



Footprints September 2020



Tom and his mentee Marcus Dedrick

STEP Hires a New Executive Director!

Jamey Henderson stepped down as the Exec. Director on March 1st to return to his previous position in banking. The STEP Board began searching for a new Exec. Director immediately and after weeks of interviews they found a replacement for Jamey within their ranks. Tom Allen has been a mentor at STEP for the last six years and a member of the Board of Representatives for the last 5 years and was the current Board Chairperson. Tom has been working in the IT industry as an entrepreneur and sales leader for the last 37 years and was ready for a change. Tom said "I fell in love with STEP the day I had my initial training. I remember sitting in the bleachers thinking I know this is where God wants me right now." My wife Katrina, played a big role in getting me to STEP as she had already committed to mentoring and talked me into checking it out. My mentee Marcus, just graduated from high school so it was good timing as well. I really look forward to working with Nikita, Juli and Rob as they have an incredible passion and a real heart for this ministry. I just can't imagine a better way of using your time than growing God's Kingdom through Christian disciplining of inner city youth.

Summer Literacy Camp

Juli Atkinson led another year of Summer Literacy Camp at STEP during August and September. Juli said "Literacy Camp was an amazing event! Nine students received ten days of one-on-one reading tutoring and learned about stories that Jesus told. Camp was definitely different this year, but it was no less wonderful. Thank you to everyone who made it happen." Each child was able to take home 15-20 books to begin a collection of their own.

STEP Mentoring

It has been a very difficult season to plan activities at STEP. We finally have some clarity with the rules provided by the CDC, State of Arkansas and the NLR School District. Mentoring will kickoff in August with Mentor Training and on September 14th Mentoring will once again begin its 35th year of mentoring and discipling the youth of NLR. It has been almost 6 months since we have had youth in the building for mentoring and we cannot be more excited to get back to working with the STEP family again.

We have been planning, cleaning, painting and praying and feel we are as ready as we can be. We know the theme for this year will be "flexibility and mercy". We may have to change the rules of engagement week to week and we may have people change their minds about coming week to week as well. We are ready to work through any issues that may arise.

COVID Safe Opening

STEP has reviewed the CDC, Ark Dept. of Health and the NLR School District guidelines for a safe reopening to prepare for STEP Club activities. If you would like to review STEP's Safe Reopening Plan please visit our website.



This year's STEP Summer Literacy Camp was a successful 2 week program working with the Youth to improve their reading skills.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

STEP Mentoring
September 14th

STEP Tutoring
October 5th

STEP CHRISTmas Store
December 12th

Mentoring
Nikita

nikita@stepministries.org
501.837.8833

Rob
rob@stepministries.org
501.425.7837

Tutoring
Juli

juli@stepministries.org
501.260.9521

Encouragers
Tom

Tom@stepministries.org
501.951.4866

Friends of STEP

Would you consider joining our monthly financial support team? The Friends of STEP is our main source of income that allows us to provide programming for the youth. We accept all monthly donations from \$5.00 per month and up.

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 in Eastgate

STEP's In-School Encourager Program
Retreats & 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!



The Neighborhood In Transition

The Eastgate Terrace neighborhood is finally undergoing a complete renovation. This has been in the works for about 5 years, even discussions of razing the entire complex. The North Little Rock Housing Authority has also outsourced the management of the community to a private property management company. The work will include demolishing some buildings for additional parking space, new community space and renovating every single unit. Many residents have moved out during this time but should start moving back by the end of this year.

We may have a challenge finding younger kids for Mentoring in the coming fall school year because of this transition but we will have more youth available for STEP once this work is completed than we have had in several years.

The name of the community is also changing from Eastgate Terrace to Homes at Pine Crossing.