



Footprints June 2021

MEET IAN AND CORLISS

Corliss Jones was our lone graduating senior in the Ambassador Club at STEP this year. Corliss has been very consistent in his attendance at STEP since he was a young boy. He became a leader as he has matured, ensuring that all boys coming to the gym on Wednesday nights were greeted and that all had the ability to participate in the afternoon games before Club activities begin. Ian Cherry has been his mentor since 2014. Here are some comments from an interview with Ian.

Tell us about your relationship with Corliss: Corliss has become more than a mentee. He's part of my family and like another son, and has become an older brother to my children. He really tries to be a good example to them and keep them out of trouble.

What is a fun story about Corliss?: When I first started mentoring, Corliss was terrified of water. By the end of the summer we went to a mentor's pool and turned the boys loose. I grabbed a life jacket, put it on Corliss, and shoved him off in the deep end. He frantically beat the water with a frightened look on his face. During the summers, I would bring him to the lake with our family. For the first trips, Corliss would strap on a life jacket and slowly back into the water. Jumping in was NOT GONNA HAPPEN. By the end of the first summer he was jumping off of the swim platform on the back of the boat. When the end of the third summer rolled around, he was jumping off the roof of the boat. Now, going to the lake is one of our favorite things to do.

How has mentoring been for you?: Mentoring has been a huge blessing to my family and me. A friend mentioned that he thought I would be a good candidate for mentoring, he said his mentee had a brother who needed a mentor. I really didn't know anything about it. After a bit of prayer and discussion with my wife, we decided to accept the challenge. It really opened my heart up to fatherlessness and the affect that has on children.

What would you tell others about mentoring?: Luke 14: 28 – 30 Count the cost. It's not easy. It takes time and effort. Sometimes you will feel like you are wasting your time, but it will be a blessing to you and those around you. The reward comes after the trials. You have to approach mentoring with a strong commitment. Most of these children have never had anything stable in their lives. If you start the race, be committed until you reach the finish.



Save the Date!!!

Summer Mentoring

July 13-14-15
July 20-21-22

Summer Literacy Camp

July 26, 27, 28, 29, 20
August 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Supper with STEP

September 30th

CHRISTmas Toy Store

December 11th

STEP Contacts

Mentoring

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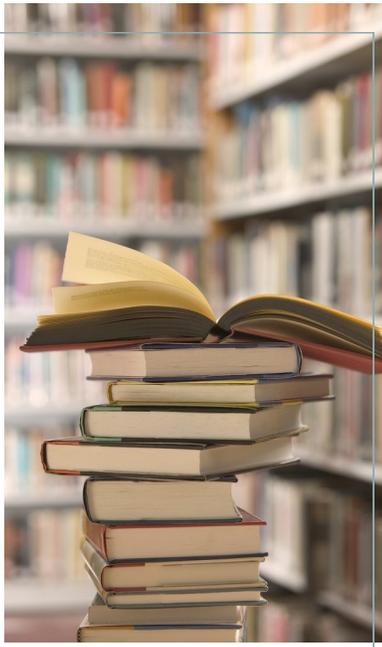
Rob Smith
Rob@stepministries.org
501.425.7837

Tutoring

Juli Atkinson
Juli@stepministries.org
501.539.3959

Encouragers

Tom Allen
Tom@stepministries.org
501.951.4866



SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER LITERACY CAMP

Summer Literacy Camp is scheduled once again for this summer. This is an opportunity to have adults work one-on-one with kids aged 7 to 12 to improve their reading skills and comprehension.

Studies have shown:

1. The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low income children is to increase their access to print.
2. Having books in the home is twice as important than the father's education level. Kids attending STEP's Summer Literacy Program will have the opportunity to take home 20-25 books for

their very own.

We need volunteers to help us with Summer Literacy Camp once again this year. You can sign up for 1 week or for 2. The dates for Literacy Camp are:

Monday through Friday

July 26th - 30th 9:00 am to 12:00pm

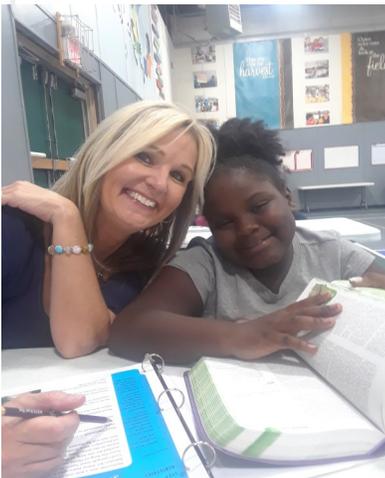
August 2nd— 6th 9:00 am to 12:00pm

Contact Juli Atkinson if you are interested or for more information.

Email: Juli@stepministries.org

Phone: 501-539-3959

“Kids growing up in poverty are less prepared by their families, schools and community to develop their God-given talents as fully as others”



SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER MENTORING

If you have ever wondered what mentoring at STEP is all about, Summer Mentoring is your opportunity to find out. This summer we will have 2 weeks available for you to participate to see what a night of mentoring is like. We like to say all you have to do is “pray up and show up!” The entire night is planned for you. You will have group time with music and a bible lesson that is easy to follow then to finish each evening there will be a project or a game to enjoy. We will take a field trip one night each week. You will be amazed at how fast you will build a relationship with the child assigned to you.

Studies have shown that mentoring a child growing up in poverty will improve their confidence, their ability to communicate, expands their resource base to help lift them out of poverty and it increases their exposure to opportunities around them.

We will be working with kids aged 8 to 12. We need volunteers to help us for 1 week or 2. The dates and times are:

Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday

July 13th through July 15th 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

July 20th through July 22nd 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Ladies - Contact Nikita Jackson if you are interested or for more information

Email: Nikita@stepministries.org Phone: 501-837-88

Men - Contact Rob Smith if you are interested or for more information

Email: Rob@stepministries.org Phone: 501-425-7837



SUPPER *with* STEP

SAVE THE DATE: SUPPER WITH STEP
SEPTEMBER 30TH

Supper with STEP has become a highlight of the year for us to communicate to all who support STEP with their time, talents and gifts. We will have an evening with dinner, a silent auction along with speakers to update everyone on what we accomplished in the previous year and what we are planning for the future.

This year will be a little special for us as we have undertaken a long term planning process that will help us further identify what we do well and how we need to expand on what we do best to further the mission of STEP. The mission includes sharing the Gospel with the kids and increasing their knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ, equipping the kids to lift them out of poverty and learning the importance of a nuclear family and how to best provide for a family.

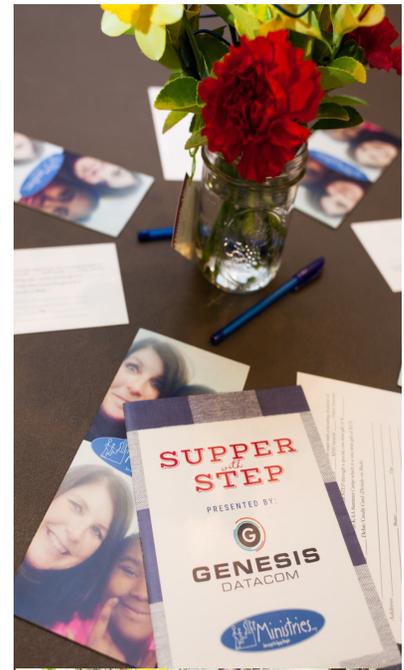
This date for **Supper with STEP is September 30th** at Park Hill Baptist Church at 6:30. Tickets can be purchased by going to www.stepministries.org and click on Supper with STEP or call Tom Allen at 501.951.4866 or email Tom@stepministries.org.

STEP ENCOURAGER PROGRAM UPDATE

The Encourager program was the first program that STEP started at Pine Elementary School back in 1984. The Encourager program is an in-school tutoring program in Elementary Schools. Today, STEP is active in 6 different elementary schools in Pulaski County. We have about 80 adult volunteers working with about 150 youth in those schools. The dedication of the Encourager adults is amazing. Many of these adults have been working for many years to help these kids that have so many challenges to keeping up in school.

In this last school year, we were not allowed into the schools due to COVID. We believe we will be allowed in the schools this coming year but right now no decisions have been made. Many students fell well behind in their classroom studies due to the challenge of virtual learning. The Encourager Program will be more necessary than ever in the coming school year to assist in helping the kids catch back up in their studies.

We are active in the following schools: Boone Park, Crystal Hill, Lakewood, Otter Creek, Pine Forrest & Ridge Road. If you are interested in learning more about the Encourager Program contact Tom Allen at Tom@StepMinistries.org or call 501.951.4866.



HISTORY OF STEP MINISTRIES

STEP Ministries was founded in 1984 with the desire to serve inner city youth that were underserved, mired in poverty and not hearing the Gospel. STEP has been operating continuously for over 35 years and has served over 10,000 youth.

Three churches led the effort to start STEP (Cornerstone Bible Fellowship, Fellowship Bible Church LR and the The Bible Church of LR) and are still leading the effort today. Since the beginning, four other churches have now joined the ministry as well (Covenant Presbyterian, Fellowship Bible Church NLR, First Baptist NLR & Park Hill Baptist. These churches commit to providing monthly financial support and having the church body involved in providing mentors, tutors and encouragers.

WILL YOU JOIN FRIENDS OF STEP?

Since 1984, STEP Ministries has been Discipling, Mentoring, Tutoring and Encouraging the youth of central Arkansas. Today, the Friends of STEP is the financial lifeblood to meeting our needs on a monthly basis to provide programming for the youth and adult leaders. These funds provide staffing, building operating expenses, curriculum, food, like skills training, field trips, summer camp and short terms camps and outings.

This program is an easy way to donate on a monthly basis whatever you can afford. We accept donations as little as \$10 per month and up. To join Friends of STEP, visit www.stepministries.org, click on the **DONATE** link and follow the instructions. You mail also mail a check monthly or set up recurring payments through your bank's **BILL PAY** option. Make checks payable to STEP Ministries and mail to STEP Ministries PO Box 122 N Little Rock AR 72115. Call Tom Allen if you have any questions at 501.951.4866 or email tom@stepministries.org.

Services provided by STEP Ministries:

Weekly One-on-One Youth Mentoring
Next STEP Life Skills Training
After School Tutoring in Eastgate

In-School Encourager Program
Retreats & Summer Camps
Summer Literacy Camp

STEP Ministries
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