

The Day That Changed My Life



Portrait by BW Portrait Art

Meet Jazmin and hear her story of determination and perseverance. She has come so far, thanks to you!

My mom was murdered. Wrong place, wrong time. It led to my homelessness. At first, I rented a hotel room with my girls and son. It was \$90 a night. I couldn't keep doing that. I called their grandma and their dad and said, "It's time I get back on my feet." They drove 16 hours and picked them up. I told the kids that I'd see them later. I was frozen. My feet were frozen. My hands were frozen. It hurt to walk. A nice police officer said, "We have a place that you can go to." They helped me get into Stepping Stone. When I got there, they were really nice. They fed me and let me search through the clothing closet.

That was a day that changed my life... otherwise, I don't know where I'd be right now. I was outside and it was eight degrees.

It's not hard for me now. I have a plan to achieve my goal. By this summer, I plan to have my own place with room for my kids. I have three month goals and six month goals. As long as you're doing your plan, you will move forward.

This shelter is an actual stepping stone back into a new life.

Currently, I have a full-time job and live at Blaine House* with two other past residents. I am saving for my own place and to give my kids a future. To be a family again. That's what I am working for. I am healing every day, one-step at a time.

"I was frozen. My feet were frozen. My hands were frozen. It hurt to walk."

*Stepping Stone was able to purchase a three-bedroom home from Anoka County for \$1 and had volunteers do a renovation. This house serves as a vital stepping stone for some of our residents to create a positive credit history, and get real-life rental experience while continuing their journey towards self-reliance.

Strategically Planning How to Use Your Donation



Stepping Stone is in the process of writing a new three-year strategic plan for 2022-2024. We've hired the firm Gray Hall to help us do this right! We want to always be looking at ways to improve on and help those experiencing homelessness in our community. With your generosity and our plan, we won't stop until, "everyone has a place to call home."

YOU, US, WE

A word from Executive Director Julie Jeppson



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I want to be the voice of our residents for a moment. You most likely will never meet or talk to them, but they are grateful for your support. Because of you, our residents...

- Sleep in a warm bed every night.
- Eat three healthy meals every day.
- Smile and laugh with friends they've made.
- Build lasting, healthy friendships.
- Have a community of support who genuinely care about them.

- Share their stories and backgrounds with non-judgmental, listening ears.
- Work with experts to knock down their barriers.
- Access support and services that otherwise wouldn't be available.
- Find calm in the hope that they will never need to experience homelessness again.

By trusting Stepping Stone with your dollars, you accomplish all of the above, plus much more! Yes, there are supplies and "stuff" that we use your donations to purchase, but it's the intangibles that are priceless. Only through Stepping Stone's holistic approach, empower, respect, collaborate, steward, which is made possible because of you, is stability in our residents' lives possible.

This year is my 10th year of working with this amazing organization. There will always be ups and downs, unexpected struggles and humbling generosity, and through it all YOU have been the constant. You, a member of the community, allow US, Stepping Stone staff, to do critical work with those experiencing homelessness.

Make a Difference!

When you support Stepping Stone, you provide one-of-a-kind programming to people experiencing homelessness who are taking that stepping stone path toward independent living!

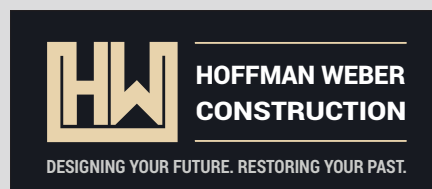
How to Help Today:

- Donate today by mail or on our website
- Register for Real Stories | One Stage
- Donate Amazon wish list items
- Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter
- Volunteer
- Ask your employer to match gifts
- Log in to smile.amazon.com and donate 5% of your purchases to Stepping Stone
- Allocate Thrivent Choice Dollars
- Sign up to donate a meal

REAL STORIES | ONE STAGE *Dinner Theater Experience*

Want to see WHO your donation has helped? Join us on Friday, March 25, 5:30 p.m. at Bunker Hills Event Center for Real Stories | One Stage and hear stories from current residents. We guarantee it's a night you won't soon forget!

***Thank you Leading Role Sponsor,
Hoffman Weber Construction!***



Community Partners

Businesses That Help Build Pathways



Coats Delivered Just in Time for the Cold

Financial One Credit Union held a coat drive for Stepping Stone and Hope4Youth. They delivered bags of coats to our shelter, and just in time for the cold weather to hit! We all know how brutal Minnesota winters can be, and when you don't have anything, not even a lightweight jacket, you appreciate a warm coat even more. Our residents appreciate all you do for them.

Meals for Thanksgiving.....and More

Coon Rapids Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM of Coon Rapids contacted us and let us know they wanted to ensure that all our residents had a special meal for Thanksgiving. They were so generous with not one, but two matching donations, that we were able to purchase a total of three special holiday meals! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts (or stomachs, in the case of our residents!)



COVID Hits and Fridley Lions Step Up

Fridley Lions donated a whopping \$10,000 to our COVID crisis hotel needs! We had to quickly social distance our residents this late fall when COVID hit our residents and staff, and Fridley Lions stepped up to the plate and showed their love for us and their community by helping during our time of need.

Myth: Only Santa delivers presents on Christmas Eve

Fact: You became Santa to our Residents

What a holiday our residents had, and that is all in thanks to YOU! Our Santa Shoppe was up and running – and yes, at the hotel. Our staff moved out of their two-room office suite to have the space for our residents to "shop". Volunteers showed up at the shelter to sort all the goodies, deliver sorted items to the hotel, and pass them off to staff to set up shop. Here's what our Shelter Team Manager Steph had to say, "The residents really liked the items that we had. Two of them had me tearing up because they said they have stayed in shelters over the holidays and no agency has ever done anything like we did for them." Your donation of blankets, sweatshirts, socks, winter gear, puzzle and coloring books, craft items, etc. really did bring joy to our residents. We are so grateful to you and so are our residents!



Charities Review Council Approval!



Stepping Stone wants you to know that we do all we can to ensure that we have financial integrity, transparency, and accountability. One way we build this trust is to be a Charities Review Council Meets Standards organization. We are proud to announce that Stepping Stone just received their three-year certification renewal!

The rigorous review process examines four key areas:

- Public Disclosure
- Governance
- Financial Activity
- Fundraising

We voluntarily participated in this review so you can know that every dollar you send us, we will be fiscally accountable and transparent about how we use it. We want you to be comfortable with each donation you send, and this is one way we do that. You can find a link on our website for more information on what this important certification means to you, our donor.

Keystone Sponsors

Because of YOU, we can do more!



Mark. M. Welter Foundation
A FAMILY FOUNDATION

*We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.*
Winston Churchill



Pathways is a publication of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, Anoka, MN • Contact us at 763-323-7006 or info@steppingstoneeh.org

