



## Vision

*“...to successfully transition... a productive, stable Christian life.”*

The program at Stepping Stones to Freedom is designed to build godly character and reduce recidivism by providing mentorship, Bible study, local church life, character development classes, and a structured home atmosphere that promotes healthy relationships and responsibility.

Assistance and guidance is provided for job searching, and transportation is provided to and from work and meetings.



## Providing an Opportunity

Stepping Stones to Freedom, a non-profit organization, was born from the vision of local conservative Mennonite men who saw the need to do more for the men they ministered to in jail. They wished to establish an after-care ministry to give continued guidance and support for believers being released from prison. Eight area Mennonite churches have elected a board of directors to oversee the establishment and operation of the ministry.



### Contact Information

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# Stepping Stones to Freedom



## A ministry for ex-offenders



### Mission Statement

*“A practical outworking of our Lord’s command to love our neighbors as ourselves, by providing an opportunity for men who have committed their lives to God, to successfully transition from prison life to society, and experience a productive, stable Christian life.”*



## The House in Big Valley

Stepping Stones to Freedom rents a house near the town of Belleville, PA and is situated in a primarily agricultural community. This house is capable of housing up to six men plus the house manager. Each man who goes through the program will work with a mentor who will give spiritual guidance and provide support for his growth in personal relationships and church involvement. These mentors are mature, local, Christian men who are members of the sponsoring congregations and are committed to the successful reentry of the men in the program.

We care about the safety of all who are affected by this ministry. Each applicant that we consider for the program is carefully screened, and other witnesses are consulted before we accept anyone. We have in place a somewhat lengthy set of rules and guidelines

that an applicant must agree to before he can be approved for the program.

A variety of courses will be taken during the six months at the house. These may include:

- Financial Management – basic financial management including budgeting and banking skills.
- Character Development – personal responsibility, accountability, self-control, respect for authority and others.
- Basic Life Skills – housekeeping, personal hygiene, punctuality, job skills.
- Bible Study – collective and personal daily time with God and other believers to nurture spiritual growth and encourage moral purity in the heart and in life.

## Q&A

### **Who is allowed to participate?**

Men who have been born again spiritually, and whose lives give evidence to the working of Christ in their heart, will be considered.

### **How long can someone stay?**

This is a 6-month program that will give participants time to formulate a plan for a more permanent residence.

### **Is getting a job a requirement?**

Yes. It is important to cultivate a strong work ethic and responsibility for one's needs. Public assistance is not allowed while in the program.

### **What is the cost?**

Each participant is expected to pay a weekly program fee of \$125, which covers a portion of the expense of housing, utilities, transportation, food, etc. Generous donors pay for the remaining expenses.

### **Is there any supervision?**

A full-time House Manager lives at the house and is in charge of the daily operations. The Administrator, who lives nearby, supports him. Video surveillance is used.

### **What contact with family is allowed?**

Contacts with family and friends will be managed carefully to help participants get established on the best footing. We do not want participants to be slowed down by outside affairs during their short six-month stay.