



Footprints September 2021

MEET KATRINA AND EMORY

How did you come to STEP? By the grace of God and with a sturdy nudge from Mike Haigh. Mike was an elder at Cornerstone Bible Fellowship and seemed to think STEP is where my husband Tom could find a place to serve. So we attended the next Mentor's training meeting for the Summer program. Both of us were hooked by the middle of the presentation.

How long have you been a mentor? I started mentoring in 2013. Our church, Cornerstone Bible Fellowship had a "drive" for Summer mentors. After participating in the Summer Mentoring program I immediately signed up to be a full time mentor in the Fall. This Fall begins my 8th year of mentoring. My current mentee is Emory and we have been together for 7 years.

Tell us about your relationship with Emory: I will start at the very beginning. The first day I got to meet "Em" at Club that year I asked what she liked to do when she was not in school. She told me she liked to sew on her Auntie's sewing machine! If that isn't a God thing I don't know what is. I have been quilting for almost 30 years. I knew Emory and I would be friends for a very long time.

What has mentoring at STEP meant for you? This feels like a loaded questions because it means so much to me. I have to wonder what different decisions I would have made had I had an adult friend, mentor, who allowed me the option of a personal relationship with Jesus. I know and feel God working in the gym every time I walk in. From watching the men with the boys in the Friendship Club (picture boys literally hanging off the men's arms) to the more grown up conversations happening in the Ambassador Club, this ministry is just as much for us mentors as it is for the students. All we mentors have to do is "pray up and show up".

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Save the Date!!!

Virtual Supper with STEP
September 30th

CHRISTmas Toy Store
December 11th

STEP Contacts

Mentoring

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Encouragers

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MEET KATRINA AND EMORY (CONTINUED)



What is your biggest surprise with mentoring? For me the biggest surprise is how my community grew. Not only did my family grow by adding Emory (and Marcus, Tom's mentee) but also all the people I have encountered while being a part of STEP. Getting to know Nikita and Rob through the ministry and the other mentors and mentees has been more than a pleasure. We all grow toward God the more we learn about each other along with learning more about Christ himself. One of the things I wanted to improve on is how I present Christ to others (which is the entire foundation of STEP). STEP has offered me the opportunity to improve my skills but only Emory could tell you if my skills

have improved. **What would you like to share with somebody interested in becoming a mentor?** Know that you aren't here to change a life. God will use you in ways you can't imagine to impact a life of a child though. It won't happen in an instant, it may take years but it will be amazing.

I'd say choose a night that works for you knowing that in a couple of years it will change and your child moves up in age. Schedule a visit to shadow a mentor & mentee and see how it works. Better yet, bring a team from your church to shadow. Maybe we can get every student that is on the waiting list off of it!

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

PATH PARTNERSHIP

STEP has partnered with PATH (Partners Against Trafficking Humans) for over three years now to train our adults and our kids on the issues with sexual exploitation and abuse including human trafficking.

This training has been very insightful and useful for all that have been involved.

If you would like to have them come and speak to your organization, review the brochure in this mailing and contact them directly.

TOM ALLEN, STEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Due to an unexpected medical issue, I have made the decision to step aside from the Executive Director role here at STEP once a replacement has been identified. This has been a very difficult decision for both my wife Katrina and I but we ultimately felt that STEP would be served best by someone that could commit fully to this position.

Having spent the last 18 months in the role has given me so much more insight into the impact that STEP has with the youth we serve, their families and the adult mentor/disciple makers as well. The entire community is receiving so many blessings as a result of this ministry. Watching Nikita, Juli and Rob serve this ministry is so encouraging. STEP is on such a strong foundation I am confident it will continue to thrive as long as the focus stays on growing God's kingdom. You can see Jesus at work in so many different ways here, it has truly been an honor to have been a part of STEP. STEP will always hold a special place in our hearts.



SUPPER with STEP

VIRTUAL SUPPER WITH STEP—NO EVENT

Supper with STEP has become the highlight of the year for us to communicate what is happening at STEP to everyone that supports STEP with their time, talents and gifts. However, due to COVID, we first postponed the event from March to September and now we are cancelling the event.

However, as this has become our largest fund raiser of the year for us, we will continue to ask for all our friends that typically donate to Supper with STEP to make a donation if possible. In place of purchasing event tickets, silent auction items and donating, please help us raise money to feed the kids a nutritious dinner. In the past we have fed the kids a snack when they arrived to the gym. We are able to get these snacks from the Food Bank at no charge through a grant we receive. However, for most of these kids, this is their dinner for the evening. We have decided to provide a meal on Club nights so that the kids don't go home hungry.

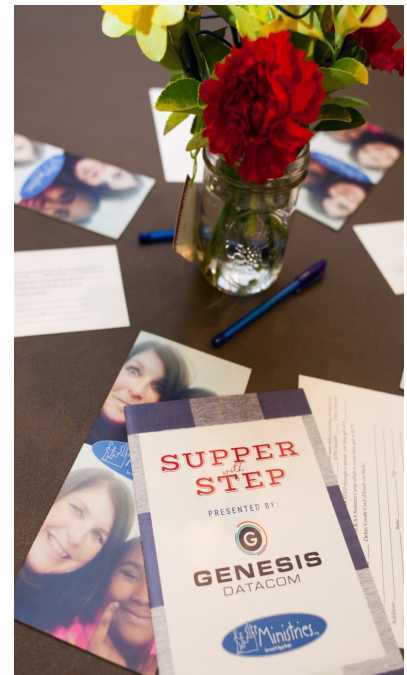
To donate, go to www.stepministries.org and click on calendar and then to Supper with STEP to donate or mail check noted to Supper with STEP.

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 across Pulaski County. Today, STEP is active in 6 different elementary schools. 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 serving for many years, decades even 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 and we are being told we will not be allowed in again this year. Many students have fallen well behind in their classroom studies due to the challenge of virtual learning and many were required to attend Summer School. The Encourager Program will be more necessary than ever when we are allowed back in to assist the kids to 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.



STEP CHRISTmas Toy Store is coming up on Saturday December 11th. We will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of this event! Join us by donating gifts for the families to purchase, donate money and we will purchase the gifts on your behalf or volunteer to make this the best event yet.

CHRISTmas Toy Store!
December 11, 2021

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Help By Donating!
Your donation empowers parents to use their limited income to be "providers" of gifts for their children by purchasing new toys at greatly reduced prices.

TOY DONATIONS SHOULD BE:

- New ... \$8 or more
- Unwrapped
- With price tags removed
- Dropped off at your designated collection point by Sunday, December 6th
- Financial donations also accepted

WISH LIST
Preschool and riding toys, balls, dishes, blocks, musical toys (elementary), blank/arrow dolls, bicycles, doll strollers, cribs, legos, craft kits, Jr. High electronic games, bean-type ballistics/ruckus/yo, handpuppets, sports balls

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 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

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