

For over 20 years, generous donations from the Delaware County community have helped us maintain three houses and assist many local families on their quest to financial stability.



SOME SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT POVERTY

- The average age of a homeless person in America is nine years old.
- Nearly one in six people in Delaware County are at or below the federal poverty line, which is \$22,350 annual income for a family of four.
- This school year 77% of the students in Muncie Community School will receive free and reduced lunch. In 2000, it was 50% of the students.
- Many people in poverty actually work. To afford a two-bedroom apartment, a worker needs to earn at least \$12.00 an hour working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year. At minimum wage this equates to nearly 2.5 full-time wage earners, or one full-time earner working more than 90 hours per week.

PROJECT STEPPING STONE

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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providing temporary housing for families in need

WHO ARE WE?

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. We started with one house and, within three years, expanded our 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. As volunteers, we work tirelessly to make and uphold policy, seek funding, and maintain day-to-day operations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

By supporting Project Stepping Stone you are:

- *Helping to provide a safe, stable home for families in need of a respite and a chance to get back on their feet.*
- *Keeping families together, out of long term shelters and off the street.*
- *Providing hope to families as they work to better their economic and living situation.*

How is Project Stepping Stone funded?

Project Stepping Stone is funded by private donations, monies raised from a yearly Dessert Auction and Annual Campaign, grants, and contributions from the three churches which oversee the program.

Where do the funds go?

All funds raised from the Dessert Auction and Annual Campaign go directly into paying for the rent, utilities and upkeep of Project Stepping Stone's three houses. This allows the families to stay in the houses for free, with the hope that they can pay off debts and save money for a more stable future.

What is the Dessert Auction?

The Dessert Auction is an annual event where homemade desserts, items and services donated by the Muncie community

are auctioned off. Everything from brownies to a pony, gift certificates for a nail salon to Pacer tickets have been auctioned off.

What is the Annual Campaign?

Each year the Project Stepping Stone Board mails hundreds of letters to the friends of Project Stepping Stone asking for donations to help cover our operating costs.

How can I contribute?

Please donate an item, gift certificate or service to be auctioned off. Monetary donations will also be appreciated. Donations may be given to any PSS representative or mailed to PSS.

How will my donation be recognized?

All monetary and item/service donors are thanked with an official letter and all donations can be considered a tax-deductible contribution. For the Dessert Auction, all donors are publicly thanked on the flyer listing the auction items as well as verbally during the auction, which is attended by about 150 people.

Why is this so important?

As the economic situation continues there are many families that are on the brink of homelessness – moving often as they stay with friends and family. Without some respite these families often stay in this pattern for years, or become homeless. PSS wants to stop this from happening and offer them a way of saving for a more stable future.