestic violence.

While safe shelter is a part of our services since the beginning, another key part of the work continuing today is providing community based advocacy services - you don't have to live at Stepping Stones to talk to an advocate for support or attend counseling or groups.

Stepping Stones wouldn't still be here today without the support of so many associates, volunteers, business partners, and friends who have worked around the clock for 40 years to help provide the best for people working to find freedom from all forms of abuse. Thanks to you, we are here to celebrate 40 years of 24/7 services!

Check out this article snippet from 1980 about the opening of Faith House in Prescott (and a few pictures!).



Faith House opens doors

Women and their children who are victims of domestic violence found a place to turn Sept. 1 with the opening of Faith House, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Since that time, 42 women and children have stayed at the house. According to Idelia Riggs, a member of the board of directors, the house has provided a total of 382 residence days for victims of domestic violence.

During the Christmas holiday, five women and seven children were in residence.

Located off Willow Creek Road, on Private Road next to the KOA campground, the non tax-supported shelter provides a temporary residential retreat with counseling sessions and alcohol and drug abuse programs. The average stay is nine days.

The shelter and Villa de Fidelis Inc., a non-profit support organization, were started after a study conducted by local members of the American Association of University Women in 1979 showed an alarming number of domestic violence cases in Prescott.

The rambling house in Granite Dells was purchased with the help of Betty Ryan, director of Faith House in Phoenix. A local donation drive outfitted the house with furniture and household items while Prescott and Phoenix fund raising events help to pay the bills.

From top: View of Stepping Stones' first shelter in Prescott on 11 acres of land. Middle: The shelter was 21-bed home with common living space for women and children to enjoy. Bottom: Views of Granite Dells from the back porch of the 1980 shelter. Right article: News release about the new Faith House shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI and VII) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Stepping Stones Agencies prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. Stepping Stones must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For example, this means that if necessary, Stepping Stones Agencies must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that Stepping Stones Agencies will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy please contact: Cori Burke at 928.772.4184. Para obtener este documento en otro formato o obtener información adicional sobre esta política, por favor llamar a Cori Burke, 928.772.4184