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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STEPPING STONE PAVER ORDER FORM

With your help we can build a path to a better life for those we serve. A paver stone to be placed at our new "Stepping Stone" apartments is a great way to commemorate your donation. The pavers will be 10" by 10" six-sided stones just like the one at right... except it will have your name(s) or message etched into the surface. Each stone has room for three lines with up to 16 characters each. It will honor your commitment as well as serve a practical purpose. Your donation of \$600 or a one year pledge of \$50 per month to support our building fund will secure your stone. Please complete and return this form to reserve your personalized paver stone today.

ONE LETTER, NUMBER, PUNCTUATION MARK, OR SPACE-BETWEEN-WORDS PER BOX.



Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

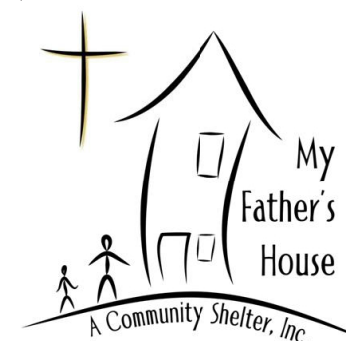
City, ST, Zip _____

☐ Attached is my check for \$600 for my personalized Stepping Stone Paver.

☐ I would like to purchase by credit card or by monthly payments of \$50. Contact me for the information needed to complete my purchase.

MESSENGER

Helping Families, Transforming Lives



SUMMER 2013

Building a "Next Step" for Single Mothers

Our latest project will pave the way to a better future

At My Father's House, we have a floor dedicated to just single moms. They call it the "Moms' Floor". Single mothers are our largest community of homeless families. 75% of our intake calls are from single mothers. We serve 14 single mother families at a time. That's why the board and staff are so excited about our new building project. We call it *Stepping Stone Apartments Transitional Housing*.

Working with single mothers is challenging. They have huge job and rental barriers. Many do not have the skills necessary for a job that pays higher than minimum wage. Many have not had jobs before, some having been stay-at-home moms who haven't had to work until now. Housing barriers are even more difficult. Due to the lack



of income, many apartments won't rent to them. Then you add in their credit rating, their rental history and, well, there are just plenty of other more "secure and reliable" renters out there.

Our new apartment living for single moms will be self-supporting. A mother moves into My Father's House with her child(ren), takes our classes and obtains a job. Then she can qualify to enter our extended one-year program at Stepping Stone

Apartments. There she will pay a lower rent than the market value. Through the one-year program, she will be able to achieve a high school diploma or complete other education in order to obtain a better, higher paying job.

If you would like more information, or would like to give or volunteer in making Stepping Stone Apartments a reality, please call Cathe or Wayne at 503-492-3046 x222.



"Personally I found self-respect and my way back to God while at MFH. Setting healthy boundaries is a new way of life for me." ~RL



"The program at MFH works... if you work them yourself." ~PL



"At MFH I gained confidence in myself, experienced forgiveness and the ability to extend forgiveness." ~HY



from the Director's Chair

Seems like every time I turn around, I have to deal with change. I am all about order and consistency. But change happens weekly around here, and sometimes it throws me for a loop. This summer was one of those times. Our program manager and our women's case manager both resigned and moved out of state within a few weeks of each other. Add to that a staffmember having surgery and out for a month... well, let me just say I haven't felt a sense of order, peace, or calm for a while. Feels much like running with your hair on fire.

Running through life can be a very tiring experience, and change *can* feel like the most horrible thing in the entire world! For a month I was just trying to make it through the day, accomplishing what I could between seven in the morning and ten at night. I am so grateful for a supportive staff, volunteers, and board members who serve and *serve*. (Not to mention my amazing husband!)

I am reminded that I didn't start this by myself, and I certainly can't do it all myself. I need those around me who love this ministry and love to care and serve those who live at the shelter... including me!

This past week, my friend Marci posted this quote on Facebook: "Don't just GO through life... GROW through life!!" It struck a chord with me because of the enormous change coming to My Father's House: the huge new building of twelve apartments for single mothers struggling to get back on their feet. I am so excited for the changes that will take place in their lives as they discover who they are and who they can become. To learn that it's not just about **going** through life, it's about **growing** through life. What an amazing opportunity for them and their children!

I'm grateful for life transformation... in me, in others, and in this special place called My Father's House.

With love, Cathe
Cathe Wiese, Executive Director

Your loving arms became a bridge of mercy
You turned my stumbling block to a stepping stone
From song by David and the Giants, 1992

"It wasn't easy...at MFH, it was hard to go to work, to do the homework, to deal with childcare issues and transportation. But as I did my goals, I felt better and better about myself and God." ~Anne



"I couldn't have gotten to where I am without the positive atmosphere and committed staff and volunteers. I love my job, my church, my neighborhood! I'm content and thankful to God for all I've learned and experienced." ~JL



"I was able to find myself again and remember that I am worth having a better way of life for my family." ~Rebecca



"I was reminded that giving to others can help them in many ways. The feeling of someone truly caring about me and overlooking my mistakes helped me begin to love myself again and want to help others feel this way too." ~Becca

Volunteer Spotlight: Erik and Toni Pedersen

Toni & Erik Pedersen have been volunteering together at My Father's House for the past three-and-a-half years. They were introduced to MFH through a friend at church who invited them to one of our spring benefit dinners. They instantly became donors, then volunteers together in the donation center. Since then, Toni has also worked in the computer lab and now helps the Program Manager with special projects.

What Erik enjoys about volunteering is that he likes feeling useful, and he certainly is! He has helped organize the donation center, and he stocks the shelves in Shared Blessings. One of the memories that Erik has of volunteering was the time there was a large donation of canned goods. He was trying to get as many cans on the shelf as possible when the shelf gave way and all the cans came tumbling down. It was quite a mess to have to clean up!

Toni enjoys the upbeat staff and how the volunteers are always available, and that the shelter is always organized and clean. Besides, this ministry is very close to her heart. When she was a young



single mother with four small children, she remembers the stress of not knowing if she was going to be able to make rent or buy groceries. She is very excited to work for a place where single moms can go and get back on their feet. Toni recalls a time when she overheard one of the couples remark about being so apprehensive about moving in, and once they were here, they felt like they were finally able to breathe.

When asked what they would say to someone thinking about volunteering at My Father's House, Toni did not hesitate to say, "This is a complete program for the residents. It opens doors to new ways of thinking."

If you would like to join us in "Helping Families and Transforming Lives", please call Sara at 503-492-3046 ext 224 or e-mail her at sara@familyshelter.org.

Wish List

☆ fresh or canned fruits
☆ cereal (cold or hot)

☆ chili, soups, stew
☆ spaghetti & sauce
☆ peanut butter & jam

☆ mac & cheese
☆ crackers
☆ coffee ☆ tuna
☆ copy paper

There is Strength in Numbers

By Wayne Kuechler, Development Manager

No one knows exactly how the great pyramids of Egypt were built. But one thing that is agreed upon is that it took tens of thousands of individuals to make the task possible. At My Father's House, we may not be building a structure as large as a pyramid, but we are building 12 apartments for single mother families adjacent to our main shelter. The Stepping Stone Apartments will

provide badly needed support to single mothers through educational programs and a reduced financial burden as they move from homelessness to complete independence. This project will also take hundreds of people

like you to make it possible. No one person could build a pyramid, and no one person will build these apartments. The ability to complete this project depends upon the strength of all of us joining together.

We are at a crossroads in the fundraising and building of the Stepping Stone Apartments. We are well on our way and need \$80,000 to complete this phase of construction. With these funds we will be able to erect the apartments and make them weather tight. This is an amount that can be raised quickly if everyone helps. Together we can make a difference, close this funding gap and keep our vital project on schedule. If you have already made a contribution this year to the general fund, please consider making a special gift to this capital project.

Also, at the start of the 2013 we set a goal of reconnecting or adding 1000 donors that did not make a donation in 2012. So far 212 people have stepped forward to support My Father's House and put us on our way to 1000. If you have not yet donated this year, this is the perfect project to start with. Just stop by and see the new construction and what your support is making possible. We give because we want to make a difference. Not so much from just our individual contribution, but from joining with thousands of other supporters. Every donation makes the transformational work with our families possible. The reply in this newsletter is provided for your response. Thank you for your support. When we join together... you make a difference.

