

The Stepping Stone Mission, Inc. started in July of 2009 in response to God's call to serve the homeless. We are servants of our Lord Jesus Christ operating through a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Stepping Stone is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

#### OUR CALL



Our mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ's mercy and grace for us sinners with our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness. We provide our brothers and sisters with food and basic necessities, and help along the way toward rehabilitation, the healing of one's life, and stability.

Our vision is to be a caring, loving, growing community of Christians who preach the Gospel, teach God's Word and extend the compassion of Christ to our

homeless brothers and sisters in Atlanta so that they can be identified, built up and unified in the Body of Christ.

# SHARING & CARING MINISTRIES



For brothers and sisters living in homelessness, a healthy meal, a backpack and good pair of socks, a loving smile, and a kind word can have a big impact on their lives. Through our sharing and caring ministries, we comfort our brothers and sisters in need with the good news of Jesus Christ and life necessities.

#### SATURDAY SERVICE

Every Saturday, we serve meals and daily necessities in conjunction with our Saturday Worship Service starting at the parking lot of Ponce Church in downtown Atlanta. This service time begins with worship and prayer at 8:30 AM, followed by food, counseling, and fellowship. After we close our time in prayer with those who gather with us, we then take to the streets of Atlanta to share the Gospel and deliver food and necessities to the brothers and sisters we encounter, including men, women, and children of all ages. Through these encounters, the Gospel is being proclaimed to thousands upon thousands each year.



#### **HISPANIC OUTREACH**

Twice a month, our ministry team delivers food and daily necessities to more 50 Hispanic brothers. While many do not speak or understand English, they are clearly grateful to receive the love of Jesus through a hot cup of coffee, healthy meal, and loving eyes. We visit our Hispanic brothers who gather along Buford Highway, in Duluth and Norcross, and in communities across metro Atlanta.



### **SHARING & CARING FESTIVALS**

Our festivals are special sharing and caring events to serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ followed by food and daily life necessities in downtown Atlanta. More than 400 brothers and sisters drop by at some time during these event times to hear God's Word and receive His gifts. These events are a great opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters and engage in some meaningful fellowship in Christ. We hold these events during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and

Easter times. And, in partnership with the Lutheran Outreach Partnership, we hold a special festival in September.





### ANNUAL WINTER COAT DRIVE

In cold weather, a heavy jacket can be a life-saving gift for those experiencing homelessness and living on the streets. Stepping Stone coordinates an annual winter coat drive, beginning in September, in partnership with sister churches. These jackets are then shared with our brothers and sisters during the cold weather months, beginning as early as September, during our regular serving

times as well as through special events at Thanksgiving and Christmas times.

# LEADERSHIP TRAINING & EDUCATION MINISTRIES



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105) Through our weekly Bible studies, we have seen countless examples of how the Word of the Lord changes lives and remains in the hearts of His children forever. This is a discipleship ministry through which our brothers do a deep dive into the Word of God every Wednesday and Friday, memorize Bible verses, share their faith, and also engage in prayer ministry for each other.



#### **REHABILITATION AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP RETREATS**

Our retreats are three days long and trainees are selected from the brothers who participate in training programs on Wednesdays and Fridays as well as brothers referred by these brothers. Our retreats further equip brothers for their discipleship and service to the Lord. Trainees engage in active learning through sessions taught by pastors and other ministers serving in churches throughout the Atlanta region. Prior to COVID-19, 22 retreats were held with

over 400 brothers. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, 32 brothers have become baptized children of God during our retreats. Praise God!

#### WORSHIP MINISTRIES



#### SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Through the grace of God, we are ambassadors for Jesus in connecting our homeless brothers and sisters with Him and with each other. Our homeless brothers and sisters share a sense of community set apart from the streets, centered in Christ, and designed for spiritual transformation. They have discovered that God's love unites us, His children, across social barriers as we grow together into the fullness of Christ. Our Saturday Worship Services are a

time of blessed fellowship for all concerned. These services are held on Saturdays, 8:30 AM, at Ponce Church in Downtown Atlanta.

Our Saturday Worship Service brothers serve as Christ's disciples in their mission fields, which include area shelters, public parks, under bridges, and the streets. Our Lord Jesus is clearly empowering our brothers through this body building in His Word to live a new life in Christ!





# **STEPPING STONE CHOIR TEAM**

Many of our homeless brothers have served as members of our Stepping Stone Choir Team, lending their voices to beautiful songs of praise. They are taught to sing Gospel hymns in both English and Korean. They have sung during our Annual Concert and upon invitation from area churches to serve at special events and church services, especially during Advent and Christmastime. Our brothers love to

visit with brothers and sisters at churches in metro Atlanta and beyond and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through their gift of voice. While the pandemic has had an impact, it is our hope to host another Annual Concert featuring our choir team in the near future.

# YOUTH MISSION MINISTRIES



Over the years, Stepping Stone has served as a frequent host for Youth Mission Trips. During these trips, high school or college students join our ministry team for a few days to serve the homeless. Examples of past youth missions include: joining us to serve brothers and sisters on the streets of Atlanta, co-leading some of our Rehabilitation & Spiritual Leadership Retreats, and conducting service projects to further prepare our mission center for future ministry use. These young disciples are always a source of inspiration for our ministry team as they

energetically bless all those around them.

#### NEW LIFE VILLAGE PROJECT



With God's mighty help, Stepping Stone Mission acquired a beautiful property in Conyers, Georgia in to serve as the birthplace for the New Life Village. The 33-acre property includes a move-in ready ranch house that could house up to 6 adults, a large barn that could serve as a multi-purpose facility, a pond stocked with fish, farmable land, a notable presence of trees, hay, and other natural resources. Thanks be to God for His provision through the profitable sale of a previous property and the contributions of gracious donors, our team

secured financing with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), a critical ministry partner.

Our vision for New Life Village is to serve as rehabilitation village for our brothers experiencing homelessness where they can worship, live, learn, recreate, and serve together as a Christian, no longer homeless, community. Our project is focusing on the following development thrusts: (1) develop a working farm, (2) create a tiny home village, and (3) build a beautiful community garden that can be a source of blessings for local residents.

# SUPPORT OUR MISSION



Stepping Stone is in regular need of your partnership and support. Above all else, this ministry is built on prayer! We greatly desire your partnership in seeking God's help as He guides this work.

Also, as many of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing homelessness do not have much financial means, our ministry is made possible through the gracious contributions of God's people.

To learn about special opportunities to join us in this work of the Lord, please contact Pastor Joseph Song at 404-429-9072 or at joseph@steppingstonemission.net.

Visit <u>www.steppingstonemission.net</u> to learn more.