



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-03/25/2025

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**In collaboration with Schmeling Construction Company, the Larson & Darby Group
and City of Rockford Mayor Thomas McNamara,
Stepping Stones of Rockford will conduct a Groundbreaking ceremony for a new ten-bed Group Home located at
1480 Stony Creek Way, Rockford, Illinois 61108 at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.**

Stepping Stones of Rockford is proud to announce it will break ground for a new Group Home located at 1480 Stony Creek Way in Rockford, IL at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Opening remarks will begin at 2:00 p.m. The Groundbreaking ceremony is expected to be concluded by 3:00 p.m.

About the new Group Home: The new Group Home will be the first newly built facility for adults with serious mental illnesses in Winnebago County. This fully accessible home will have 8,707 square feet and a fixed capacity to serve ten adults. There will be shared common areas such as living room and kitchen. Each resident will have their own bedroom. Construction of the new Group Home is expected to be completed by mid-November with the goal of residents beginning to occupy the home by the end of 2025.

The Group Home will be fully supervised and operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Staff will include a master's level Rehabilitative Supervisor, a Program Manager, Mental Health Professionals and Rehabilitative Services Aides. Residents will have access to other staff at the organization for educational and pre-vocational services, nursing and psychiatric medication prescribing. Services at the home will include; case management, finances management, skill teaching in a variety of daily living skills, individualized treatment planning, counseling, family participation, community support and integration, crisis intervention when needed and transition and discharge planning. This Group Home was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB), whose funding is generated by a voter approved 1/2 cent sales tax to help fund mental health and substance abuse services throughout Winnebago County. Services are prioritized for those who are eligible for Medicaid but are available to anyone in need who qualifies. To schedule an assessment or make a referral, please call 815-963-0683.

Susan Schroeder, CEO, LCSW of Stepping Stones of Rockford, Inc. said about the Groundbreaking for the Group Home: "Ground breakings have a rich history of recognizing the start of innovative projects that have never been done before. This is certainly the case with our new Group Home at Stony Creek Way, which is the first new-built Group Home specifically designed for adults with serious mental illnesses in Winnebago County. One of the most important decisions to be made by individuals with serious mental illness and their families is where the person will live. I am pleased that Stepping Stones will be able to make that decision easier for ten individuals and their families by opening this home. Our organization has operated Group Homes for decades and I fully expect this new Group Home will be here for those in need for years to come. We are grateful to the voters of Winnebago County and the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board for helping to make this Group Home a reality."

About Stepping Stones of Rockford, Inc.: Stepping Stones of Rockford, Inc. is a private 501 (c) (3) nonprofit behavioral healthcare organization that provides mental health services to children aged six and older and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances and housing and psychiatric rehabilitation services for adults with serious mental illnesses. Since beginning as a single halfway house in 1969, Stepping Stones has grown to become northern Illinois' leading provider of community based residential programs designed to meet the housing and recovery needs of adults with serious mental illnesses. To learn more about Stepping Stones, please visit <https://steppingstonesrockford.org>.

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