



Dear Neighbor Ministries

eNews Update

January 2011

Dear Friends, A new year and we're off to a great start. Here is a short update on our news. Remember you can share this eNews by email, Facebook or LinkedIn just click the icons above.

[StepStone to Grow](#)

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Property owners, community police and StepStone staff meet to develop ways to expand services.

Justice Dept. Grant Allows Growth

Our new grant from the Office of Violence Against Women will allow us to expand our StepStone program and serve at least five more women.

We recently met with 13 property owners who have been identified by community police as trusted landlords. Together we will work on a plan to house women and children in rental properties. The landlords will work with StepStone to help transition the women to self sufficiency.

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StepStone House Sponsors Celebrate Five Years

Five years ago we started the StepStone house sponsor program. Area corporations and organizations provide funding to help defray the cost of providing a house and support services for survivors of domestic violence.

The annual sponsorships range from \$2,500 a year to \$10,000. In return for their support sponsors, can receive training on the impact of domestic violence on the workplace. StepStone staff will also assist our sponsors who have employees suffering from an abusive relationship.

Current sponsors include; Good Neighbor Employee Fund of Spirit Aerosystems, EMC Insurance, Wilson Building Maintenance, Metro Courier, and the Welsby Family. Others are expected to announce this month.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, [click here to request information.](#)

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Anita Oberwortmann, Honorary Chair of our Corporate Sponsors and Bernie Zalaznik, EMC Insurance, discuss their sponsorships of a StepStone home.



Wanda Pumphrey provides therapeutic counseling to women in our StepStone program.

The Counselors Corner

by Wanda Pumphrey

"I'm so glad you're here," I tell the woman who looks uncertain and guarded. It's her first counseling session and she is unsure whether this is a safe situation.

Over the next weeks we develop a trusting relationship that allows her to share her story: an abusive father, a mother who was unavailable, and a guy she thought could save her from the unbearable home life. I'm not surprised as the story unfolds: the man who was her "rescuer" soon became her abuser. Now she wonders what is wrong with her.

Together, we examine how confusing it is to a child when the parents you depend on for life, love and nurturing also hurt you. We work on ways to begin to heal the trauma. And we focus on her strengths that have helped her survive and now have brought her to StepStone, where she has a chance to create a different

story for herself and her children.

It's a joy to work alongside you, our supporters, to create a place where healing and change can happen.

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Free Special Occasion Cards

These cards are perfect to have on hand when you need to send a card. Each package contains:

- 1 Get Well Card
- 1 Birthday Card
- 2 Sympathy Cards
- 1 Thank You Card



Send the cards to notify someone that you made a donation to Dear Neighbor Ministries in their name or honor of the special occasion. The special occasion cards contain art and verse by Sisters of St. Joseph.

If you would like to receive a free package of cards or order additional sympathy cards [Click here to email your request.](#)

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Free Tax Return Preparation Starts Feb. 1

Nine volunteers have been trained by the IRS to prepare and file 2010 tax returns electronically for those with incomes of less than \$50,000 a year.

Last year we filed nearly 700 returns. If you or someone you know would like help, call 684-5120 to make an appointment.

We offer this service free to those who need the help.

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