



A New Vision for Housing

IN JUNE 2006, StepUP began making the shift from a traditional transitional housing model to a new and more permanent housing option.

THIS NEW DIRECTION IS THE RESULT OF A CAREFUL STUDY led by Jim Hyler, a new member of the StepUP Board. The objective of this study was to develop a strategic plan for housing that best serves the mission of StepUP, which is to promote self-sufficiency. In the past, StepUP has provided temporary housing to program participants in order to address an immediate need for safe, affordable shelter. Participants were allowed to reside in StepUP housing for up to 6 months. For 17 years, this model provided a vital service to over 200 families, enabling most to move into their own apartments when they completed the program.

THE PROBLEM However, the success of this model often created a significant hurdle for families committed to self-sufficiency. When families moved from a StepUP apartment to another location, children would often have to change schools, transportation to work for the parents could become a challenge, and general routines were disrupted.

THE NEW MODEL StepUP's new housing model seeks to address that challenge in a bold way. The goal is to secure housing for participants that offers stability. The new model allows participants to remain in an apartment for

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\$50,000 GRANT WILL MATCH CORPORATE SUPPORT

An anonymous donor has challenged the greater Raleigh business community to support the vital work of StepUP through a dollar for dollar challenge grant of up to \$50,000. Through May of 2007, any business committing new funds to StepUP will have their contribution doubled through this extraordinary challenge.

The donor was inspired to offer this challenge for two reasons. First, to promote the great success of StepUP's Jubilee Jobs program. Since its inception two years ago, this program has placed over 300 individuals in employment. Employers are provided candidates who have been through a careful screening process and a series of workshops equipping them to be productive employees. Through this grant, businesses are challenged to consider the value of this service to the community and make tax-deductible contributions to this vital program.

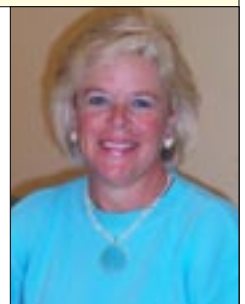
The second reason the donor has set forth this challenge is that currently corporate contributions to StepUP only comprise 5% of annual income. StepUP's funding model is based on the business

community providing 15-20% of income. Through this challenge gift, the donor is responding to StepUP's need to double corporate contributions in the coming year. If the business community responds to take full advantage of this challenge grant, that goal will be met.

"The commitment of the \$50,000 challenge grant illustrates the importance of the partnership between StepUP and the business community," states Jane Howard, StepUP Development Committee Chair. "We urge the Triangle's business leaders to help us realize this opportunity to double the corporate dollars raised on StepUP's behalf." StepUP Ministry expresses its deep gratitude to this special donor for the great investment being made in the future of this program.

The business community's investment in StepUP is critical to the success of our programs, and we are grateful for the example set by this grant and its donor.

JANE HOWARD
Development Committee Chair



CAMP STEPUP

BY STEPHANIE BYRD

First annual StepUP children's camp a vital boost to children and their parents



The days get longer, the temperature begins to climb, and the children are out of school—yes it's summer. While the children may be on vacation, most parents still have to work and are faced with the financial and logistical complications of arranging childcare.

This summer Kay Barnes, StepUP Ministry Children's Program Manager, sought to ease summer childcare tensions by starting the first StepUP children's camp. "I started the camp because we had parents who did not have any place for their children to go... due to the cost of camps... [or] due to schedules," Kay explains.

The camp took place Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:30 at Fulfilled Promise Tabernacle in Raleigh, where Kay is a member. "I asked my pastor if we could have summer camp at the church and he agreed." The camp was staffed by church members Krista Stepney, Regina Stepney and Eboni Royal. StepUP contracted with Chris McNeil, to be the Senior Camp Counselor. Some parents of the children attending volunteered to work on their days off—assisting with games, crafts, lunch, and "just being an extra pair of hands and eyes!" The Garner Road YMCA also assisted by providing snacks and lunches. Other volunteers provided special activities. For example, each Tuesday and Thursday Natarsha Watson taught a dance class, and guest speakers came in to share their professional experiences—including a doctor, firefighter, police officer,

nurse, preacher, teacher and even a vet!

When the camp ended on August 11, the children invited their parents and the StepUP Staff for a cook-out and a surprise performance. The middle school children acted out the story of Job and the younger children performed a dance to a remix of the song "This Little Light of Mine." As a grand finale, all the children performed a dance to the song "Giants" by Donald Lawrence and the Tri-City singers. Afterwards, Kay Barnes and Chris McNeil presented photo quilts that the children created to StepUP and to Fulfilled Promise Tabernacle.



Kayla, a StepUp camper, beats the summer heat with an outing to a nearby pool.

The first annual StepUP Summer Day Camp was a great success and Kay Barnes is already hard at work planning for next year's summer camp! StepUP extends its deepest thanks to all who made this experience possible -- with particular gratitude to the leaders and members of Fulfilled Promise Tabernacle and to those who contributed to the Maggie Lambeth scholarship fund, which helped underwrite the camp.

To learn more about the Children's Program at StepUP Ministry, contact Kay Barnes at 919-781-0156, x103 or email kbarnes@step-up.us.



FROM LEFT: campers Kierra and Dutches; Chris McNeil and Kay Barnes present John Bush with a photo quilt; campers enjoy a human wheelbarrow race; and camper "Princess" Ziona.



REMEMBERING MAGGIE: HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF A STEPUP VOLUNTEER

Maggie Lambeth and her husband Stan became StepUP volunteers for the children’s program almost two years ago. Maggie heard about the children’s program through her Sunday School class at White Memorial Presbyterian Church and began volunteering with the children every Tuesday night. She stayed involved until she was no longer able to do so due to illness. Sadly, Maggie died from complications due to breast cancer in April 2006.

Maggie, along with Stan, served on the children’s committee and helped to get the K-2 grade class organized. She was especially instrumental in making sure we had the right materials for the children to use on Tuesday nights. A scholarship fund was established in memory of her service and dedication to StepUP Ministry. Maggie loved working with the children, so appropriately, the funds were used to support the 2006 StepUP Ministry Children’s Camp. Maggie’s legacy will remain a blessing to this ministry for years to come.

SPOTLIGHT ON: *Gregg Warren, StepUP Board Chair 2006-2007* BY STEPHANIE BYRD



ORIGINALLY FROM TOLEDO, OHIO, GREGG WARREN has been a Triangle resident since 1972. He brings to StepUP nearly 30 years of community development experience, serving as president and executive director of Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation (DHIC) since 1984. DHIC is a non-profit provider of affordable housing, building homes for first time homebuyers and leasing 1,200 affordable apartments, primarily in Wake County.

Gregg was introduced to StepUP in the mid 1990s by former chairperson Ronald Brown. One of the aspects that drew Gregg to join the StepUP board was his desire to deepen his connections with the community, and to give of his time in a personal way. “When I first started at DHIC I knew every tenant by name, but now that we manage so many apartments, that is almost impossible to do,” he explains. “While I get paid for what I do at DHIC, it is important for me to contribute back to the community on a volunteer basis as well.”

Gregg realizes the importance of steady employment and a good support system as individuals and families seek self-sufficiency. Gregg cites the “level of interaction and partnership between the staff, volunteers and StepUP participants” as one of the most rewarding aspects of StepUP, and a crucial key to its success.

As the Chairman of the Board, Gregg’s primary goal for StepUP will be to ensure the organization is well-positioned for the future. “As StepUP has grown considerably in the past few years, we need to focus on organizational governance, funding strategies, and core policies to take StepUP to the next level,” he says. A parallel goal is to strengthen and broaden StepUP’s collaborative relationships in the community.

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a minimum of a year—with the option of staying in the same location beyond that.

HOW WILL THIS NEW HOUSING PROGRAM WORK?

1: StepUP enters collaborative relationships with area landlords who agree to lease directly to StepUP participants at affordable rates. 2: StepUP pays for move-in costs and offers gradually decreasing rent subsidies. 3: Participants assume the responsibilities of a tenant with the landlord and agree to a graduated increase in financial obligations over the course of a year. By the end of the year they are in a position to renew their lease without subsidy and eliminate the need for relocation.

The benefits of this new housing model are enormous for the social and academic development of children and for the overall stability of the household.



Donna Turner

STABILITY: A KEY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

“Stability is a key to self-sufficiency” says Donna Turner, StepUP’s housing program manager. She indicates the new program is being well received by participants. Donna believes this new housing model will strengthen accountability. It is essential, says Donna, to help program participants live within their means. The new housing model provides strong incentive for participants to do exactly that.

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I just wanted to say thank you for all of your help. [StepUP's] Jubilee Jobs has helped to carry me exactly to the place I wanted to be! I will continue to represent Jubilee Jobs in the best possible way. Thanks again!

J'ANMETRA

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STEPUP MISSION

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.