

# Footprints



SEPTEMBER 2025

## TURNING PAGES AND CHANGING LIVES: 2025 SUMMER LITERACY CAMP

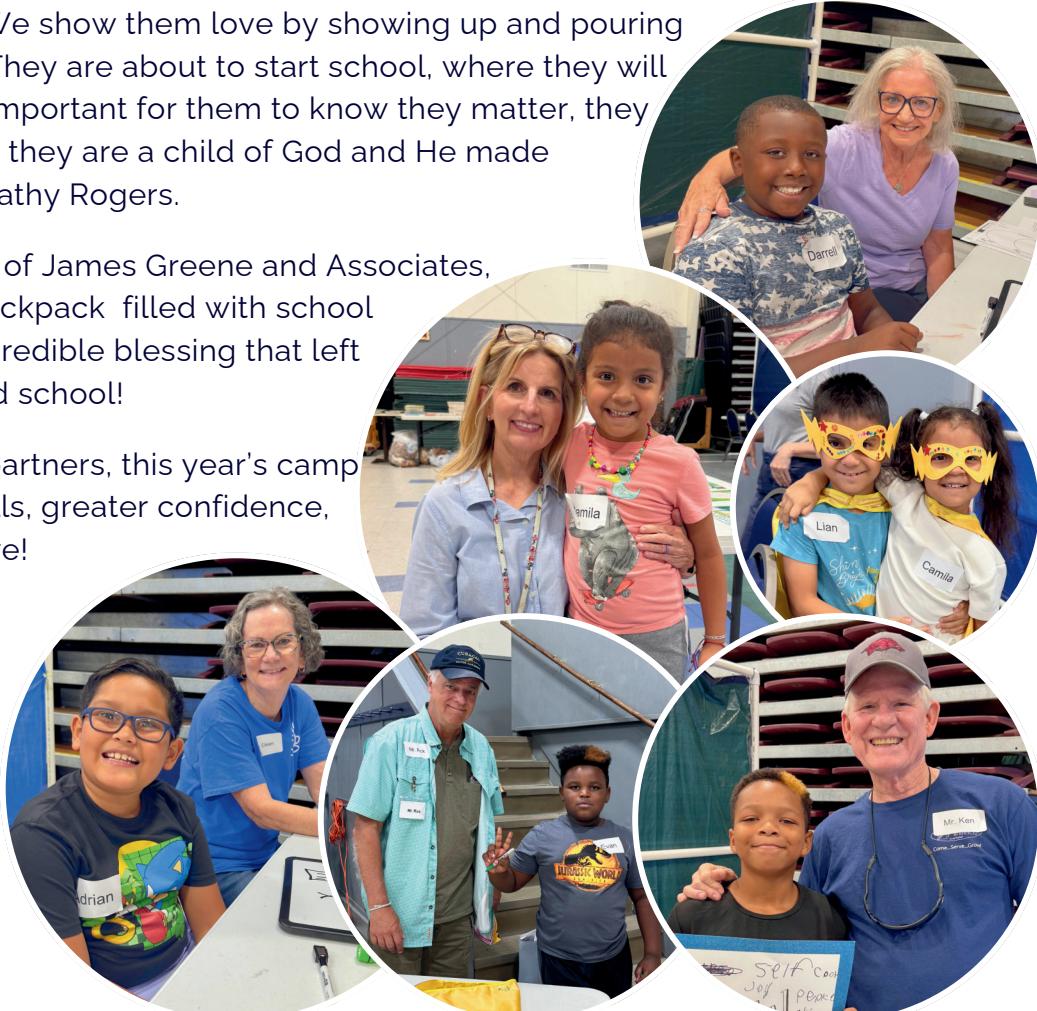
As the summer heat blazed across Central Arkansas in early August, 15 children found refuge indoors, not to escape the sun, but to ignite their passion for reading at STEP's Summer Literacy Camp! Since its beginning, the Literacy Camp has become a cornerstone of STEP's summer programming, helping students return to school more confident and ready to learn. The camp is designed not only to strengthen students' reading skills but also to share God's Word through Bible stories and to create a joyful, memorable week of learning and fun. That largely happens because of the amazing volunteers who serve, "Our volunteers are making a difference in students' lives beyond reading skills as they learn about God, His Son, and the Word," shared Tutoring and Literacy Coordinator Juli Atkinson.

Campers enjoyed games, songs, crafts, two meals a day, and of course, STEP's unique trait of engaging children in one-on-one tutoring, "We show them love by showing up and pouring into them on a one-on-one basis. They are about to start school, where they will be one-on-many, so I think it's so important for them to know they matter, they are loved, and they count because they are a child of God and He made them," says long-time volunteer, Kathy Rogers.

This year, thanks to the generosity of James Greene and Associates, every child also received a new backpack filled with school supplies, books, and a Bible: an incredible blessing that left students excited about literacy and school!

Thanks to faithful volunteers and partners, this year's camp gave children stronger reading skills, greater confidence, and a lasting reminder of God's love!

**EMPOWERING  
PEOPLE THROUGH  
JESUS CHRIST  
TO STEP IN  
STEP UP  
STEP OUT!**





## STEP FEATURED ON KATV

On August 11, STEP's Mary Carol Pederson and STEP alumnus George Eckwood had the privilege of sharing about the ministry on KATV's ARC afternoon show. While the segment primarily highlighted our Summer Literacy Camp, it also opened the door to share how God is using STEP to transform lives, impact our city, and invite others to get involved.

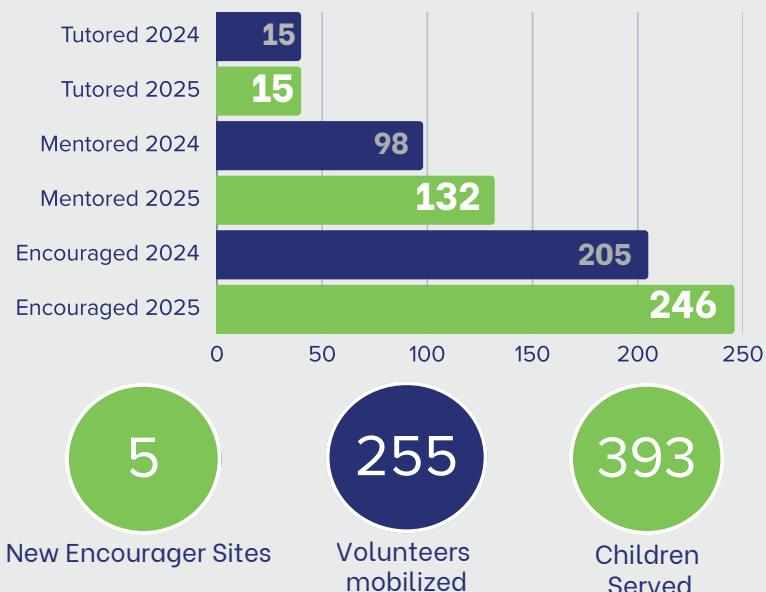
During the interview, Mary Carol was asked how STEP makes a difference in the community. She shared a moving encounter with two former students who had grown up in STEP. One told her, "STEP was the best thing my mom ever did for me." The other, through tears, said, "I don't think I would be alive today without STEP Ministries." That testimony captures the very heart of our mission: lasting life-change that reaches far beyond childhood.

We praise God for this kind of lasting impact on the children, and now adults, in our community. Stories like these are possible because of your faithful prayers, giving, and support. Thank you for helping us change lives for Christ!

To see this story, please visit [www.KATV.com](http://www.KATV.com) and search "Literacy Camp".

### By The Numbers 2024-2025

December 2024-September 2025



## 2025 Stepping Up Fundraising Dinner

BENEFITING STEP MINISTRIES  
GOAL: \$200,000

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

DINNER BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M. | DOORS OPEN AT 6:30P.M.

FOUR POINTS HOTEL-MIDTOWN

925 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE ATTIRE IS SEMI-FORMAL  
NO COST TO ATTEND | RSVP REQUIRED

### Keynote Speaker Dr. Robert Lewis



Author of *Raising a Modern Day Knight*, founder of Men's Fraternity, and former Directional Pastor at Fellowship Bible Church

### Emcee & Host Scott Inman



Former award-winning TV news anchor and Razorback Sports Network broadcaster

To reserve your seat, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Lisa Glidewell, at 501-681-2060 or email her at [lisa@stepministries.org](mailto:lisa@stepministries.org). The deadline to register is **Friday, October 10**.



24<sup>th</sup>  
Annual

# CHRISTmas Toy STORE



Your donation empowers parents to shop and use their limited income to be providers of gifts for their children by purchasing new toys and gifts for them at greatly reduced prices!

## SERVE:

If you have questions about donating or would like to volunteer, please call/text Lisa at 501-681-2060.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARY CAROL PEDERSON

### "Tell Me More!"

As STEP continues to walk in this new season of explosive growth, one of my absolute favorite things is to share with pastors of additional churches about what God does through mobilizing His people at STEP! Inevitably when they hear even a snippet about STEP, they say in one way or another, "Tell me more!" It thrills my soul to then see their earnestness and excitement over the possibility of engaging their congregation in one-on-one mentorship, evangelism, and discipleship of under-resourced youth in our community through partnering with us!

And, as STEP is now involved in mentoring a third generation of youth, the stories are endless as I speak with STEP alumni and long-time mentors about the lifelong impact on both mentor and mentee.

Stories like... youth who didn't have a father around, but grew up to become a godly, praiseworthy father to THEIR children. Youth who came from desperate poverty, but grew up to become professionally



*Jesus is the Reason for the Season!*

### TOY DONATIONS

#### SHOULD BE:

- New - \$8 or more
- Unwrapped
- Price tags left on or with receipts

### WISH LIST ELEMENTARY

black/brown dolls, doll strollers/cribs, bikes, Legos, science/play sets, games, craft kits, etc

### WISH LIST JR/SR HIGH

winter wear, body wash, make-up, jewelry, art supplies, cologne/perfume, sport supplies, pajamas, blue tooth speaker, etc.

### DROP OFF

At church by Sunday, Dec 7 or  
at STEP NLR at 601 East 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
by Monday, Dec 8

successful and are giving back to their own community. Youth who couldn't read, but a STEP tutor or encourager helped open that door for them. Youth who had no hope but accepted Christ, had a Christ-follower model following God's word over time, and are now filled with the hope and joy of Jesus' abundant life. These youth credit STEP with being a deciding factor in these stories. Plus, there are many stories of mentors who thought they were signing up to "help a child" and realized that THEY were the ones who learned things and were transformed for good through the experience.

Thank you for partnering with STEP. Our recent "School Year Program Launch" fundraising letter has brought in \$39k! Thank you to those who responded. As we continue leaning into this huge step of faith in multiplication, will you pray about how God may be calling you to do even MORE to grow the impact of this life-changing ministry?

For His Glory,

*Mary Carol*



**STEP Ministries, Inc.**

**PO Box 122**

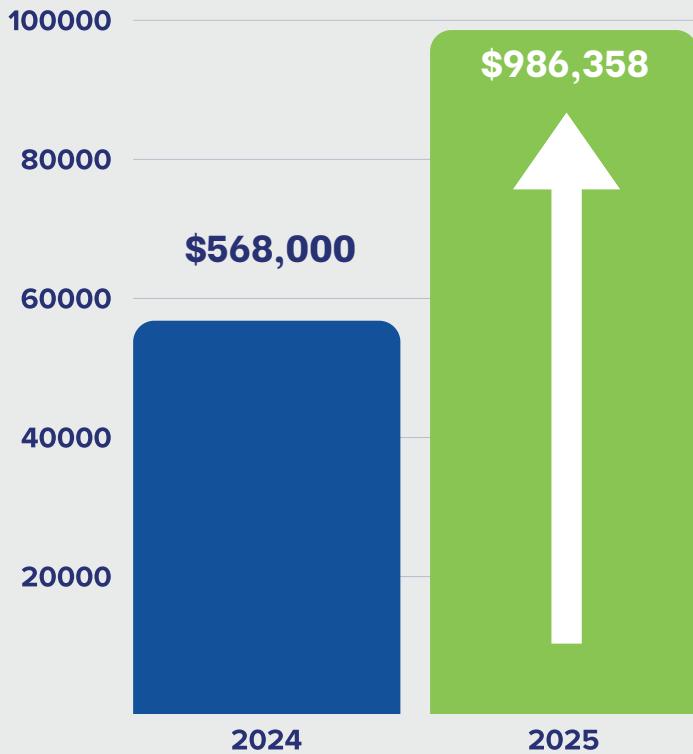
**North Little Rock, AR 72115**

**CHANGING THE  
HEART OF THE CITY  
THROUGH THE HOPE  
OF THE GOSPEL,  
ONE MENTORING  
RELATIONSHIP  
AT A TIME.**

**INVEST IN THE GOSPEL AND MULTIPLY HOPE!**

### **STEP Budget Comparison**

January 1 thru December 31



After much prayer and strategic planning, STEP's Board of Directors sensed God's clear direction to lead the ministry into a season of growth and multiplication. In November 2024, the board unanimously voted to increase the budget by more than \$400,000 to position STEP for this expansion, trusting fully in God's provision.

We are grateful that, through His faithfulness in previous years, we are able to bridge the current gap between income and ministry costs by drawing from savings as we actively pursue the financial growth needed to sustain and expand the work ahead.

Join us in multiplying hope and prayerfully consider giving towards our God-sized growth! You can always give securely online at [STEPMinistries.org](http://STEPMinistries.org) or by mailing a gift to P.O. Box 122, NLR, AR 72115.

<b>2025 Income YTD:</b>	<b>\$451,215.00</b>
<b>2025 Ministry Costs YTD:</b>	<b>\$626,080.00</b>
<b>Net Operating Income YTD:</b>	<b>(\$174,865.00)</b>

**\*As of August 31, 2025**

