

STEP 2 NEWS

Providing comprehensive, coordinated services related to the treatment and recovery of chemically dependent women and their families, resulting in sustainable self-sufficiency.

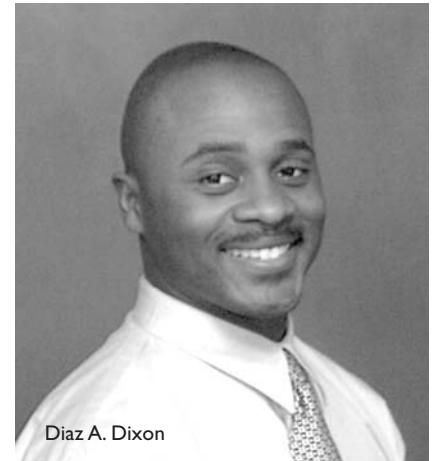
Providing a Safe Harbor for Women & Children in Our Community

WINTER 2006

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Well, here we are in 2006. I would like to start by once again thanking all of you who supported us in the Homes for the Holidays fundraising event. It would be difficult to serve our community without your wonderful support of this traditional event. The Homes for the Holidays event has grown to be a significant tradition for our community as well as for STEP 2. Traditions are not only important to agencies and communities, but they are also vital to families. More often than not, the women and children we serve do not have these essential family traditions that you and I might not think twice about.

What are Family Traditions? Traditions are practices or beliefs that create positive feelings and are repeated at regular intervals. They're more than your typical daily routines. Routines are ordinary, everyday activities that require no special behavior and involve very little emotion. Traditions have great meaning and cultivate emotions and powerful memories. Often traditions are handed down from generation to generation, but every family can create its own traditions as well. Some traditions are based on spiritual beliefs, superstitions, or even based around family history. Others come from cultural or ethnic heritage, such



Diaz A. Dixon

as serving black eyed peas on New Year's Eve (I personally like the ones attached to a dinner plate).

It is so important to have traditions. They are part of the glue that holds families together. Traditions are beneficial in several ways. First, they

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STEP 2 Celebrates 20 Years

20 years. It is difficult to believe how quickly time flies but STEP 2 was indeed founded 20 years ago. In that time the organization has served thousands of women and their children. STEP 2 has helped these individuals break the cycle of addiction and move on to be loving, stable parents, skilled workers and healthy, whole individuals. The entire staff and board of directors is proud to be a part of this vital community asset.

In honor of STEP 2's 20th anniversary we have chosen this year to launch a capital campaign to allow us to expand our services and accommodate even more women. The need for our services by those in our community far exceeds our capacity.

Our goal is to raise one million dollars in the year 2006. Please consider including STEP 2's capital campaign in your giving plans for this year.

If you would like additional information on contributing to our capital campaign please contact Becky Contos or Diaz Dixon at (775) 787-9411.

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Homes for the Holidays 2005

Step 2's largest fundraiser of the year, our 13th annual Homes for the Holidays, was a large success. Feedback from our tour goers indicates everyone had a wonderful time visiting some of the most splendid homes in Reno. Our bottom line certainly reflects that fact with a 10% increase in overall funds raised during the event.

We could not have accomplished our goals without the generous support of our sponsors, Lighthouse Keepers, homeowners, volunteers and other businesses that offered their assistance.



Devon Stone with First American Title describing the perfect Christmas tree.

TICKET CENTER LOCATIONS:

Best Wishes Christmas Shoppe ~ Franktown Corners	It's All About Me ~ South Virginia Commons (new location)
Boulevard ~ Plumgate	Kitchen Treasures ~ Smithridge Center
Chez Vous ~ Vista Village in Sparks (new location)	Name Droppers ~ Magnolia Village
Dickson Realty ~ Caughlin Crossing	St. Ives Florist ~ Wells Ave.

HOMES
FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2005

PRESENTED BY

STEP 2

SPONSORED BY



Thanks to everyone who made this year's event a success. Step 2 now has some of the much needed funds to help women and their children suffering from chemical addiction, poverty and domestic violence rebuild their lives.



CEO Diaz Dixon with STEP 2 Board Member Klaus Grimm enjoying the Homes for the Holidays 2005 event.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors. Please show your appreciation by patronizing these businesses who believe in STEP 2 and our community.

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HOME SPONSORS

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The Ridges at
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Rilite Aggregate

Somerset

Southern Wine and Spirits

Winkel Motors

Wolf Run Golf Club

Washoe Medical Center

Junior League

Soroptomist International

The Clay Canvas

Subway



Michelle Casey and Leann Pinguelo, STEP 2 Board Members and Homes for the Holidays organizers.



Wendy Damonte, KTVN, with a cute, furry auction item.



Chris and Joy Benna enjoying their conversation.



Kathie Bartlett, Diana McGhin, and Bill Watson gathered around for a chat.



Joe Day Chiro with his friend Tiffany enjoying the Homes for the Holidays evening.

2005 Lighthouse Keepers

Step2 can't thank them enough for their generous donations and belief in the mission of our organization.

Bill Bertelson

Brian and Michelle Casey

Rebecca Dickson

Diaz Dixon

Miranda Du

Gwyn Estrella

Bill and Hillary Fiveash

John Frankovich

Chris and Tina Gonfiantini

Grimm – Draper Family Trust

Anne Halverson

George Krakora

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John and Vanessa Obradovich

Cindy and Mike Potter

Gail Richie

Paul and Melissa Smith

Andy and Amy Stewart

Missy and Rob Stewart

Dave and Claudia Thompson

Ranson and Norma Webster Family Foundation

(in partnership with the Community Foundation of Western Nevada)

2005 Tour Homeowners

This year's event literally could not have happened without the gracious use of their homes.

Special thanks to:

Rob and Missy Stewart

Phil and Jennifer Satre

Chris and Tina Gonfiantini

John and Gail Sande

Dale Cox and Marti McElhinney

2005 Preview Party Homeowners

Missy and Rob Stewart

Ranson and Norma Webster

FROM THE
**DIRECTOR'S
DESK**

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give children a sense of security and consistency. They know that in an uncertain world, some things stay the same. Traditions also foster closeness in the immediate and extended family as well as friends.

Meaningful family traditions provide parents with an invaluable tool for carrying out their divine responsibility to rear children in love. As families establish and follow traditions, each family member is strengthened and the family as a whole grows in unity and love.

STEP 2 understands that creating traditions that bring the family closer together, parents can strengthen the bond between family members, fortify commitment to healthy lifestyles, and teach important principles they want their children to understand and live by. Take a moment and think about your traditions, we are certainly delighted that you are a part of ours.

A Story of Hope

I started using drugs when I was 13 years old to fit in. At 16 I became pregnant. At 17 I had my first son, put him up for adoption and moved to another town.

My drug use increased as I was trying to escape the feelings of leaving my child. I didn't have to feel as long as I was high.

At 26, I met my ex-husband and we used drugs together during our first date. During my marriage I had two more sons and even though I didn't use drugs during my pregnancies, as soon as I gave birth the drug use began again. I stayed in the marriage for 13 years with our lives revolving around drugs and violence.

My children were put in state care. I wanted nothing more than to get my life back together and be together with my children.

I did some research and found out that STEP 2 is a safe, clean and sober community where you can live with your children. I went into the program.

STEP 2 has provided me with housing, continued treatment and a counselor to check-in with. It is teaching me how to live on my own by helping me find a job and finding child-care.

This will be the first Christmas with my children by my side in a safe and sober place.

Thanks to STEP 2 for giving me this wonderful gift.

— Jennifer, A STEP 2 client

Safe Harbor Circle

Our recent donors of over \$1,000. Thank you for your generosity.

Wawona Foundation

Hidden Valley Ladies Golf Club

Sierra Office Solutions

Jade Miller, D.D.S. & Gilbert Trujillo D.D.S.

Pfrommer & McCune CPAs

Orange County

Community Foundation

Edmund C Olson Family Foundation – (with special recognition of Joe and Teri Constante at A-American Self Storage)

United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra

Wish List

STEP 2 needs beds for our clients and their children.

If you can assist us by donating a twin or double bed please contact Mike at

787-9411 x 207.

ALICE 96.5 Hosts Help STEP 2

Bill and Connie, Alice 96.5 morning Dee Jays, hosted a donation drive benefiting STEP2 on November 21 & 22, 2005. The drive brought in thousands of dollars of in-kind donations. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and dropped off furniture, baby items including cases of diapers and baby wipes, personal

Alice@96.5

hygiene items and much more.

STEP 2 would like to offer a large heartfelt thank you to Bill and Connie for their continued support.

Holiday Cheer 2005

STEP 2's Holiday Outreach Campaign was an overwhelming success. New toys for the children, baby necessities and holiday cheer of all kinds were received. Thank you to Associated General Contractors; Andria Wiltshire; Nello and Stacey Gonfiantini; John Franklin and the Eldorado Casino Accounting Department; Sharon Masud and the Reno Hilton Dealers; Daniella Ramirez and Toys for Tots; Wells Fargo; Ms. Megan Meschery and Loyaltan High School for adopting STEP 2 families for the holidays.

Thank you so much for your generosity. This is the best holiday me and my children have ever had.

Truly Grateful,
A STEP2 family



I can't explain how much your kindness has meant to us during the holidays. Thank you so much.

A STEP2 family



Holidays come around to cap off each year
When the community comes together it makes one thing clear

That when you look at life thinking all is headed down

People lend a hand and turn everything around

The gifts were special for us to give away
STEP 2 would like to thank you for making Christmas for

Our children a wonderful day!

A STEP 2 client

Staff News

Becky Contos has been hired as STEP 2's first Director of Marketing. Becky was most recently Account Manager and Strategic Planner for a local advertising agency. She will be responsible for branding the organization, coordinating events and educating the public about the important work of STEP 2 within our community. Becky has 12 years of marketing, advertising and special event experience with a Bachelor of Science Degree in

Marketing from Louisiana State University.

Jenny Brenn has been promoted to Chief Clinical Officer for STEP 2. Jenny, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, has been in the mental health field in both the private and public sectors for over 20 years. Jenny will be responsible for managing additional clinical and operational aspects of the agency with an eye towards efficiency.



A Cut Above

Thank you to Alex Burley, a professional hairdresser, of Chez Ami Salon who donates her time and materials to help make our STEP2 clients look more professional as they work towards employment.



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- Kay O'Brien
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- Leann Pinguelo
- Melissa Smith

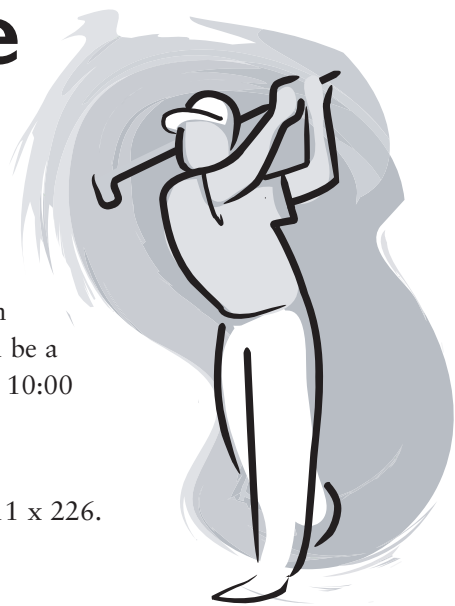
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- Sue Wagner

Chief Executive Officer
 Diaz Dixon

STEP 2 NEWS WINTER 2006

Hold The Date for Golf



We know that some of you are thinking of golf even with snow on the ground. Lucky for you, the annual STEP 2 golf tournament will be held earlier this year on May 22, 2006 at Thunder Canyon Golf Course. It will be a standard four person scramble with the first tee time at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$500 per foursome.

For questions or to sign-up please call
 Becky Contos, Director of Marketing, at (775) 787-9411 x 226.

Editor: Becky Contos
 775.787.9411 x226
 bcontos@step2reno.org

Please contact our office if you have received more than one copy of this newsletter or would prefer to receive this publication via email.

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