

## **Stepping Stones Network**

### Overview of Mission, Goals, Services

**Phone:** 224-789-3054 24x7 Hotline (If need response inside 24 hours. If voicemail, will return ASAP)  
**E-Mail:** info@steppingstonesnetwork.org (If not urgent and for Speaking Requests)  
**Web:** www.steppingstonesnetwork.org

#### **Mission**

To educate and engage the community to prevent domestic commercial sexual exploitation and to provide comprehensive, restorative care to survivors.

#### **Goals**

- 1) Community Engagement & Education
- 2) Prevention & Protection of those At Risk
- 3) Restorative Services for women & their children, as well as therapeutic options for non-violent perpetrators, johns and pornography users.

#### **Programs and Services**

##### **Education and Training - Speakers Bureau**

- General education on the issue of sex trafficking & exploitation
- Specialized training for medical personnel, law enforcement and other service providers
- Volunteer Network - Monthly Education & Volunteer Interest Meeting  
(Held every 3rd Monday 7pm Christ Church of Lake Forest – check website for details)

##### **Prevention Messaging**

- Various teachings, writings, media targeted to individuals at risk due to pornography and other harmful uses of sex. Target audiences include high schools, millennials, group homes, men's & women's events, churches.

##### **Advocacy**

- Advocate for those involved and their loved ones by working with law enforcement to procure protection, justice, and diversion opportunities where appropriate.
- Encouraging belonging and safety for at risk youth and young adults via mentoring, fostering, adoption and Safe Families programs.

##### **Therapeutic Groups**

- Journey Groups - 10-week Healing Groups for adult men and women, including those exploited as children
- Conquer Groups - 6-week Groups that help men who are struggling with pornography or harmful uses of sex

##### **Restorative Services Coordination for Survivors**

- Long-term (12-18 mo.) holistic, structured Residential Recovery program for trafficked moms with children.  
(See back of this page for program description and admissions criteria.)
- Assessment/intake to determine which services or support are recommended for and desired by the individual.
- Find bed matches in other residential programs through our Chicago and US network and coordinate intake.
- Coordinate local services to meet the needs of the individual if not entering Residential Program.
- Serve as a central point of contact, friend and mentor to individuals and their families as they move through the process of healing and rebuilding their lives.
- Support outreach in conjunction with law enforcement (e.g., stings, jail/holding visits, etc.)



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#### **Long-Term Residential Recovery Program**

Stepping Stones Network (SSN) provides holistic, structured residential programming for trafficked mothers and their children, while also preventing these children from being exploited or sold. Our 12-18 month program, staffed 24x7, provides safety, community, beauty and basic needs. To help survivors achieve sustainable life change, we employ strength-based and trauma-informed approaches in the context of licensed therapeutic services, life and parenting skills, health coaching, education and vocational planning, and supportive relationship building. Child-care and therapeutic options will be provided for children during the day, while their mothers set goals, develop practical plans and skills, and establish social and professional networks to rebuild their lives. Residence is at confidential location in central Lake County, IL.

#### **Call 224-789-3054 for Placement to SSN's or other residential program for trafficking survivors**

Please note that long-term residential placements often take 3-7 days from intake call to actual admission. SSN may be able to refer to an emergency bed with another agency during that period.

#### **Residential Recovery Program Admission Criteria**

To enter the Stepping Stones Network recovery program, person must be a woman 18 or over with one or more children under 8 OR must have a confirmed pregnancy and plans to keep the baby.

#### ***In addition, she must fit one or more of the following:***

- Self identifies as currently being sex trafficked with accompanying evidence.
- Has a history of having been trafficked in the past as child or adult with accompanying evidence.
- Is not self-identifying, but we have evidence of her being trafficked.
- Is freely choosing prostitution, wants new life, and has no other way out.
- She and/or children are being sexually exploited and are at high risk for being trafficked.

She must also be:

- Capable of pursuing education, physical and mental health, and spiritual growth.
- Speaks English.
- Medically stable.
- 30 days sober or have completed rehab or 30-day trafficking assessment program AND willing to live a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle and submit to random testing. Individuals with 90 days sobriety or assessment program grad will be preferred.
- Limited in resources or skills to pursue likely recovery and restoration on her own, while keeping her children safe and well-cared for.

#### **Services provided to Residential Program Participants**

- Case Management
- Therapeutic: Group and Individual
- Life Skills: Basic, Financial Literacy, Education/Career Development, Independent Living
- Parent and Family Training and Support
- Children Groups and Activities
- Trauma Recovery
- Health & Wellness



Restoring lives . . . one step at a time.