

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

The primary purpose of Project Stepping Stone is to provide safe and stable temporary housing for you and your family. During this stay, you are given the opportunity to meet with various support groups within the community who can help you better your living situation.

While you are in the Project Stepping Stone program, you will not be asked to pay us for rent, water, electricity, heat, or air conditioning. Your stay is absolutely free!

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO IN RETURN?

In return, we ask that you and your family take advantage of this opportunity to save your resources. By the end of your stay, you should have saved enough money to move into more permanent housing.

Additionally, a \$100 damage deposit is needed before you move into a house. This deposit will be happily and promptly refunded at the end of your stay, provided the house is left in acceptable condition.

Lastly, we ask that you respectfully obey the rules of the house and take care of your temporary home so more people can take advantage of the same awesome opportunity as you have.

WHO IS PROJECT STEPPING STONE?

Project Stepping Stone began in September 1989 when the congregations of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Cross recognized a need within the community for free temporary housing for families who find themselves in sudden financial crisis. They started with one house and, within three years, expanded their ministry with the addition of two more houses. In 2011 First Presbyterian Church joined this mission outreach.

The original seed money to start Project Stepping Stone came from The Lilly Endowment. Since then, the organization has depended on generous grants and donations from local churches, businesses, and individuals.

As with most small-scale non-profit organizations, Project Stepping Stone is staffed solely by volunteers. These volunteers work tirelessly to make and uphold policy, seek funding, and maintain day-to-day operations.

PROJECT STEPPING STONE

projectsteppingstone@gmail.com

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
900 W. White River Blvd.
(765) 282-0619



providing temporary housing for families in need

HOW CAN I GET INTO THIS PROGRAM?

- Complete an application. *These are available at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church or via e-mail.*
 - Bring contact information for at least three non-family member references
 - Bring proof of most recent employment
- Schedule an interview. *Someone from Project Stepping Stone will review your application, check your references, and schedule you for an interview.*
- Let us get to know you. *Your interview will be conducted with a few members of the board. At this time we will discuss with you your present and past living situations, determine your level of need, and decide if we are the right agency for you.*
- Sign a participant agreement and pay your damage deposit. *If you are selected to participate in the Project Stepping Stone program, you will be required to sign a participant agreement accepting the terms of the agreement and pay a \$100 damage deposit before moving in.*
- Keep in touch. *During your stay, you will be visited by a house manager who is also a member of the board. This person's responsibilities are to uphold house rules and help you to find the resources you need to be successful.*

Let us know how we did. *When your visit is over, we'll conduct another interview where we seek your feedback to help us improve our services. At this time, we'll refund your \$100 damage deposit provided the house is in acceptable condition.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Am I eligible to participate in Project Stepping Stone? *To be eligible, an applicant must have custody of children, a job (or potential job), and a need for housing.*

How long do I have to wait before I can move into a house? *After submitting your application, a Project Stepping Stone representative will begin checking your references within a few days. You could be scheduled for an interview in as little as two weeks or as long as one month of submitting your application, depending on the workload of the board. The wait to move into a house depends on the situation of the current tenants. Sometimes the wait will be two months, and sometimes there will be no wait.*

I really don't have to pay anything? *We will allow you and your family to stay in the house for free. The power, water, heat, and air-conditioning are also free. We will not cover phone, internet or cable. Additionally, you will be required to make a \$100 damage deposit that may be refundable at the end of your stay.*

Are the houses furnished? *Each house has essential furnishings such as lamps, chairs, beds and mattresses, tables, and kitchen utensils. However, each house is different so be sure to ask before you sign a participant agreement.*

Who can move in with me? *Only family members listed on the application are allowed to live in the house. Unfortunately, no pets are allowed to live in the house at any time.*

What are my obligations while staying in a house? *Aside from saving your resources to move towards permanent housing after your stay with us, you only need to follow the rules of the house. Yard and house maintenance is the responsibility of Project Stepping Stone.*

How long am I allowed to stay in the house? *Generally, a stay will last no longer than three months. A tenant will sometimes only stay for a month before he is able to move on his own. Remember: there is always somebody waiting to move into a house after you.*

What type of support can Project Stepping Stone give me while I am staying in a house? *We will be able to connect you with a number of other local agencies to help with groceries, clothing, health care, banking, school supplies, and spiritual needs.*

What if you don't choose me to participate in this program? *If you are not chosen, you will be referred to another agency who will be more well-suited to help you than we are.*