



Celebrating 40 years of service in our community!



Stepping Stones Agencies Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH THIS SHOULDN'T BE A RINGSIDE SEAT...



"I didn't want to take my kids away from their dad."

"I didn't want to be blamed to tearing the family apart."

"I told him I wanted a divorce and he yelled that he'd keep the kids and never let me see them again."

Children often get trapped in the middle of violence and abuse between parents. They are exposed to the devastation of emotional, verbal, and physical abuse in their homes.

Abusive relationships employ manipulation and fear to keep a partner from leaving because of fear of "losing" access to children or destroying the family structure. But staying in abuse "for the kids" causes children to experience trauma.

At Stepping Stones, we view children as PRIMARY victims of abuse, even though they may not be directly physically or sexually assaulted. The welfare of child victims takes precedence over all other responses.



Children who witness abuse are considered PRIMARY victims at Stepping Stones. The effects of abuse can impact their mental and emotional development long after the abuse is gone from their lives. Call our advocates if you need help: 928-445-4673.

What does this mean? It means that adult victims and offenders are held accountable in the areas that affect the welfare of children involved. It's the responsibility of adults to ensure that their children are safe and cared for. When abuse is present, children are not safe, even if they are only witnessing what is happening.

We strive to empower adult and child victims by providing unconditional, non-judgmental, supportive, and therapeutic responses to the abuse they've experienced. For adults, these

responses will be rigorously truthful, however difficult, so that they can have all information necessary to make healthy choices and truly make significant changes in their lives and the lives of their children.

If you or someone you know is living in abuse, please call our 24/7/365 "live" Helpline to speak with our advocates. From safe shelter to educational support groups to legal advocacy, they are ready to listen, share resources, and help: 928-445-HOPE (445-4673).

ADVOCATES AVAILABLE ON OUR 24/7/365 HELPLINE 928.445.4673

LEAVING ABUSE BEHIND FOR GOOD

A key part of truly finding freedom from all forms of abuse is shedding any victim postures and taking an honest self-inventory in order to address behaviors and trauma that is keeping someone vulnerable to abuse. At Stepping

Stones, our advocates help adults take a look at these areas and help families take control of areas in life they can control, and learn to let the rest go. 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. From January - June 2020, those who participated shared:



100% reported:

They have increased knowledge of domestic violence and its effect on their lives.

They have increased knowledge and understanding of violence, abuse, and neglect's effect on their child's life.

They are confident they will remain free from abuse when they leave SSA.

They feel their safety has improved, even after leaving SSA.

NOTES FROM FAMILIES: "THERE IS A GENUINE AND OVERWHELMING SENSE OF FREEDOM AND HOPE NOW."

"This program was so incredible for me. There is genuine and overwhelming sense of freedom and hope in me now. They were instrumental in helping me get and stay sober, and helping me become who I'm meant to be."

- Former shelter resident

"The support and encouragement when you feel down. The classes and information that open your eyes. The safety is extremely refreshing to know that I can come home and sleep soundly and never have to wonder about anything happening."

- Former shelter resident

"The new knowledge of how I was set up for no boundaries in my childhood the result of this being untreated until now and how I can change permanently so this abuse situation doesn't happen to me again without me withdrawing from contact with people altogether."

- Former community program participant

GET INVOLVED: 3 WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES WITH AN ARIZONA TAX CREDIT DONATION

What does it mean to give a 2020 AZ Qualifying Charitable Organization Tax Credit donation to Stepping Stones? *It means families are able to find freedom from all forms of abuse right here in our community.*

Arizona offers a dollar-for-dollar tax credit by making a donation to a qualified charitable organization of any amount (up to \$400 filing single or \$800 filing joint on your AZ state return). When you claim the credit on your state return, you will reduce your tax liability or increase the amount you receive in a refund. You do not have to itemize to receive this credit.

You can choose where your tax

dollars go AND make a difference in the lives of local families working hard to find freedom from all forms of victimization.

If you would like to give, you can donate online at:

steppingstonesaz.org/donate

or mail/drop off a check at our Administration office:

**2651 N. Industrial Way, Suite A
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**

Questions? Call Alexis or Brandon 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.*



SHOW SUPPORT! WEAR YOUR PURPLE RIBBON ALL MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and you can show your support by wearing a purple ribbon all month long! We have a limited number of free ribbons available at each of our thrift store locations and at our office. Show your support, spread the word about our work, and share our 24/7 Helpline number with the community!



HOLIDAY GIVING FOR FAMILIES FINDING FREEDOM

For some families living in our shelter, they haven't experienced a happy or peaceful holiday season in a long time.

One way we support these families is helping them create the holiday season they want. From sharing traditions with other residents to shopping for their children's gifts, they are able to enjoy the season

the way they want.

You can support this goal by purchasing Walmart or Amazon gift cards for families to use in shopping for each other this holiday season.

Thank you for helping families create a special holiday season they want!

If you have questions, please call Cori at 928-772-4184.



ONLINE ADVOCATE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

One way that COVID-19 has impacted our services this year is the challenge of safe in-person opportunities for support. In order to help keep residents, advocates, and community members seeking support safe and healthy, we limited our in-person meetings during parts of 2020.

What came from it was innovation! Our team quickly became equipped to find ways to serve families through even MORE phone support and video meetings online.

These changes have helped us to envision new ways to deliver services and stay connected to those in our safe shelter, as well as those receiving community-based services, AND help us meet

the needs of adults experiencing abuse right here in our community. If you're interested in connecting with an advocate, but would like to continue to keep safe distance

due to the pandemic, please call our advocates on the 24/7 helpline to arrange an appointment and learn more about how they can help support you - 928-445-4673.



JOIN THE FRY'S FOOD COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM



One thing that 2020 has brought back to life is grocery shopping and eating at home. With Fry's Community Rewards program, you can do your regular shopping and Fry's will donate to Stepping Stones!

You can enroll in the program with your VIP card and choosing Stepping Stones as the recipient of your Community Rewards donation. Check out the instructions below and call Alexis with questions at 928-772-4184.

- Go to www.frysfood.com/topic/new-community-rewards-program and click "Enroll Now"
- Log-in to your current Fry's account or register for a new one (requires basic contact information and your current Fry's VIP card number).
- Enter Stepping Stones' Organization Number: HN881, populating STEPPING STONES FOUNDATION, INC. Select it and click "Enroll".
- Use your VIP card each time you shop at Fry's Food Stores to support local families with us!

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