

Stepping Up

Celebrating 40 years of service in our community!



Stepping Stones Agencies Newsletter

JUNE 2020

JUNE IS ALL ABOUT POTENTIAL

"The abuse started happening slowly, not realizing he was tearing me down until it was too late. He started by coming up with excuses why I couldn't go see my friends and family. Then, he would tell me I wasn't worth anything as a person. By the time he started getting physically violent, I was already so tore down, I didn't care much.

When I finally left and came to Stepping Stones, I was so empty, it took me several days to even start processing what my life had become."

Janna's* story is like many who are experiencing abuse. The impact of the abuse is far deeper than bruises because emotional and mental abuse can keep people vulnerable to future abuse.

Our advocates work with adults to help them find their potential and rebuild their self-worth when they feel as though they are worthless. For many, it is difficult to begin to put in the work to rebuild what they lost (or may be finding for the first time). But, our advocates are there every step of the way, helping each person to find freedom from abuse and discover what their life can look like in the future.

"The physical stuff never hurt as badly as his words. I can't say enough about how Stepping Stones advocates helped me find who I was again. I chose to do the work to rebuild what he tore down, and now I feel stronger than ever." Our advocates are available 24/7/365: 928.445.4673. * name changed



If you or someone you know needs support because of abuse or just need someone to talk to, call us on our 24/7 helpline at 445-4673.

POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE GOALS



From rebuilding self-worth to growing in self-sufficiency, adults are working hard to create futures full of potential and free from abuse. Adults in our programs take an anonymous survey upon exit to provide feedback. From Jan 1- March 31, 2020, those who participated shared:

100% reported they feel they are regaining control in their life.

100% reported they know how to plan for their continued safety.

100% reported they felt their safety improved even after leaving Stepping Stones.

100% reported their children have skills that enable them to keep themselves safe in the future.

ADVOCATES AVAILABLE ON OUR 24/7/365 HELPLINE 928.445.4673

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: VOLUNTEERS SHARE WHY THEY SERVE

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University hosted the Cal Pac Conference, and student athletes volunteered along with other attending teams at Stepping Stones. Read what they had to say about their experience:

“We have been fortunate to work with Stepping Stones on several occasions now with our teams and opponents. I feel that the opportunity to serve been very impactful to our student-athletes. To know that their efforts have helped an organization that supports our local community is key to the students and you can see the pride in their eyes when they are helping, whether it be organizing and cleaning at the thrift stores or working at the administrative offices. My favorite moment is when Jesus explains how the student’s time helping Stepping Stones has taken months of work from the other volunteers and employees. The realization that what they are doing does help is very special. Our relationship with Stepping Stones is one that we will continue and I hope that all of the Quad Cities can support such an important community organization.”

- Embry Riddle Athletics Deptment

Check out this note from one of our former Bradshaw Mountain High School National Honor Society volunteers, Aaron:

“One of the best parts about volunteering with Stepping Stones is that you can see how your work directly impacts the lives of others. One of my favorite experiences as a volunteer was preparing Christmas gift baskets for the children in the shelters. As a kid, receiving gifts during Christmas was one of my fondest memories. The children in the shelters are in tough situations and many times cannot celebrate the holidays like I did, so the ability to give back and add joy to their Christmases was truly memorable.

Stepping Stones Agencies is a great organization working towards an admirable cause. What started as a way to accumulate community service hours [NHS] has turned into one of the best experiences in my life. If you want to give back to your community and make a difference in people’s lives, I highly recommend giving back to Stepping Stones. I am forever thankful to everybody who has helped me along the way and hope others consider following in my footsteps.”

-Aaron Massis, BMHS volunteer. He began volunteering at SSA when we was 14!



Top and middle photos: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University student athletes volunteer at Stepping Stones Thrift in Prescott Valley. Bottom: Aaron and his brother volunteer in the administration office.

THANK YOU - THRIFT STORES AND SERVICES OPEN

THANK YOU - we are so grateful to our awesome customers and friends who continue to support local families with us! We reopened our thrift stores on May 8 following the guidelines set by the state governor and the CDC. Even while our stores have been closed, we appreciate the support from everyone - from in kind goods for our shelter program to financial support to keep our doors open and lights on 24/7/365, we couldn't do it without you. Thank you so much for helping make a difference!



Here's a few pictures from our stores as our team worked hard to get things ready and packed full of treasures for reopening. Also - if you haven't checked out our new and improved parking lot at the Prescott Valley location, we've included a couple pictures below! More parking spaces available near our main entrance on the North side of the building.

Top: Our Prescott thrift store location welcoming customers back. Middle: Prescott Valley thrift store full of treasures. Bottom: Prescott Valley Thrift's new parking lot & great view!



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A RIPPLE EFFECT: 40 YEARS OF SUPPORT FROM YOU

Our Stepping Stones shelter (formerly known as Faith House) was the first rural shelter in the United States. It started with an idea in the 70's when there were no resources for women dealing with abuse.

In 1980, the shelter opened with a simple goal: to support those victims of domestic violence and other forms of abuse. As you can imagine, our services (like safe

shelter) are very much needed, but over time we realized there was always one question being asked... "How do we continue keeping our services available to local families 24/7/365?"

Our team started brainstorming ideas and came up with a few ways the community can contribute and help support those families. Our ideas included Step One Weiners, Step One Coffee House, all the way

to our most well-known Stepping Stones Thrift Stores.

And just like when a stone hits water, a rippling effect is made. It is because of you, these ideas succeeded and helped make a positive impact in others lives. We are grateful that you helped make these services possible for 40 years! Thank you for shopping, donating, and supporting local!



"Faith House"
Stepping Stones Shelter (1980)



Step One Weiners (2004)



Step One Coffee Shop (2011)



Recovery Bookstore (2011)



Step One Thrift (1997)



Step One Community Center (2003)

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