



# Footprints

## March 2018

### Remember Christmas?!?



**Shoppers browse the STEP Christmas Toy Store. Thanks to our faithful partnership of churches, these families were able to choose new gifts that were just for right their children.**

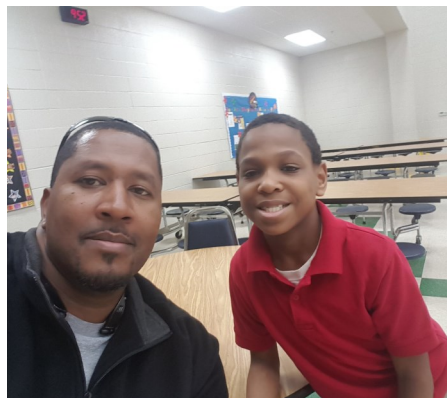
It might seem like the holiday season was ages ago at this point, but Christmas is one of our favorite times here at STEP. Sharing meals with family, exchanging gifts with those closest to you, and of course, celebrating the arrival of our King highlight this time of year, but colder weather brings an extra round of blessings to Eastgate Terrace... the STEP Christmas Toy Store!!!

For years our friends at River City Ministry have partnered with us in this store, but this year began the transition to STEP. Churches across Pulaski County collected toys from their congregants and brought them here to the Family Outreach Center. We then marked these gifts down to less than a quarter on the dollar. Because of this generosity, nearly 100 families from the neighborhood and STEP's programs were empowered to purchase new toys for their children at greatly reduced prices.

### Be Encouraged!

After making it past the New Year, our Encouragers got back to work across Central Arkansas in schools in the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County Special School Districts.

Our Encourager programs continue to remain strong in many schools where we have partnered for years, and we are expanding into new schools when we have the opportunity. After losing our program at Franklin Elementary when the school closed, we have been welcomed into Stephens Elementary, where many of the Franklin students were relocated. While the program is still in it's first year at Stephens, we are working hard to grow this program and to continue working with the staff and students of Stephens. Please contact our Encourager Coordinator, Joe Murawski, at [muawski1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:muawski1@sbcglobal.net) to see how you can get involved.



**Tim Rainey, the site coordinator for our new Encourager Program at Stephens Elementary, takes a break... and a selfie... with one of the participants in the program.**



**One of our STEP alums, Ondedria, stopped by with her daughters to see her mentor, Clare Nesmith. Ondedria was in the program 14 years ago before moving and has obtained a culinary degree.**

### Interested in mentoring?

The Summer Mentoring Program is the best way to dip your toe in the water. Sign up for one of the three day sessions:

**July 10-12**  
**July 17-19**  
**July 24-26**

**Email:**

**Phyllis**  
[phyllis@stepministries.org](mailto:phyllis@stepministries.org)

**Rob**  
[rob@stepministries.org](mailto:rob@stepministries.org)

# STEP Ministries

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We invite you to join our monthly support team:

## Friends of STEP

Your recurring gifts help enable this ministry to disciple young people through:

**Weekly One-on-One Youth Mentoring**  
**Service Projects & Life Skill Training**  
**School-Year Tutoring at Eastgate**

**STEP's in-school Encourager Program**  
**Retreats and Summer Camps**  
**Summer Literacy Camps**

To join **Friends of STEP** visit **stepministries.org**, click on the **DONATE** link, and follow the instructions there. You may also mail a check monthly or set-up recurring payments through your bank's bill pay option. Make checks payable to **STEP** and simply mail it back to our return address. Of course, special gifts are appreciated as well.

We appreciate your faithful support and prayers more than you can know!



### Kids Across America

Each summer we offer the kids in our mentoring program the opportunity to attend Kids Across America (KAA) camp. KAA's mission is "to build Christian leaders by encouraging, equipping, and empowering urban youth and their mentors through camping and education." This time away from their usual environments has been life-changing for many of our kids. Some have even been accepted into Higher Ground, the leadership portion of KAA. This summer we will be at KAA from June 10 through June 16. We covet your prayers for our kids that they would meet Jesus and choose to submit to him fully.