

Our Mission

Stephen Center partners with individuals, families and the community to overcome homelessness, substance abuse and mental health concerns.



THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Michele's life was marked by addiction and despair, but a chance encounter with Judge John Steinheider and the support of the Stephen Center, brought about a profound transformation. This article tells the inspiring story of Michele's journey from the depths of addiction to finding hope, redemption, and a new purpose in life.

Michele's struggles with addiction began at the tender age of nine, where substance abuse was tragically normalized in her environment. For years, she found herself trapped in a vicious cycle, desperately seeking a way out. Despite giving birth to three beautiful children, she was unable to maintain sobriety and continually sought solace in meth and alcohol.

Michele's breaking point came when she faced legal consequences and found herself in jail. It was there that she stumbled upon a brochure from the Stephen Center, a beacon of hope amid her darkest days. Fate intervened as she stood before Judge John Steinheider, who recognized her need for help. Instead of condemning her, he offered her a choice: an opportunity to enter the Stephen Center's HERO program.

Judge Steinheider's decision was a pivotal moment for Michele. Instead of dictating her path, he empowered her to make a decision for herself. On June 4th, 2018, Michele entered the HERO program, surrendering herself to a higher power and allowing others to guide her recovery journey. This marked the first time in her life that she prioritized herself.

"He did not tell me to go left or right. He didn't give me direction. What he did do, was give me choice. I took it and ran with it."

Following her graduation from the HERO program, Michele became a kitchen volunteer, displaying her commitment to personal growth and giving back to others. By July 2021, she joined the Stephen Center staff as the Lead Shelter Guest Services representative. Her life now centers on being present for her children and rekindling relationships that were once lost. Through

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I knew this was an opportunity for Michele and I've never looked back on that decision.

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From the Desk of the **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



Hope & Second Chances

As we continue our mission to provide shelter, support, and hope to those experiencing homelessness, substance abuse and mental health concerns, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the power of second chances and the role that HOPE plays.

At Stephen Center, we firmly believe that everyone deserves a second chance. We recognize that life can sometimes deal us unexpected challenges, leading to circumstances that are difficult to overcome. Homelessness, substance abuse and mental health can affect anyone, regardless of their background, education, or social status. It is our mission to extend a helping hand to those in need, giving them a chance and hope to rebuild their lives.

In our programs, we witness stories of resilience and determination every day. We see people like Michele who have faced unimaginable hardships, yet find the strength to keep going. Our dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly to create an environment that fosters hope and empowers our residents to reclaim their lives. We provide not only a safe place to sleep, but also the resources and support necessary for individuals to regain their independence.

One of the most inspiring aspects of our work is witnessing the transformative power of second chances. We have seen individuals who were once consumed by hopelessness and despair, emerge as confident, self-sufficient members of society. It is truly remarkable to witness the journey of individuals who, against all odds, find the courage to rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Together, we can break the cycle of homelessness and create lasting change. By supporting Stephen Center, you are not only providing immediate relief to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, substance abuse and mental health concerns, but you are also investing in their future.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who has supported our organization. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who are most vulnerable men, women and children in our community.

Thank you for believing in the power of second chances. Hope happens here.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Wehling".

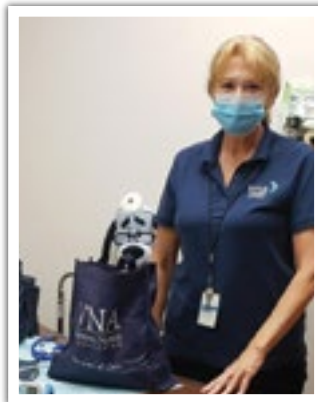
Michael Wehling, CEO

Volunteer Spotlight

STEPHEN CENTER RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS WITH AN APPRECIATION DINNER



Stephen Center cannot exist without our 500+ volunteers providing 51,000 service hours in 2022. In April we hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to recognize their time, talents and dedication to our programs. Not only do we thank all 500+, we also recognize several volunteers that went above and beyond in service hours in 2022.



Bronze winners serving 100-200 hours: Cheryl Baker (140 hours), Camille Breitkruetz (113 hours), Stacy Kretchmer (151 hours), Cory Long (108 hours), Mary Kay Mans (128 hours), Kevin McCoy (152 hours), Steve McLaughlin (121 hours), Bob Mullin (103 hours), David Russell (196 hours), Cathy Schraeder (196 hours), Sr. Barb Freemyer (110 hours), Bob Monaco (109 hours), Ed Furay (103 hours), Samantha Sherman (108 hours), John Steinheider (199 hours), Judy Stack (113 hours) and Jackie Covarrubias (179 hours).

Silver winners that served 200-500 hours: David Kaminski (263 hours), Bob Maciatias (419 hours), and Barbara Veleba (395 hours).

Drum roll... Gold winners serving more than 500 hours: Alice Borrego (833 hours), Mary Fisher (532 hours), Danny Spraklin (530 hours), and John Agee (1,286 hours).

Partnership Award: Stephen Center understands the power of partnerships, and Nurse Lesa Edmunson with the Visiting Nurses Association was awarded partnership of the year for her 10 years of service. She is with us three full days per week taking care of individuals from all three programs. VNA has been a partner of Stephen Center for nearly 30 years. Lesa is trusted and valued demonstrating dedication and commitment and is a constant advocate. "There are a lot of mental health issues and barriers in homelessness. I absolutely love working with the Stephen Center and helping those we serve navigate their healthcare needs," Lesa shares.

Meal Provider Award: Offutt Angels has been serving dinner two times a month for over 38 years. On the Menu...Tater-Tot Casserole and Fran Held's infamous spaghetti!

Each and every volunteer that shows up is truly making a difference in the world and a difference in the lives of those we serve!



BY THE NUMBERS 2022

MADE POSSIBLE BY
YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AND VOLUNTEER HOURS









239,178 meals
1,200 clients
51,000 volunteer hours



33 average days at shelter
29,261 total nights at shelter
79,726 nights for all programs

**Clients at the Shelter and
Permanent Supportive
Housing Self Identify as:**



-  88% Disabled
-  56% Having Mental Illness Issues
-  42% Having Substance Abuse Issues
-  54% Having Physical Disabilities
-  59% Having Chronic Health Issues
-  16% Having Developmental Disabilities
-  20% meet 2 or more conditions
-  46% meet 3 or more conditions

Upon Exiting Shelter and Permanent Supportive Housing,
89% move to positive housing destination

The Power of Compassion Continued from page 1

it all, her husband Dave has been her rock, standing by her side and supporting her every step of the way.

Every Monday and Wednesday, Michele and Judge John cross paths at the Stephen Center, serving as a powerful reminder of the impact their meeting had on her life. Shortly after Michele’s court appearance, Judge John retired, but his dedication to helping others led him to become a Stephen Center volunteer. He has been contributing his time and expertise since January 2019, assisting with meal preparation.

Judge Steinheider’s decision to give Michele a chance, recognizing that she was struggling with substance abuse rather than being a criminal, changed the trajectory of her life. His belief in her potential and the resources offered by the Stephen Center paved the way for her transformation. Today, Michele expresses profound gratitude for this life-changing decision.

Michele’s story is a testament to the power of compassion, second chances, and the resilience of the human spirit. Through the support of Judge Steinheider and the Stephen Center, she not only overcame addiction but also rediscovered her self-worth and rebuilt her life. Her journey serves as an inspiration to others facing similar challenges, proving that with the right support and a willingness to change, transformation and redemption are possible.



HEARTS THAT HEAL

OneWorld Expands Services On Campus

For over 15 years, OneWorld has reserved appointment times at the Livestock Exchange Health campus for residents at the Stephen Center. In December 2022, the partnership expanded and will expand again July, 2023 by adding an additional day for services.

"When the Stephen Center presented this idea to us, it was a no brainer," said Sarah Miller, APRN, CPNP-PC, Chief of Medical Services.

The clinic is open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for primary care services including diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases, behavioral health referrals, laboratory services and vaccines.

"This partnership allows for a very holistic approach to providing care by allowing our clinical staff to see patients in their everyday environment," said Kim Lambrecht, BSN, RN, Associate Nursing Director of Specialty Clinics. **"If we can make quality care more easily accessible to patients facing difficult situations, we are making our entire community better."**

Cody Thorson, PA-C, Family Medicine Physician Assistant, is the primary provider at the Stephen Center clinic, with the support of Nora Guzman, Medical Assistant.

"I see Stephen Center residents regularly at OneWorld," said Thorson. "When I ask them about their experience at the Stephen Center, they tell me how much it's helping them improve their lives. I want to help further that cause."

In 2022, the Stephen Center had 85 children as clients, of whom over half are under the age of five. With the new clinic, parents will have direct support from Stephen Center staff to schedule their child's well-child visits without having to leave the center.

Stephen Center CEO, said they are excited to offer predictability and the opportunity for their clients to learn a routine and be able to create plans for their medical care.

"Many of our clients come from chaotic backgrounds and a lot of their lives are lived in crisis, so being able to provide routines for them is a life skill," said Wehling. "Additionally, having a clinic in our facility will make access to care easier.



A lot of folks in our permanent supportive housing have some sort of disability, whether it be physical or developmental. Having the ability to be seen on campus, especially for individuals in wheelchairs or who struggle a bit more to get around, is life changing."

OneWorld will continue to reserve appointment times for Stephen Center residents and provide transportation services for those appointments. Vaccine outreach services and regular visits from OneWorld registered nurses will also continue.

Through the years, OneWorld has helped many Stephen Center patients enroll in Medicaid so they can have access to specialists and other essential services.

Memorials & Honorariums

The Latest Word

January 16, 2023 through
July 15, 2023

You can memorialize a loved one or pay tribute to someone special in your life while helping those in need in our community. When you make a Memorial or Honor Gift, Stephen Center will send an acknowledgement card to the family or honoree. Gifts are also recognized in this newsletter. You may use the enclosed envelope to send your gift.

in memory of:

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Taurian Houston

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Lena Henning's 90th Birthday
Lena Henning

**Jon's Birthday -
Happy Birthday, Jon!
-TAP THAT CASH**
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The Knot

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January 16, 2023 through
July 15, 2023

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Jeremy Davern

Chief Development Officer

Teri Corcoran

Chief Operations Officer

Neshelle Richards

HERO Program Director

Medjine Desgraves

PSH Manager

Brian Doyle

Shelter Manager

Timeaki Allen

Community Engagement Director

Beth Ellis

Grants & Development Coordinator

Rex Younkin

SHELTER NEEDS LIST

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| WATER | Lg Shampoo/Conditioner |
| COFFEE | Body Wash/Lotion |
| Towels | Over the counter meds |
| Twin Sheets | Gallon-size Ziploc Bags |
| Pillows | Deodorant |

Drop off at Donation Dock
South side of 2723 Q Street
building.

