

Summer 2015

Steppingstone, Inc.
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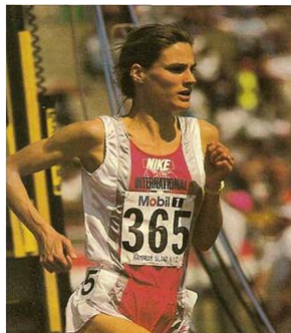


Steppingstone Today
Building a strong foundation for recovery

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Judi St. Hilaire Steps Out for Steppingstone, Inc. Fundraiser



During the summer of 1992 Judi St. Hilaire competed in the Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. She ran the 10,000 meter race for women and finished eighth for the United States team with a score of 31.34. This year St. Hilaire will be running in the 13th Annual Get Steppin' Run/Walk for the First Step Inn Emergency Homeless Shelter, a Steppingstone, Inc. program.

The event kicks off at 9 a.m. from the parking lot of BK's Beacon Restaurant at 320 Airport Road, Fall River which is located in the industrial park and will follow Airport, Riggerbach, Currant, and Skyes roads ending back at the Comfort Inn at 360 Airport Road, Fall River.

All participants are encouraged to ask family and friends to sponsor them for this event. Proceeds from the walk will help to support homeless men and women in the City of Fall River. Shelter guests receive safe emergency shelter, warm meals, case management services, housing advocacy and an opportunity to turn their lives around. .

This year Steppingstone will offer runners an opportunity to compete and win prizes as top male and female contenders. Additionally there will be prizes for the top individuals and teams who raise the most money for the walk.

Registration for runners is \$30 on or after July 24th. For pre-registration online for runners go to G2Racereg.com. Registration for walkers is \$10.

For further information about the run/walk go to www.steppingstoneinc.org and click on Get Steppin' 5K Run & Walk where you can print up registration forms, view the Sponsor page, etc.

You can make a difference by sponsoring the walk, running or walking, organizing a team, volunteering your time the day of the walk, and/or supporting the event by making a tax-deductible donation.

This is a rain or shine event. Food and beverages will be available immediately following the event for all those who participate. Look forward to seeing you there!



Steppingstone, Inc. Staff Milestones...



Louise Comeau was recently promoted to the position of **Food Service Manager**. Louise has been the Lead Cook in the Food Service Department at the Transition House since November, 2005. Prior to her employment at the agency she was the owner/operator of a local restaurant called Dad's Place, from April 2000 to October 2005. She is currently the owner of CNC Logistics, Inc. Louise earned both a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sociology & Psychology and a Master's of Early Childhood Education degree from Bridgewater State College.



Sara-Jane Mercer-Medeiros was recently hired as a full-time **Mental Health Clinician** at the agency's Outpatient Clinic. She is a recent graduate of Rhode Island College where she earned her Master's degree in Co-Occurring Disorders and her Bachelor's degree in Psychology. From the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She recently worked at South Bay Mental Health as a Treatment Coordinator, at SSTAR as a Counselor on the Dual Diagnosis Unit and at Harbour House Family Center as a Family Service Associate.



Cynthia Gallant was recently hired as a **Case Manager** at **the Next Step Home Program & Medical Case Management Program**. Cynthia obtained her Associates degree in Human Services from Bristol Community College. She worked as a Senior Case Manager at Catholic Social Services, as Medical Coordinator at Acentria Care Alliance and was a Developmental Specialist at People, Inc.



Lydia Vincent was recently hired as a **Counselor** at the **New Bedford Women's Program**. Lydia earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She successfully completed classes at Trundy Institute to become a Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor (LADC). Prior to becoming a Case Manager she worked as a Recovery Specialist at High Point Reflections Court Alternative Program, and at Steppingstone's New Bedford Women's Program as a Charge Person and an intern.



Jill Doyle was recently hired as a **Fee-for-Service Mental Health Clinician** at Steppingstone's **Outpatient Clinic**. Jill graduated from Ashland Theological seminary with a Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling. She formerly worked for Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois as a Residence Supervisor and as an In-Home Therapy Clinician at Health & Education Services in Beverly, MA.



Desiree Green was recently hired as a **Cook** in our **Food Services Department**. Desiree formerly worked at the Old Colony Road Rest Home as a Cook/Dietary Aid, at the Stand Drive-In as a Cashier/Server and at the Hong Kong Restaurant as Hostess/Food Runner/Busser. She graduated from the Rob Roy Academy completing the Cosmetology course and the Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School as a student Certified Nursing Assistant with Early Child care education.

Roger William University Students Partner with Steppingstone, Inc.

Steppingstone recently partnered with the Roger Williams University (RWU) Community Partnership Center. Last summer the RWU Community Partnership Center was seeking applications to provide project-based assistance to nonprofit organizations. The mission of the center is to undertake and complete projects that will benefit the local community while providing RWU students with experience in real-world projects that deepen their academic experiences.

Steppingstone submitted a proposal asking for assistance with developing effective, eye-catching marketing materials for the First Step Inn capital campaign and also requested help with the development of a new web site. The proposal was accepted and our partnership with RWU began with their spring semester.

A team of very talented, energetic and enthusiastic students from RWU's Gabelli School of Business were assigned to our project. This group consisted of Steven Chille, Nikolaas Eickelbeck, Katharine Fickett, Graham Jolicoeur, Eleonor Rio, and Emily Sarnelle and were led by their faculty advisor Professor Kathleen Micken.

Work began with a kickoff meeting in early February to discuss and develop the scope of the project. The student team had some great ideas and prom-

ised to get back to us quickly with their proposed scope of work. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans and the many February snow storms caused the project to slow to a



Steppingstone staff & Roger Williams University team hard at work.

crawl. However, the energetic and persistent RWU team was not about to let the weather deter them from moving the project forward

The RWU team reconvened with Steppingstone on March 3 to present and discuss their very detailed scope of work to develop a marketing plan for the First Step Inn capital campaign. This proposed plan placed particular emphasis on identifying our target audience, public relations, social media, donor relations and communications, brochures, and to fine tune/redesign our logo. From this point the project quickly gained momentum culminating in a very professional, comprehensive and entertaining final presentation.

During this final presentation, the RWU team did a great job of presenting Steppingstone with some very helpful tools and strategies for im-

proving our overall marketing plan and ultimately our overall image as an organization. Their final presentation included ways to improve our Public Relations, communicating our message through Public Service Announcements, a new look Facebook page, more effective use of Newsletters, and a re-fined, more modern Steppingstone Logo as displayed below.

In addition, all of their hard work was packaged and given to Steppingstone in a very comprehensive Project Final Presentation Information Packet.

The RWU team was not only helpful and productive, but fun to work with. Steppingstone would like to thank them for all their hard work. And we also look forward to working with their students of the Web Development Center next spring to continue our efforts to improve our web site.



Redesigned Logo

Upcycle to Uplift by Karen Aguiar, Counselor

Steppingstone’s Fall River Women’s Program started a new project this year to give back to the community. We have call our project **Upcycle to Uplift**. The purpose of the project is to make sleeping mats for homeless individuals using recyclable plastic grocery bags. The bags are turned into plastic yarn which is then crocheted into mats.



The clients all work together as a team to produce these mats and some are learning to crochet and teaching their peers. It reinforces the feeling of teamwork among our clients who all work together to make these very labor intensive mats, and it reduces the amount of plastic waste that enters landfills each year.



We feel the benefit of this project helps the homeless by providing them with dry comfortable mats to sleep on when they have nowhere else to sleep.



Although we do not take credit for inventing this, as it is being done in church groups and other charitable organizations, we did feel it was a perfect project for us to take on. We have had a great amount of support from staff, family and friends, providing us with thousands and thousands of bags! We are very grateful for all your help.

If you are interested in donating clean grocery bags, please drop them off at the Fall River Women’s Program, 522 North Main Street, Fall River, MA.



Pictures from the top left: Plastic grocery bags transformed, at right cutting bags into strips to make the loops, left tying the loops together, right creating the ball of “yarn”, left the finished mats and right Karen Aguiar carrying a completed mat on her shoulder.