



## Footprints March 2022

### MEET HEATH AND SENIOR, KAELON!

**Why did you start mentoring with STEP?** I had come to a point in my life after graduating college where I knew I wanted to serve God in a committed, tangible way. I had seen and heard great things about STEP for years, and was finally at a point in my life where I could be consistent for a mentee.

**What was it like when you first met Kaelon?** After speaking with Mr. Rob, he felt very confident that he had a great match lined up for me in Kaelon, and that quickly proved to be true! Kaelon and I hit it off from the get go. I made it a priority of mine to always be vulnerable and real from the start, and I think he took to that and realized he could trust me, even early on.

**How have you seen Kaelon grow over the years?** He has grown in many ways over our 4 1/2 years together. Spiritually, he has learned so much about the Lord. He came into the program believing he might've been a Christian already, however he has now fully come to trust in Jesus as his Lord and Savior! He has learned to ask great questions and ponder upon the Word of God. I've also seen Kaelon become more outgoing and become a better friend to those around him.

**What has surprised you about your mentoring experience?** I'm surprised just how close Kaelon and I have gotten, and how much we have leaned on one another. I was always optimistic, but I couldn't have foreseen such a great relationship developing until I experienced it firsthand.

**Can you tell us of a special moment of connection with Kaelon?:** Without giving too many personal details, there have

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*“After years of observing Kaelon and the other mentees...it is abundantly clear to me that their involvement in STEP has shaped their lives for the better. It's a unique and wonderful support system...” - Heath*



### SAVE THE DATE!

#### 5th Annual STEP Charity Golf Tournament

May 16th  
(Form a 4-person team or sponsor a hole!)

Contact Mary Carol  
(501.425.4735)

#### Summer Mentoring

July 12-14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. OR  
July 19-21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Contact Rob (501.425.7837) or  
Nikita (501.837.8833)

#### Summer Literacy Camps

Aug 1-5, 9a-noon  
Aug 8-12, 9a-noon

Contact Juli (501.539.3959)



## MEET HEATH AND SENIOR, KAELOON (CONT.)

been tough times in both of our lives when we have sought one another out for prayer and brotherhood. We have seen the Holy Spirit do amazing things! To know that he trusts me with the gritty details of his life, and knows that I'll love him through it all, means the world to me. It is also reciprocated by Kaelon...I know I can count on him when I need prayer or a brother to lean on.

**What would you share with someone who may be considering signing up for mentoring? I would strongly recommend getting**

involved with STEP! But, it is not something done half-heartedly. It requires real commitment and sacrifice, but in the best ways...Every day that a STEP mentee is poured into by a follower of Christ is a chance for them to grow, and is a worthwhile effort.

Lastly, there have been few programs or groups of people in my life that I have seen exemplify the characteristics of Jesus Christ more than the men, women, and children of STEP. It is a truly special program that I believe glorifies God in so many ways.

*STEP's Vision: Changing the heart of the city through the hope of the Gospel, one mentoring relationship at a time.*

### CAMP—KIDS ACROSS AMERICA



STEP is making preparations to send the youth at no charge to our annual summer trip to KAA Camp in the Branson area. We will send around 25 youth and 3 adults this year. KAA's mission is to build Christian leaders by encouraging, equipping, and empowering urban youth and their mentors through camping and education. This is truly a life-changing event for our youth!

### MARY CAROL PEDERSON, NEW STEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am humbled and thankful to be a part of leading STEP Ministries into the future. STEP has been showing the love and hope of the Gospel to inner-city children for over 38 years through one-on-one mentoring relationships, and I can't wait to see its impact multiplied, as the Lord leads us forward.

As some of you know, about 5 years ago, God alarmed my heart about the prevalent violence in our community. God hates violence as it is an act against His most precious creation, mankind. It's the reason He chose to flood the earth in the times of Noah. At that time, I studied best-practice solutions for addressing violence, and mentoring of young men was a consistent theme. Ever since that time, I have been listening and learning about effective mentoring efforts, and STEP Ministries is the best, proven mentoring model that exists! So many God stories. I can't wait to share some with you!

God uses the Church to be His hands and feet in showing His love to our community. STEP Ministries was CREATED by churches for churches—to empower people through Jesus Christ to step in, step up, and step out—and answer the biblical mandate of evangelism and discipleship.

Will you pray with me? Pray for God to use STEP for His purposes beyond what we could ever think or imagine! (Eph. 3:20) He always has a bigger plan than we do!

I look forward to working with each of you! Feel free to contact me any time at [marycarol@stepministries.org](mailto:marycarol@stepministries.org) or 501.425.4735!



## STEP SUMMER PROGRAMS

### INVITE YOUR CHURCH TO STEP IN!

The STEP Summer Programs are a key time to grow the year-round impact in our community! As Rob says, it is our “fishing time” when volunteers get a small taste of what it means to mentor or tutor with STEP, and many decide to continue for the next school year!

So, we need your help! **Will you make an announcement in your small group, Sunday School, or other church event about the opportunity to love on a child through a local “short-term mission trip.”** STEP makes it easy—you just show up and are given the materials to go over and the activities are already planned!

### SUMMER MENTORING (Three-night week)

**Tues-Thurs, 5:30—7:30 p.m., July 12-14, July 19-21, or July 26-28**

### LITERACY CAMP (5-morning week)

**Mon-Fri, 9:00-noon, August 1-5 and August 8-12**

### 5TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT — MAY 16TH

We will hit the links on May 16th for our Fifth Annual Golf Tournament! We will once again be playing at The Greens at North Hills. This is a fun day on the course with some healthy competition and a day filled with food, games and prizes.

There are several ways you can support this event:

- 4-Person Golf Teams are \$400
- Individuals are \$100 (will be added to a team)
- Put your name or business on a hole \$100
- Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000
- Presenting Sponsor \$1,500

Contact Mary Carol for more info at [marycarol@stepministries.org](mailto:marycarol@stepministries.org) or 501.425.4735.



WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE?

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Would you like to see more of the precious faces impacted by STEP Ministries? Want to know more about the NEXT Step life skills that are being taught to the youth? Then, like and follow the STEP Ministries Facebook page or @STEP\_Ministries on Instagram!

This is also a great way to spread the word about STEP with those in your circle of influence as you share some of our posts and encourage others to get involved through serving as a mentor, tutor, encourager, or donor! It will take all of us to accomplish the vision the Lord has given us— "Changing the heart of the city through the hope of the Gospel, one mentoring relationship at a time!"

## WILL YOU BECOME A "FRIEND OF STEP"?

Since 1984, STEP Ministries has been discipling, mentoring, tutoring and encouraging the underserved 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, life-skills training, field trips, summer camp and short term 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 \$25 per month and up. To join Friends of STEP, visit [www.stepministries.org](http://www.stepministries.org), click on the **DONATE** link and follow the instructions. You may 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, North Little Rock, AR 72115. Call Mary Carol Pederson if you have any questions at 501.425.4735 or email [mary-carol@stepministries.org](mailto:mary-carol@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**

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