

Pathways



Winter 2021 Edition

**“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”
- Helen Keller**

Participants & their families, program staff members, volunteers and local organizations come to together at Stepping Stones to create a community – where we learn more about ourselves and the value of working together towards common goals.

Jack Is Celebrated At Stepping Stones

12-year-old Jack has been attending Stepping Stones since he was six. He started at Summer Day Camp and now he goes to Saturday Kids Club as well during the school year. “Jack absolutely loves Stepping Stones,” said Leigh Ann, Jack’s mother. He’s always excited for a day full of fun and Mom & Dad can enjoy a much-needed respite.

When they arrive at Stepping Stones, the staff members always know Jack, and they always seem so happy to see him and welcome him. “We know that the people that work at Stepping Stones celebrate our boy just the way that we do,” Leigh Ann said. “And we are so grateful for the donors who support Stepping Stones and make the respite and programming that they offer available to families like ours.”

Stepping Stones Is Like A Family

Olivia K. started out at Stepping Stones in 2010 as a volunteer for Summer Day Camp. “Working with the participants and the caring staff was such a positive influence in my life,” said Olivia. In fact, the Stepping Stones community inspired her decision to study Special Education at Mount St. Joseph University.

Fast forward to present day: Olivia is in her third year of teaching and she’s also back at Stepping Stones as a staff member for our Saturday Young Adults & Kids Clubs. “To me, a community is a group of people that come together to create wonderful, shared memories,” Olivia said. “And Stepping Stones is like a family in that way.” She enjoys working at Stepping Stones because of the difference she’s able to make in participants’ lives. Several of the participants she connected with when she first started still come to Stepping Stones and she truly values their continued relationships.



Above: Participant Jack and Counselor Nick go to the lake to fish at Stepping Stones’ Given campus.



Above: Stepping Stones staff member Olivia works on our Recreation and Leisure team.



Pathways to Independence for People with Disabilities

www.SteppingStonesOhio.org

Creating Something Bigger

“I love Stepping Stones and I will forever come back,” said Olivia H, volunteer for Saturday Kids Club and Summer Day Camp. “It’s such a positive environment and I always have the best time.”

Olivia strives to create welcoming communities as the Vice President of their French club and a member of the Gay Straight Alliance club at Madeira High School. They began volunteering at Stepping Stones in 2019 after it was recommended by several of their classmates. Students need 40 volunteer hours in order to graduate. But since Olivia discovered the Stepping Stones community, they’ve gone above and beyond to complete **over 145 service hours!**

“Community is about coming together to create something bigger and I love getting to contribute to such a fun, positive and loving environment,” Olivia said. They treasure creating bonds with participants like their best friends Devan, Jack and Kyle from Summer Day Camp. One of their favorite memories was spending the day with them doing winter-themed activities to celebrate Santa coming to camp!



Finding Purpose In Community

Martial arts have become an important part of the classroom community for Step-Up students and their instructor. For the last nine of Master Strickland’s 48 years of teaching martial arts, he’s been able to find purpose through his work with Step-Up students. Weekly lessons give students the chance to reap the rewards of training; as they set and achieve goals, students are able to build confidence while growing physically stronger.

Over the years, Master Strickland has built positive relationships with students, making sure to connect with each individual every lesson – providing verbal recognition for hard work or even a high-five. “If there’s a need I stay with that need” Master Strickland relays, “being able to meet that need with the skills I have is absolutely fulfilling”.

On the Calendar

- February 8: Open Your Heart
- June 6: The Golf Classic
- Sept. 10: Bloom Gala
- October: Sporting Clays Tournament

Stay Connected

Be a part of the Stepping Stones community!
Follow us on social media to see our programs in action and stay up-to-date on agency news and events.



@SteppingStonesOhio



@SSOhioInc



@SteppingStonesOhio

2022 Community Giving Ideas

Go Shopping for Stepping Stones



How to Enroll Online:

Connect your Kroger Plus Card to Stepping Stones and earn a donation to Stepping Stones.

How to Enroll Online:

1. Log into your Kroger Rewards account at: [KrogerCommunityRewards.com](https://www.kroger.com/rewards)
2. Click 'Enroll Now'
3. Search for 'Stepping Stones, Inc.'
4. Select 'Stepping Stones, Inc.' located at: 5650 Given Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45243
5. Click 'Enroll'.
6. Shop to support our programs!

\$2,900 Raised in 2021

Shop Amazon Smile:

Shop on Amazon Smile and Amazon donates a share of your sale back to Stepping Stones.

How to Shop Amazon Smile:

1. Log into your account at: [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. From the Charity Choice List, search and choose 'Stepping Stones, Inc.' as your choice charity located at: 5650 Given Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45243
3. Shop to make a difference!

\$368 Raised in 2021

Allyn Campus
1414 Lake Allyn Road
Batavia, Ohio 45103

Parkcrest Campus
3330 Parkcrest Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

Given Campus
5650 Given Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

Drex Campus
2300 Drex Avenue
Norwood, Ohio 45212