



STEPPING STONES

WALKING PREGNANT AND PARENTING YOUTH TOWARDS HOPE AND SUCCESS

Housing Project Proposal

Executive Summary



Objective

Stepping Stones, an initiative of **Youth Unlimited Edmonton**, is a program that aims to provide hope for and explore the potential of pregnant and parenting youth. We believe that every young person can thrive when given love, support, mentoring relationships, and hope. We are in a partnership with Disciples Church in north Edmonton to provide a home from which we can run our programs and impact more young moms who desperately need our help. At Stepping Stones, we are actively seeking partners to help us improve the quality of the programming we offer by assisting us in improving the quality of the home that offers young moms a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment. **There is an undeniable need in our city for Stepping Stones' presence and we are counting on support from our community to help us reach out to a group that is often neglected and marginalized by mainstream society.**

Vision

Our goal in 2014 was to move to a home in a location that corresponds with our vision and offer a wider array of support services to young moms. We envisioned the home acting as a space for a combination of uses, including providing resources (like our Care Closet), a venue for programming, and office space. **The impact of our home has been substantial, providing a safe and warm atmosphere that encourages the girls to drop in whenever they are in need.** The location of the home also makes it easier for Stepping Stones to facilitate transportation. Better accessibility has improved the participation level, leading to greater effectiveness in everything we do. Furthermore, we have become established and recognizable presence in the community. Better community connections leads to a broader range of services that can be provided.

Vision (continued)

There are many valuable agencies that can offer expertise to these women in areas that we are not suited to help in.

Also, this new location presents an opportunity that we have never had before. With the home, we have implemented an Emergency Housing Initiative providing a young mom and her children in crisis a safe place to stay for an interim period while finding a long-term solution. A staff member present at all times has increased our ability to help bring about real transformation through a deeper experience of a caring, supportive adult in their lives.



Why YOUR Help...

First and foremost, your partnership shows the girls that there is a community that cares about them, their children and their future. It provides them motivation to realize their **potential** and it gives them **hope**.

Your support in providing high-quality windows for the Stepping Stones House means that we will be able to increase the safety of the home while young moms and their children are participating in our programs. It will also help to lower our utilities costs, putting more funds back into programming that helps transform young lives. Please consider how you can help provide a safe place for young people at risk.

Your partnership also provides **peace of mind**. Knowing, in a crisis, that we are just around the corner will provide our moms with a **sense of security and unconditional support** – something that our current location can't do well enough.

THANK YOU for considering being a partner with Stepping Stones and helping us to provide opportunities for young mothers in Edmonton to thrive.