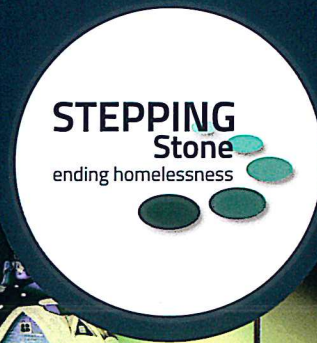


# PIVOT & ADAPT



Like most events in 2020, Christmas at Stepping Stone will look a lot different. This year has taught us to adapt and pivot quickly to keep our residents safe. We couldn't do it without your continued support.

## HOLIDAYS WITH A NEW LOOK

### Gift Card Donations

In previous years, we've celebrated the holidays with Santa's Shoppe, and our residents picking out presents from your generous donations. **This year, instead, we are asking for donations of \$25 gift cards to Target or Walmart.**

Even though gift cards may seem impersonal, they actually give our residents the freedom of choice. The ability to choose a gift for themselves or a loved one that they wouldn't normally be able to.

Your donation can help make the holidays a special time for our Stepping Stone residents!

### What and How to Donate

- Gift cards (plastic, not electronic) to Walmart or Target with a value of \$25 or more.
- Give a donation online or text SSEHGIFTCARD to 41444 to be used specifically for us to purchase Walmart and Target gift cards.

Your gift card donation can be conveniently dropped off at one of our partner locations (see list to the right) until close of business on Tuesday, December 22.



### Gift Card Drop Off Locations

All banks listed below will be accepting gift cards through their drive-thru, so no contact delivery!



• 21st Century Bank (Blaine 93rd/Central, Blaine 35W/Lexington, Ham Lake)



• Financial One Credit Union (Blaine, Coon Rapids, Columbia Heights)



• MidWestOne Bank (Coon Rapids)



• Village Bank (Blaine, East Bethel, Anoka Ramsey, St. Francis)



• Hoffman Weber Construction (New Brighton), drop off in showroom



# WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

Julie Jeppson, Executive Director

A number of years ago, when I had just gone through a particularly challenging time, a friend asked me, "What have you learned?" I was taken aback by the question because it had never been asked of me in that context before. It took me a moment to answer, but when I did, I said, "Life is good. God is great." Ever since she asked me that question, I continue asking it of myself and others when I hear their struggles.

This year, more than ever, I have asked myself countless times, "What have you learned, Julie?" And this is my answer...

***Stepping Stone's foundation of Empower, Respect, Collaborate, and Steward has never been stronger.***



## EMPOWER

We empower staff and residents, regardless of color, shade, blemish, or brokenness, by providing a safe space to voice thoughts, feelings, and emotions without fear of saying the wrong things, because saying nothing is worse.

## RESPECT

Every person who enters our door, sends an email, makes a phone call, delivers a package, mails an envelope, posts a message...every single person who interacts with Stepping Stone is treated with respect and dignity. No question.

## COLLABORATE

Never before have we so completely needed the partnership and collaboration of federal, state, county, and local governments, non-profits, for-profits, faith and civic organizations, and countless individuals. We will continue to persevere with this collaborative help, support, and guidance.

## STEWARD

The kindness, compassion, and generosity of our community is not only humbling, but has at times brought me to tears and made me shake my head in disbelief. It is through your stewardship, and our responsible management of those intended funds, that we will get through this.

## WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER?



## 12 Days of Giving Thanks

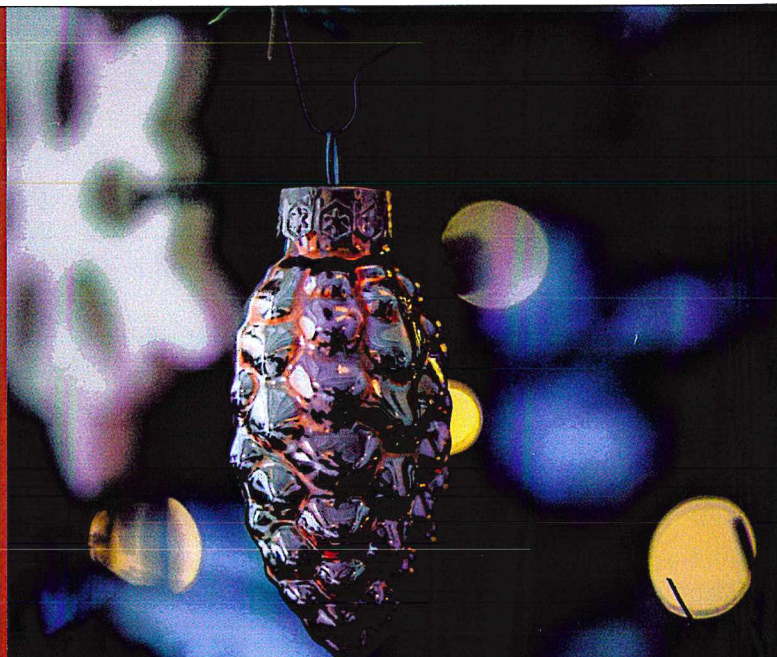
December 7-18

This December, we encourage you to intentionally say "Thank You" to some of the most important people in your life.

This has been a rough year for us all. We've experienced struggles from toilet paper shortages to loneliness and fear to political and racial unrest.

Who did you lean on? Who helped you through these tough times? We encourage you to tell them about the impact that they've had on your lives.

Follow us on social media for a prompt each day.





# FAILURE ISN'T A BARRIER

Shalonda Gordon, Team Manager

My proudest accomplishment is finding power behind failure. Yes, I said power! If you view failure as a barrier, you self-sabotage yourself. When I first started in the role of Team Manager, I was scared to fail and scared to admit that I didn't have it all together. Yet, seeing other leaders at Stepping Stone model compassion and empathy, I quickly learned that we can shed tears, pivot from our mistakes, and continue to learn. The other leaders here are not afraid to get their hands dirty. Titles don't mean anything, we're here for one purpose, to serve and love the residents.

The biggest thing that I've learned from working here is that homelessness doesn't define the person. I've met professionals that have lost money in the stock market. I've met people that had a hard upbringing. Poverty doesn't



have a color. None of us are exempt from being in the same situation, we all fall on hard times, as we've been experiencing with this pandemic.

What matters is support. Being here, a place where our residents are free to be themselves with transparency and understanding, is huge. Our residents are treated with respect and are part of my family.



Thank you to all who joined us for the special viewing of Josh Hayes' *The Invisible Class*. Over 300 people registered and attended this unique opportunity to watch one of the very few documentaries ever made on homelessness. **I had HOPE after watching this movie...hope and certainty!** Homelessness will be solved if we commit to real changes around affordable housing, livable wages, and the criminalization of those experiencing homelessness or most vulnerably close to becoming homeless.

Did you miss it? Not to worry! Please contact Valerie at [Valerie.Jensen@SteppingStoneEH.org](mailto:Valerie.Jensen@SteppingStoneEH.org) to see how you can view the film. It's definitely well-worth the 1-hour-

and-38-minutes of your day!

*The Invisible Class* explores what it truly means to be homeless in America, challenging stereotypes and examining the systemic causes of mass homelessness in the wealthiest nation in the world. From coast to coast the film is a day in the life of homelessness across America.

Previously, American documentary films on homelessness tend to focus on small subsections of people. While this is definitely an important aspect of contemporary homelessness, it's also only a sliver of the overall situation of an ongoing machine that creates and perpetuates mass homelessness and has for 40 years.

## YOUR IMPACT AT STEPPING STONE

# \$45

### ONE NIGHT OF SHELTER

Donating this amount will provide one night of shelter to someone experiencing homelessness.

# \$315

### ONE WEEK OF SHELTER

Give someone experiencing homelessness one week of warmth, food, and safety.

# \$1350

### ONE FULL MONTH OF SHELTER

One month of shelter not only provides basic needs, but also gives access to our on-site supports.





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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-2188



## PARTEE SUCCESS

Thank you to all who participated in the ParTee Fore A Purpose this year. We had wonderful weather, and everyone was able to participate safely with the health measures in place.

Thanks to all our sponsors who helped make this event run smoothly, and also to Kat Perkins, who provided an amazing live concert.



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**one**<sup>™</sup>

### Our Guiding Principles

- Empower individuals to change their lives
- Treat each resident with dignity and respect
- Collaborate with partners in providing services
- Ensure strong stewardship in managing resources

### Stay in Touch



3300 4th Avenue North  
Cronin Building 14  
Anoka, MN 55303



(763) 323 - 7006

### Donate Online



Sign up for Amazon Smile so a portion of your purchase can be donated to us by Amazon.



Donate online with confidence.

[steppingstoneeh.org](http://steppingstoneeh.org)