

Stepping Stones Center
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 Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

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**Our mission
 is to increase
 independence,
 improve lives and
 promote
 inclusion for children
 and adults with
 disabilities**

Summer 2010

In Step With Stepping Stones Center

advocate ~ tireless fund raiser

~visionary ~ friend ~



generous benefactor

Kay Pettengill to be honored at Bloom for Stepping Stones

Kay Pettengill, whose gentle words and hard facts have made her an irresistible fund raiser for generations, is the honorary chairwoman of "Bloom," Stepping Stones Center's premiere fund raising event on Aug. 21.

The tented garden party on the Stepping Stones' grounds in Indian Hill includes an auction, dinner by the bite, Bloom cocktails and live music. Guests will be able to glance past the party lights and see the result of Pettengill's fundraising debut with Stepping Stones in the early 1970s – Hillside Hall, with an indoor warm-water pool and gymnasium. Pettengill led the campaign that raised \$1.2 million for the building as one of her first projects after joining the Stepping Stones board in the early 1970s. She was the fund raising force behind the major expansion in the 1980s of what is now called Pettengill Hall for residential camp and respite services at Stepping Stones' Camp Allyn site in Batavia. She worked closely with the Cincinnati Rotary, which owns Camp Allyn and is an ongoing champion of programming there.

Pettengill said Stepping Stones' innovative programs for children and adults with disabilities captured her heart and she's been spreading that captivation ever since. "What happens here is so important," Pettengill said. "We can't all be in the programs helping the children and helping the adults, but we can all be part of making that happen."

(Tireless friend honored - continued Page 7)

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HOLD the DATE!

August 21st
 Along Redbird Lake at Stepping Stones Center
 5650 Given Road - Indian Hill
 \$125 per person

Honorary Chair: Kay Pettengill
 Honorary Hosts: Chip & Lisa Pettengill

Featuring: Tapas Dining, Music, Dancing,
 Live & Silent Auction Items

Questions?
 Contact Theresa Ciampone
 513-831-4660, ext. 39
theresa.ciampone@steppingstonescenter.org



No one shall be denied services or employment because of color, race, national origin, religion, sex, disability or age.



Judy Selzer, Stepping Stones Aquatics Coordinator and Ken Gee celebrate his Exceptional Volunteer Service Award.

Stepping Stones Honors Exceptional Volunteer

Ken Gee, a former GE engineer who will turn 90 in July, was recognized for outstanding volunteer commitment at Stepping Stones Center's Annual Meeting. "They surprised me with the award," he said. "I didn't think I was outstanding. I just wanted to help."

Gee started volunteering after he retired, and has logged close to two decades – providing such steadfast and reliable work that many think he's part of the staff, said Aquatics Coordinator, Judy Selzer.

When Gee started participating in the water fitness classes, he stayed after to help with preschoolers, school groups and adults. "He has been extremely dependable, even calling ahead if he is unable to be here to help," said Selzer. When the program started focusing on serious swimming skills, Ken became my right hand man and a great swimming instructor, helping to make sure that each child who left our program was water safe and really swimming."

It was those youngsters who captured Gee's heart and his volunteer hours. "I got such enjoyment working with the toddlers and preschoolers, teaching them to swim and seeing their progress. That was the lure that kept me coming week after week," he said.

When Selzer suggested Gee teach the community work-out class in the warm water fitness program, Gee took over as instructor and became the best," said Selzer. "I learned the routines," said Gee. "And if I skip something, they let me know."

For information or questions about the Stepping Stone's Aquatic program at the Given Road location call 513-831-4660, ext. 24. or visit us on the web at: www.steppingstonescenter.org.

Summer Wishlist

Laptop Computer with DVD
 Digital Camera
 Photo Printer
 Photo Paper
 4-wheel drive pick-up truck
 Variety of garden hand tools
 (i.e. rakes, shovels, clippers, hoes, etc.)
 Portable DVD player
 Fishing Poles
 Garden Tiller
 Flower Bubs
 Developmental Play Toys
 'G' rated DVD's

Stepping Stones Center is a 501(c)3
 Federal ID 31-0671799

If you would like to make a wish come true,
 call 513/831-4660, ext. 21

Consider including Stepping Stones Center
 in your will or estate plan.

Visit us on the web:
www.steppingstonescenter.org



Steering Committee Planning BLOOM Event

John Borchers, Julie Richardson, Julie Perrino, Juliann Gardner, Connie Cook Laug and Kit Duval, members of the BLOOM steering committee are busy planning another spectacular summer party to benefit children and adults with disabilities. Stepping Stones is currently celebrating more than 46 years of service to the Cincinnati community.

Tireless friend honored (cont. from front page)

"We are strong and we are advancing to meet the needs," said Pettengill. The Step-Up alternative autism education program is in the midst of an expansion to add classroom and program space. Fundraising continues for that project, which broke ground in April. Pettengill was a valuable resource for much of that expansion funding. "The people in this community are so generous. I just ask," she said. But she does that very well, said her niece, Pam Terp, another longtime Stepping Stones supporter and former board member.

"She had no problem asking people for money, and she did it as only Kay could do it – very gracefully. And after someone made a donation, she'd send you a rose. She could find money where no one thought there was money," said Terp. "She wins their hearts." Kay said it's a matter of having a game plan and knowing your product. She combines facts and figures with persistence and passion. "Kay has a heart of gold. She put Stepping Stones in that heart of hers and it's been there ever since," said Terp.

Pettengill is quick to point to Stepping Stones' founders as the real heroes. Minor LeBlond and the late Peggy Geier had children with disabilities at a time when Greater Cincinnati had virtually no programs to serve them. They started the summer day camp for children with disabilities in 1963, building services and building support.

"Minor and Pants Lawrence got me involved," said Pettengill. Minor LeBlond spoke to her on the golf course and Lawrence, another longtime Stepping Stones supporter, hosted a lunch where the Stepping Stones director convinced Pettengill to join the board over wine and thick steaks. "It was the biggest steak I'd ever seen," said Pettengill. And it led to the biggest job she's ever seen.

Pettengill headed the Stepping Stones transportation committee in 1971, joined the board and eventually became president. She hit the ground running and hasn't stopped for 39 years. "We are so thankful for Kay Pettengill's long-standing devotion to helping our community and, in particular, for her dedication to Stepping Stones Center and improving the lives of people with disabilities," said Connie Cook Laug, Bloom chair and Stepping Stones' board vice president.

"You don't have to talk that much about charity, the children see and then they do," Pettengill said. Her own children saw her involvement. Pettengill's son, Chip, is on the Stepping Stones Center board. He and his wife, Lisa, are the honorary hosts of the Bloom event that honors Kay Pettengill.



Deborah Caley and Sam Scoggins enjoying "Open Your Heart" at Eddie Merlot's.



Guests at the Eddie Merlot's event benefitting Stepping Stones, braved a snow storm for a festive evening and a gourmet meal.



Jane Clarke proudly shows off her raffle prize, a beautiful painting by artist Leslie Birkhead.

"Open Your Heart at Eddie Merlot's"

The second annual "Open Your Heart" event at Eddie Merlot's raised more than \$40,000 for Stepping Stones programs. Snow was falling outside, but inside 225 guests sipped wine by the fireside while dining on filet mignon. During the February 9th event, guests were invited to buy valentines to sponsor a child at day camp. Special thanks to Eddie Merlot's management and staff for once again hosting the successful evening.



Flying Pig ~ Hope & Possibilities



Team Stepping Stones



**\$26,247
raised**



Special thanks to the following members of Team Stepping Stones:

Adult Services Participants
Courtney Amicon
Linda & Erin Apel
Lisa Arnold
Theresa Ciampone
Mary Beth Danker
Nick Dietrich
Dan Dufresne
Fred & Gail Fischer
Susie Fulmer
Lynn Groh
Judy & Eddie Hackmeister
Ron Kleinjohn
Heather Luedtke
John & Mary Lou McIllwraith
Lysa Meyer
Jennifer Ostendorf
Beverly Penny-Callahan
Nicola Rebelo-Johnson
Tonya Roth
Kathy & Mark Sackett
Amy & Tom Schmidt
Deborah & Angela Stewart
Kris Speelman
Rusty Stamper
Karla Tedford
Kim Thornberry
Jason & Nick Wilson

Foundation Grants

received by Stepping Stones Center (Jan. - June 2010)

Anonymous Foundation - CVS Foundation - Cincinnati Wine Festival - Finish Line - Lila L. Gallimore Trust - GCF/Summertime Kids - Louise Harkness and David Sinton Ingalls Foundation - The Frances R. Luther Charitable Trust - Macy's Foundation - Newman's Own Foundation - The Daniel & Susan Pfau Foundation - Scripps Howard Foundation - Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project/Seton High School - Toyota - Wohlgenuth Herschede Foundation-

Borchers Award presented for job excellence, humor and dedication

When Cedric Campbell joined the staff as a lifeguard at Stepping Stones Center for children and adults with disabilities, he soon realized he was joining a family. At the annual board meeting in April, that family awarded Campbell its highest honor -the Catherine Clark Borchers award given by staff to the staff member who most demonstrates job excellence with passion, dedication and a sense of humor. Campbell is a lifeguard in the aquatics program and also has worked with the preschool participants, adult services program and pitches in wherever an extra hand is needed.

In presenting the award, board president John Borchers described Campbell as smart, talented, reliable and passionately dedicated to making a difference. When something needs doing, he is there, said Borchers.

"I love what I do," Campbell said. "Stepping Stones is a great place with great people. This is the first time I've had real interaction with special needs kids. I've grown in the time I've been here. I'm proud to be part of what's happening here." Campbell has a degree in physical education and recreation.

Below find some of his Stepping Stones co-workers comments in their nominations:

- "He rolls with the punches - even the big 'Knock Out' ones."
 - "He is always smiling and happy to help however he can."
 - "He has a sweet spirit and is good-natured to the core."
 - "If the day is a hard one, looking at his calm disposition helps me hold it together."
 - "He always has a moment to acknowledge others and works toward finding common ground with everyone he meets."
 - "He's willing to help where he is needed and finds a positive reason to accept any assignment."
 - "His smile is constant: smiling while bleaching the pool walls, smiling while shoveling a foot of snow in front of Hillside Hall, smiling while chasing a runaway preschooler."
 - "He surely must have a bad day every once in a while, but no one ever sees it."
- Stepping Stones is truly blessed to have Cedric Campbell as a part of our family!



John Borchers, Stepping Stones board president, presents Cedric Campbell with a commemorative plaque from staff.

Top 10 Things You Can Do Today to Leave A Legacy

1. Prepare a will. Only 50% of those who pass away have one.
2. Leave a gift in your will for charitable organizations which made a difference in your life.
3. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of assets in your will to your favorite charity.
4. Consider using assets for your charitable gift. (stocks, bonds, real estate, art, jewelry etc.)
5. Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of your IRA, retirement or pension plan.
6. Purchase a new life insurance policy naming your favorite charity as the beneficiary.
7. Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.
8. Remember deceased loved ones with memorial gifts to charities.
9. Encourage your family members and friends to leave gifts to charities in their wills.
10. Ask your financial advisor to include charitable giving as part of their counsel to other clients.



Wagon Ho at Day Camp

Day Camp Stepping Stone campers recently enjoyed a handicapped accessible mule-drawn wagon ride around the camp grounds courtesy of the Gorman Farm Harness Club. The wagon was specially built to accommodate wheelchairs.

Volunteers from The Harness Club of Gorman Farm are offering days of wagon rides at several local programs serving children with disabilities, according to volunteer driver Chuck Melampy. Mules Jim and George were especially chosen for their patience and friendly demeanor towards children. This is the first year the Gorman Farm wagon has provided rides outside the farm.



Additional Summer Camp Volunteers Wanted

Record breaking numbers of campers are enrolling in both Day and Residential Overnight Camps this season. Volunteers are needed throughout the summer to support staff and assure the day campers have a great experience.

Volunteers should be at least 13 years old and MUST commit to a minimum of 5 days of volunteer service. Training is provided for ALL volunteers on their first day. Community service hours are recorded daily. A volunteer application packet and registration form can be downloaded by visiting www.steppingstonescenter.org or contact the volunteer office with questions - 513-831-4660, ext. 27.



A Slice of Sunshine

Members of the Cincinnati Board of Realtors served up a picnic of fried chicken, sandwiches, baked beans, slaw, macaroni and cheese and a huge cake decorated with a sunny rainbow at the annual Operation Sunshine picnic for campers at Stepping Stones' Camp Allyn. The picnic is an annual event at the summer residential camp owned by the Cincinnati Rotary and operated by Stepping Stones Center.

The realtors have been providing a picnic for campers with disabilities for 38 years. The project is a joint effort with ARC of Hamilton County, which also benefits from a donation by the realtors.

Memorial Contributions Received

(Nov. thru June)

John Ahrens
from
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bobenread

Elizabeth Borgmenke
from
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Borgmenke

Amy Rebecca Collins
from
Charlotte Woodson

John & Shirley Davis
from
The John & Shirley Davis Foundation

Robert Flynn
from
Sherwood Deforest
Ralph Flynn
Lois Hathorn
Pauline Lojinger
Joseph Marinello

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from
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Ron Kleinjohn

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please use the Reply Envelope provided to mail
memorials or honorarium gifts to Stepping Stones.

Kathleen Spellman McLaurin
from
Edward Geier
Susanne Geier
Miriam Goel
Minor LeBlond
Dr. & Mrs. Robert McLaurin
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Menchhofer

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from
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from
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