

StepUP Moves Forward **A POSITION OF STRENGTH**

It was with a great deal of sadness that the Board accepted **John Bush's** resignation as Executive Director of StepUP. It was also with a great sense of appreciation for John's leadership over the last 6 1/2 years and what that leadership has meant to all those around him, especially those whose lives have been transformed with StepUP's help.

When John leaves at the end of June, he leaves StepUP in a position of strength that includes:

- A talented and passionate staff
- Volunteers that make a difference by touching one person at a time
- Strong support and the trust of key leaders at our supporting congregations and in the greater community
- A growing recognition of StepUP's role in the community
- An exciting three-year strategic plan, which provides a road map for our future

Our Next Chapter

As we look to the next chapter in StepUP's life, the Board's first priority is to find a new Executive Director. The Board has appointed a transition committee to lead that effort. This team is made up of Gray Hutchison, Chair; Helen

Evans, Ken Kaufher, Gregg Warren and Jim Hodge. The committee has been very active and is committed to keeping all of our stakeholders informed of its progress. Here is an update on where they are to date:

- Search Firm—Based on the experience of committee members and the advice of others in the community that have gone through a similar process, the committee determined that it should seek the assistance of a professional firm to help in the search for a new Executive Director. The committee considered a number of firms and selected the Philanthropic Advisory Group (PAG) because of its extensive experience with community service non-profits like StepUP. PAG began its work on May 7th and anticipates that the process will take 90 to 120 days.

During the first 30 days, Bert Armstrong and Tom McGuire of PAG will be learning all they can about StepUP

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John Bush Resigns

JOHN BUSH HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BE RESIGNING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STEPUP, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2007.

John came to StepUP in 2000 and has led the organization through a period of remarkable growth. Building on the vision of StepUP's founders to promote opportunities for self-sufficiency among the vulnerable at-risk members of our community, he has guided StepUP in developing a comprehensive program model focused on employment, education and housing to further that end.

John feels that with a staff, which has a driving passion and the capacity to accomplish StepUP's mission, they have continued and magnified a program model that uses the strength

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StepUP Announces Second Annual Jubilee Award Recipients

STEPUP MINISTRY'S JUBILEE AWARD has been established as this organization's highest honor to recognize individuals who have embodied the ideals of StepUP and made extraordinary contributions to the success of this ministry. The 2007 recipients of the Jubilee Award are **Craig Chandler Huggins** and **Helen Timmons Rose**.

CRAIG HUGGINS embodies StepUP's core value of compassionate service. Through his faith and commitment to promote the best in those about him—particularly the young and vulnerable—Craig has made a difference in countless lives. These values were instilled in Craig through his upbringing in Forest City, North Carolina. They mark his life as a loving husband of Lane and father of Chandler and Kyle. And, they have been the hallmark of his life in the community.



Craig Huggins



Helen Rose

HELEN ROSE was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. Her family and church instilled in Helen a faith that radiates through all aspects of her life. Helen bears remarkable witness to Christ's love and in so doing expects honesty, accountability and growth—precisely the witness StepUP seeks to offer

all those touched by this ministry. Helen recently celebrated 34 years of marriage to her husband Dick, is the proud mother of sons Troy and Adam and grandmother of Caroline Claire Rose.

Helen's service to StepUP began in 1996. Since that time she has served as a co-partner to eleven families. This role required her to meet weekly as a mentor and friend to those going through the StepUP program. Over the last four years, in addition to remaining active as a co-partner, Helen has been StepUP's volunteer assistant treasurer. As such, she spends three hours a week recording contributions, program fees and expenditures, producing checks and making deposits. If Helen's volunteer hours over the last ten years were combined, she has given the equivalent of a year's worth of full time work to this ministry. She has done so in order that others might have a second chance in life. Helen models the heart of StepUP Ministry.

In 1998 Craig agreed to serve on the Board of StepUP Ministry. In the midst of his term on the Board, StepUP found itself in dire financial straits. Craig did three things to help StepUP survive. First, he arranged for StepUP to receive an emergency loan. Second, he played an instrumental role in helping StepUP secure a three-year challenge grant from the Community Fund. And third, he led a fund raising effort which over the years evolved into StepUP's highly successful Special Friends Campaign. StepUP weathered the storm and prospered. More recently Craig made a special gift to StepUP through the donation of property which positioned StepUP to renovate and move into our current office space at 1701 Oberlin Road—a significant milestone for this ministry.

Helen Rose and Craig Huggins have honored StepUP Ministry with their vision, passion and remarkable contributions to this organization. Equally important, their legacy will make possible the transformation of thousands of lives by StepUP Ministry in the years to come.



StepUP Children Learn Lifelong Skills in Karate

Self esteem, discipline, teamwork and respect—these are the core qualities instilled by Sensi Eric Blaize in StepUP children through their weekly Karate class. As a result, the children are learning valuable life skills that will help them become confident, respectful members of their families and community.

Life Skills Participant Finds Inspiration Through Poetry

Sheronda Banks is a program participant who came to StepUP in September of 2006. Throughout her life she has dealt with many obstacles but feels that she is now better equipped to deal with life's challenges because "StepUP has given me the skills to maintain." Along the way, she has used her belief in God and her joy of writing as a source of inspiration.

AMAZING

Now that I'm a woman childish things have been put away.
So I pray daily and ask for forgiveness
with God on my side I know I can win this.
So plead my cause oh Lord, hear my cry,
I don't want any of your blessing to pass me by,
Open my eyes so that I can see beyond sight,
give me the wisdom to reach the highest of height
Give me the strength to fight all my adversaries,
because I know when I call on your name, you're
coming in a hurry.
This is my song and this is my story
and all I have left to say is to God be the glory.

SHERONDA BANKS

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with our recently completed strategic plan as their starting point. In addition, they will be seeking input from the Board, staff, and other stakeholders. The result of this research will be a detailed profile of the qualities they believe we need in a new Executive Director and a work plan for the actual search. This plan will be presented to the Board in early June and the search will begin immediately after that.

- Communication with Staff—Members of the committee met three times with the staff and are committed to getting their input and to keeping them informed of the committee's progress.
- Communication with Other Stakeholders—An e-news went to approximately 150 stakeholders on May 1st announcing John's resignation and the appointment of a transition committee. The committee will, through this newsletter and other means, try to keep you informed as the committee works on this important task.

JOHN BUSH continued from page 1

of diversity to build community—specifically bringing together people of different races, training, work and life experiences in a way that leads to friendship, trust and growth. In his letter of resignation, John wrote, "StepUP has been a great blessing for my life. I believe I was called here and it has been an opportunity for my heart and soul to connect with a ministry that I cherish. I am convinced that there is someone out there with just the right combination of gifts and experience who will be called to this position, just as I was, and it will be good, very

- Interim Needs—In all likelihood, we will not have a new Executive Director by June 30th when John leaves. Therefore, we are working to secure interim leadership to provide program continuity, stability and strength. Of particular importance is keeping the work of the Development Committee (led by Jane Howard) moving forward. We anticipate having interim leadership in place in the coming weeks.

I know you join me in thanking John for all he has done to make StepUP what it is today. We wish him joy and happiness in the future and want to thank all of you for what you have done to help StepUP in its mission of transforming lives.

Sincerely,
Jim Hodge
CHAIR, STEPUP MINISTRY BOARD (2007-2008)

good." And he adds, "thank you for the privilege and opportunity of working at StepUP. As volunteers, supporters and friends, you have played a vital role in making this the best job I've ever had. I am deeply grateful." The board, staff and friends of StepUP are deeply grateful to John for his work and his strong creative presence at StepUP.

StepUP Ministry is an interfaith community that prepares people who are ready and willing to make positive changes in their lives to become self-sufficient.

STEPUP MISSION



1701 Oberlin Road
 Raleigh, NC 27608
 PHONE: (919) 781-0156
 FAX: (919) 571-2879
 www.step-up.us

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