



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors at StepStone, I want to thank you for your unwavering support, which has made a profound difference in the lives of the survivors we serve. With your help, 36 adults and 68 children live free from violence while residing at StepStone today. Another 1,780 individuals have received other supportive services from StepStone this year. Amidst the most frightening and trying times in the lives of these survivors, we provided the support, encouragement, and resources needed to find hope and begin the process of healing and transformation. Your generosity is the promise of a brighter future for these families. Thank you for walking with us and our participants on this journey.

As the only stand-alone transitional housing program for survivors of domestic violence in Kansas, StepStone offers an essential lifeline to survivors as they leave emergency shelter. The two years our participants spend with us are critically important for building the foundation of a violence-free life. Providing stable housing, offering help in navigating the legal system, supplying basic household and hygiene items, aiding and encouraging survivors in the search for steady employment, and organizing children's activities that help them feel "normal" are just a few of the ways we are supporting survivors as they build new foundations.

I am deeply committed to our mission of supporting survivors of domestic violence. This cause is very personal to me, having experienced it firsthand and seen its devastating impact on friends and family. Serving StepStone is a constant reminder of the courage and resilience of those we support, and it ignites my passion to help build a future where survivors can heal, grow, and thrive. Together, we are building a safe space and providing the critical resources needed to break the cycle of violence and empower individuals to rebuild their lives. I am honored to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for StepStone and am incredibly grateful for your partnership as a contributor to our mission.

***It is through your support that all we do is made possible.***

There is still much work to be done. Domestic violence is an ongoing crisis, and the demand for our services continues to grow. Your donations ensure we can continue to provide housing, healing, and hope to those who need it most.

With deepest gratitude,

Chair of the Board of Directors



# ADVOCATING FOR CHILD SURVIVORS AT STEPSTONE

In March, we welcomed Christafina to StepStone as our Child Advocate, dedicated to supporting the emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of children who have experienced or witnessed abuse. In just six months, Christafina has quickly become a trusted and beloved figure, helping children rebuild their sense of safety and self-worth. Her collaboration with other StepStone advocates has created a nurturing environment that fosters the long-term recovery and well-being of each child in her care. Every day, children eagerly ask if Christafina is available to talk or play.



Her “magic sand table,” as she calls it, has become an essential tool in helping kids open up. “There’s something about putting their little hands into the sand that makes their thoughts and feelings flow,” she explains.



In her role, Christafina not only provides emotional support but also works with children to create age-appropriate safety plans, ensures they have the supplies and resources needed for school success, and organizes enriching activities. Since joining StepStone, she has coordinated outings to places like the skating rink and Paint the Towne, and activities like kids’ yoga and art therapy sessions. These activities aren’t just recreational—they provide opportunities for children facing enormous challenges to rebuild self-esteem, regain a sense of normalcy, and heal through play and positive social interactions.



# GRADUATE NEWS

In July 2020, a mother and her two sons completed their two-year journey in the StepStone program. During their time at StepStone, the boys were both high school students, navigating the challenges of adolescence. Today, both have graduated and proudly earned their Commercial Driver’s Licenses, a significant milestone they worked hard to achieve together. This family attributes much of their success to the unwavering support and opportunities provided by StepStone.



Recently, they visited our office to reconnect and express their gratitude, bringing flowers for the staff who helped them on their path. The mother, who has not returned to her abuser, has also achieved her legal immigration status and now works full-time to support herself and her family.

This inspiring story is a powerful reminder of how your support changes lives. Without your generosity, transformations like this would not be possible. Thank you for making a lasting impact.





# BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF STRENGTH: THREE FAMILIES PREPARE TO GRADUATE FROM STEPSTONE

This year, three StepStone families will graduate from our program. These families have become more than just neighbors—they've become a tight-knit community. The children play together every day, and the parents have fully embraced the resources and support StepStone offers. Their commitment to building a sense of belonging has made them an essential part of the StepStone family.

One of the most heartwarming examples of this community spirit comes from our regular participant lunches. One mother shared how her almost three-year-old son eagerly anticipates these gatherings. "Mommy, gotta get ready, we're goin' a lunch!" he said, pulling her arm, excited to see his friends. It's these simple but powerful moments of connection that remind us how important community is for both parents and children.

During their time at StepStone, these three families have not only grown individually but also pushed each other to succeed. They've formed a strong network of support, holding one another accountable and celebrating each other's successes. Even after graduation, they plan to stay connected and participate in StepStone's community events, committed to maintaining the close relationships they've built.

At StepStone, healing goes beyond escaping abuse—it's about rebuilding lives through the power of relationships. These families, with children ranging from toddlers to teenagers, exemplify what can be achieved when surrounded by a supportive, understanding community. With friends who understand their journey and stand by their side, these families are more likely to continue thriving and are less vulnerable to falling back into harmful situations after leaving our transitional housing program.

Your **SUPPORT** can make a  
**LIFE-CHANGING**  
difference for **SURVIVORS**  
of domestic violence.



**\$50** can help provide essential hygiene products for survivors who are struggling to get back on their feet after fleeing violence.



**\$100** can provide basic household items many survivors need to set up their new home at StepStone, such as cleaning products, trash cans, sheets, and towels.



**\$250** can help us purchase supplies for support groups, art therapy sessions, family meals, and other activities that promote community and healing.



**\$1,000** can provide comprehensive legal assistance for a survivor, helping them secure protective orders, navigate custody battles, and gain independence from their abuser.

*Every contribution, no matter the amount, brings safety, stability, and hope to those escaping violence. Together, we can empower survivors to rebuild their lives with dignity and security.*



Please consider  
making a gift to  
StepStone today.

## STEPSTONE FINAL FRIDAY ART SHOW OPEN HOUSE

*You're  
Invited!*

We are thrilled to invite you to StepStone's 8th Annual  
**Final Friday Art Show Open House.**

The art displayed will showcase the strength, creativity, and transformation of individuals who have survived domestic violence, overcoming immense challenges. Your presence honors their journeys and reflects your support for the vital resources they receive at StepStone.

Join us for an evening of profound stories of healing and empowerment expressed through art at this celebration of hope.

Friday, October 25  
4:00–7:00pm

StepStone  
1324 South Bluffview, Wichita  
Light Refreshments Provided





**StepStone**

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Wichita, KS 67218

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*Nurturing Lives of Hope and Safety*

**Voices of Courage**



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## IMPACT IN FOCUS: STATISTICS FROM OUR MISSION

*In the last 12 months...*



**2,944**  
**HOURS**

Of support services  
provided to survivors



**32,842**  
**NIGHTS**

Our participants slept  
in safe beds



**101**  
**CHILDREN**

Lived in safe housing at  
StepStone



**862**  
**SURVIVORS**

Received legal or victims  
rights assistance



**StepStone**

**NURTURING LIVES OF  
HOPE AND SAFETY**