



Step By Step
TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE STEP AT A TIME

Look Up

Hi! My name is Rachel. And, I'm proud to say that I am a Step By Step mom.


I was born in Tampa, Florida, at MacDill Airforce Base, in 1991, to my lovely mother Beverly and father Nathan Hamilton. I grew up as the youngest of four siblings. My mother was an educator. She loved children and had a knack for teaching. In 1996, my mother and father separated. I moved with my mother from Fort Bragg, NC back to Tampa, Florida. Shortly after we moved, my brother, Andre, was murdered. It bent my mother's spirit, but it didn't break it.

One year later, my mother and father officially divorced. I was hurt, and I spent years throughout my childhood lost in the thoughts that their divorce was my fault. But, I had a strong mother who taught me to love and care for myself and most importantly know that my parent's divorce wasn't my fault. My mother is by far, the strongest woman I have ever known.

My mother died before I became a mother. I was 20 years old when she died, and I say this every day that I was still a baby in so many ways during the time of her death. It is so hard for me to see and feel that the best thing I have become, I could not share with my mother.

When I found out I was pregnant with Beverlyann, my mother's namesake, I was so happy. But, then the despair kicked in. How could I do this without my mother? When two close friends saw the sadness in my eyes, they reached in their hearts and got me some much needed help. From that moment, my life was changed.

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PICTURED
Rachel (left) with her Step By Step
case manager, Linsey.

Continued from cover...

Linsey, whom I met from the Step By Step program, met me for the first time, at Starbucks. I was going through so much at the time. I remember looking into her kind eyes and I confessed that I looked a mess. Linsey did not judge me, despite my appearance. She asked me a few questions about how I learned about Step By Step and what things I felt I needed help with.

At one point, I was so engulfed with emotions from being alone at the beginning of my pregnancy, I just wept. I mean I ugly cried, while I tried to explain why my heart was so broke, during the time that my body was carrying a life. That day, Linsey soothed my soul. I left that meeting with a clearer mind, health care, a dentist, a counselor, a plan to move forward, but the most important thing I left with was knowing someone understood me and would walk this journey with me, and she did.

When I found out I was pregnant a second time, my world was falling apart all over again. I was still going through postpartum depression after my first pregnancy. One day, I was laying on my couch with a headache, and I was trying to come up with a plan for EVERYTHING and it was just not making sense.

I couldn't talk to Beverlyann's father, whom I was pregnant from again, because I was so disappointed in myself. I cried. Well, I literally wept. I was devastated, and I needed clarity. As I began to consider my options, I thought of what my mother would do. Even as I contemplated what her actions would be, I can say that I did not have an immediate resolution. I kept hearing in my head "something is missing"; and, I realized my anchor was missing... Linsey! I texted Linsey and told her I was pregnant, and she immediately set up an appointment with me.

I told her I stopped going to therapy she said, "Oh no, you are going back!" I did as she encouraged me to do. I went back. I told her about my finances, she said, "Oh no girl, you got to cut back." I did what she advised. I cut back. I told her I stopped school, she said, "Oh no girl, you have to go back." She held my hand and helped me get myself together as a mother, and she called me on my wrongs and praised me on my rights. It's hard for me to see errors in my ways. Knowing Linsey, today I can say I can recognize this. She not only helped me remove the thorn out of my eye, she also helped me fix the wound, too. For that, I will forever be in debt to her and if she ever calls me, I'm running!

Two and half years ago, the Step By Step case managers, like my Linsey, got together and chose 18 clients to be part of a Think Tank, to use our experience to help create a new Step By Step program. I was chosen. At the very first meeting, in October 2016, I sat there humbled and moved by being in the presence of Miss Krista and her gracious staff. The whole set up was overwhelming to my spirit. As I looked around and took in the beauty, the property, the setting, I became even more thankful. I remember becoming settled and calm, but I do not think I was ready for what was to come.

During that first meeting, there was not a dry eye in the room that night. We, as women, came together to share our stories of pain, our trials and tribulations, mistakes, fears, and disappointments. It didn't end there. It continued with activities that made us search within ourselves and ended with us starting to verbalize, and write down, our hopes, dreams, and goals for our future.

Now, understand how hard it is to think and ponder about your dreams and goals when you are just trying to survive. It opened my heart that someone, a whole group of people, truly cared about the happiness inside my heart. That first night, I remembered myself, and that I mattered. I cannot describe to you how empowered I felt.

It was the beginning of me snapping out of my postpartum depression. The wide smiles and shiny eyes of support that embraced all these women from different backgrounds and different circumstances did not go unrecognized. The open arms and love towards our children let us know we are not alone in this.

The Step By Step program has taken a few great people that added more people to become a tribe and that tribe became a village of love and dedication that I am honored to be a part of. Every moment that I experience with anyone connected to Step By Step, I treasure. From the meetings with Linsey and her helping me put my life together, along with those blunt and encouraging words that I needed to hear. Not too long ago, I saw a Step By Step case manager meeting with a client at the McDonald's, where I work. I smiled, my eyes welled up with tears, and I said in my heart, "she doesn't even know how drastically her life is going to change for the better."

I have returned to college as Linsey advised. Currently, I am attending Clover Park Technical College for a degree in Restaurant Management. I plan on opening and operating my own restaurant one day. I have been an assistant restaurant manager at McDonald's, for three years now. I am working

towards owning my first home for my daughters, something that I can have to make them proud, and a place to call home for them that we did together. I want to show them what they can achieve, with hard work, dedication, and love.

In the absence of my mother, being part of Step By Step has helped me evolve from woman to mother, a mother I know my mom would be proud of. The Step By Step team has touched me in more ways than you would ever know. For that, I am thankful and ready for the future.

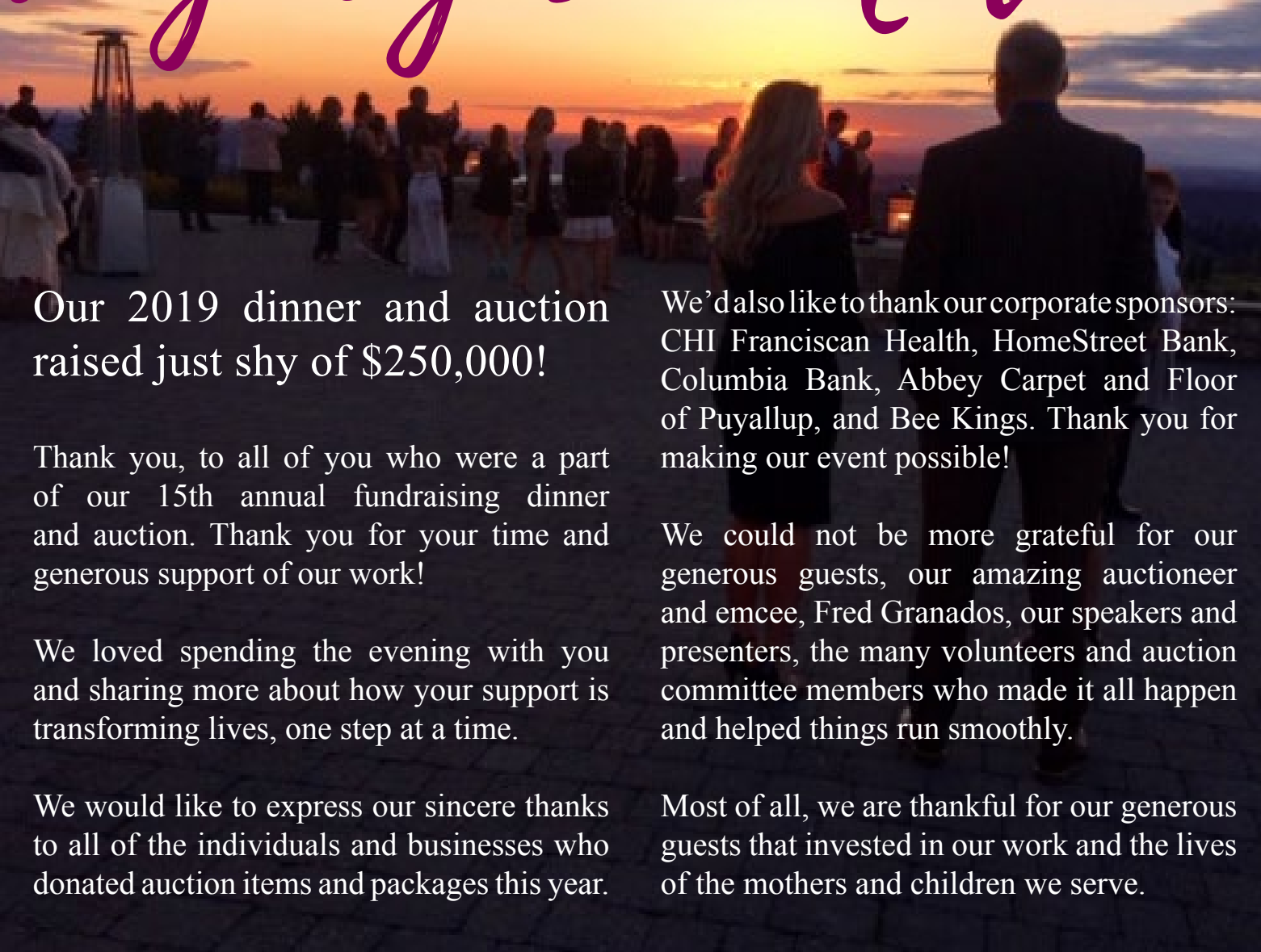
When I look at my children, I realize I gave life to two amazing, beautiful girls. Then I start to wonder, do they even know? Do they know how they saved me? Do they even know how much they made me love me again? Do they know their love, their affection, the reach of their hand to me makes me, as their mom, feel like a kid again? Do they know we have a sisterhood amongst ourselves that grows deeper than the Red Sea? Do they ever question how much I love them and need them? Do they know all their dreams are reachable, even when they are so far away? Do they know they are my favorite yesterday, my favorite part of today, and they are the best future I have ever dreamed of? If they don't know it now, I know they will soon. Because, we have a lifetime to spend together, and we will be taking it Step By Step.



PICTURED
Rachel's
daughters

15TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION

Legacy In Motion



Our 2019 dinner and auction raised just shy of \$250,000!

Thank you, to all of you who were a part of our 15th annual fundraising dinner and auction. Thank you for your time and generous support of our work!

We loved spending the evening with you and sharing more about how your support is transforming lives, one step at a time.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the individuals and businesses who donated auction items and packages this year.

We'd also like to thank our corporate sponsors: CHI Franciscan Health, HomeStreet Bank, Columbia Bank, Abbey Carpet and Floor of Puyallup, and Bee Kings. Thank you for making our event possible!

We could not be more grateful for our generous guests, our amazing auctioneer and emcee, Fred Granados, our speakers and presenters, the many volunteers and auction committee members who made it all happen and helped things run smoothly.

Most of all, we are thankful for our generous guests that invested in our work and the lives of the mothers and children we serve.



We'd like to *thank* our 2019 event sponsors:



GERMAINE KORUM CENTER CONSTRUCTION FINISH LINE IN SIGHT

Spring is finally here, and everything is starting to bloom, at Step By Step! Vibrant daffodil bulbs are pushing through all of our construction mud, as if to herald the new life coming to our site. We are overwhelmed with grateful anticipation for everything that is to come.

Our main building at the Germaine Korum Center is entering its final months of construction. This building will house our social enterprise restaurant, classrooms, training kitchens, and event venue space. It is scheduled to open later this summer.

We are continuing to work on the details and development of our future workforce preparation and job training program, that will soon enter its pilot phase, here.

We are working diligently to structure our program so that we are able to maximize the time we have with the women and families who will be served.

We are eager to have the opportunity to help our moms reach educational and employment goals. But, more than anything else, we are eager to be able to continue to walk alongside them, as they grow, heal, embrace positive life changes, and work to create stronger and healthier futures for themselves and their children.

Thank you for investing in and sharing this vision with us, and celebrating the journey along the way. We will be announcing our Grand Opening date, soon, and we hope to see you there!



The Germaine Korum Center is part of the Legacy In Motion Project.
www.legacyinmotionproject.org



Jeff Brown Architecture | Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

GERMAINE KORUM CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- 1 STEP BY STEP OFFICE HEADQUARTERS
- 2a FARM 12 RESTAURANT & CATERING
- 2b CLASSROOMS & CHILDCARE
- 2c EVENT HALL
- 3 FESTIVAL BARN
- 4 GREENHOUSE
- 5 GATEWAY BUILDING
- 6 POLE BARN
- 7 VAN LIEROP PARK [CITY OF PUYALLUP]
- 8 PRIVATE RESIDENCE [VAN LIEROP FAMILY]

Coming Soon

Stay tuned! Our on site social enterprise restaurant will be opening this Fall!



Turn the page to learn more about Farm 12!



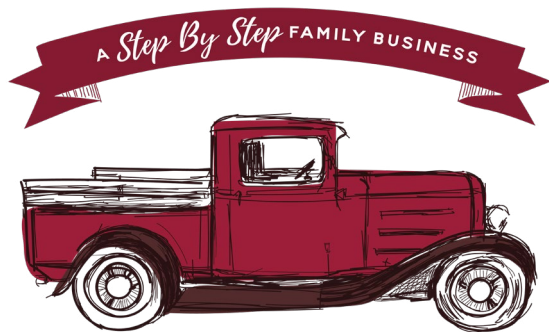


Where Place Meets Purpose

FARM 12

RESTAURANT & EVENTS

FAQ: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FARM 12



FARM 12
RESTAURANT & EVENTS

FARM 12 IS PART OF THE
LEGACY IN MOTION PROJECT

www.legacyinmotionproject.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FARM 12

What is Farm 12's purpose?

Farm 12 will provide job training and workforce preparation for at-risk women with young children, while maintaining the critical social and emotional supportive services necessary to holistically strengthen these vulnerable families.

How did you choose the name Farm 12?

All the flower bulb farms in the valley were numbered through the Bulb Exchange. Our current site, which was formerly the Van Lierop Bulb Farm was farm #12.

How did you choose your logo?

Our logo was designed through collaboration with John Gera Designs, 99 Designs, and Step By Step staff.

Why is there a red truck in the logo?

Neil Van Lierop was the last farmer to work this farm, after five generations. He has been known to say "The farm loves red trucks", and he has always driven one. Since the farm first started in 1934, and our first foundational level major donor owns a Ford dealership, we chose to model our logo after a 1934 red Ford truck.

What is under construction right now?

Our main building at the Germaine Korum Center, is under construction, as well as all the site work needed to support it (parking, upgraded utilities, storm water system, etc). The building will house: Farm 12 Restaurant and Catering, a commercial training kitchen, the event hall, a bridal suite, and classrooms which will be used for counseling and education.

Are you done fundraising?

Almost! We have secured all of the funds needed to finish the construction of our new site. We will be launching a final, smaller, public campaign to invite the community to help fund the first year of startup costs for the program, soon. We will have fun ways for families to participate, as well as some unique and memorable ways to recognize our public supporters!

How will Farm 12 and Step By Step work together?

Farm 12 is a social enterprise, under Step By Step's umbrella. All proceeds will be re-invested into social programs to build stronger families in our community and help local moms and babies in need.

Who will be overseeing the operations of the Farm 12 Restaurant and Catering?

Step By Step has hired the Restaurant Group to oversee the startup of the restaurant and catering businesses, for the first few years. Members and partners of the Restaurant Group have also been serving on the "Legacy In Motion Project" Advisory Council, for the past three years. The Restaurant Group team is working collaboratively with Step By Step's program staff to develop a social enterprise system that will incorporate workforce preparation, job training, and educational experiences for the women in our program into the business model and services on site.

What will be available to the public at Farm 12?

Stay tuned for more details! Soon, the restaurant will open and serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner and offer a weekend brunch on Sunday. This site will also offer a bakery and to-go counter.

How many will the event hall be able to seat?

The Farm 12 Event Hall can seat up to 400.

Will the Event Hall be available to rent to the public?

Yes, the hall will be available to book for weddings, holiday parties, proms, auctions, and other corporate events.

What will your rates for the event hall be?

We have spent a tremendous amount of time on this. Our rates will be comparable to the market, and land about in the middle compared to similar venues in the region. Please visit our website at www.farm12.org to request a quote.

Will you have discounted rates?

Yes, we will have discounted rates for non-profits, employees, and Step By Step moms, as well as some discounted weekday and low season rates.

Will you provide catering?

Yes, Farm 12 will provide all catering in-house. We will offer a variety of price levels from buffet-style events to a high-end plated dinner. The style is being called "accessible farm to table" and the menu will focus on showcasing seasonal and locally grown fare.

Have you started hiring?

Yes, we have made verbal commitments to our Executive Chef. We are so fortunate to have an incredibly experienced Executive Chef, who is passionate about our cause and will be coming to us from the Seattle area. We have an equally experienced Catering Sales Manager, who has built and operated a successful catering company for decades, all while raising her family as a single mom. We have committed to our lead Bakers, as well. We are very fortunate to have a Step By Step mom, who has some restaurant management experience, who will be making a lateral move, to serve as our Assistant Manager and one of our first Peer Trainers of Farm 12.

Will job openings be made available to the public?

Yes, positions will start posting later this summer, likely in July. If you are a past or present Step By Step mom and interested in a part or full-time position in our program or at Farm 12, contact your Step By Step case manager or email your resume to alexiscarruthers@stepbystepfamily.org

When will Farm 12 open?

Stay tuned! Currently, we expect Farm 12 to open in August.

STAY TUNED!

www.farm12.org

SPRING QUARTER

VOLUNTEER CHAMPIONS OF THE MONTH



January *~* Jan Jackson

Jan first learned about Step By Step when the Beta Sigma Phi chapter she belonged to was looking for a hands-on charity to become involved with. Jan was immediately drawn to our mission, because one of her adopted sons is alcohol affected, and she has seen firsthand the devastating consequences of fetal alcohol damage and the importance of prevention through education and prenatal care.

Almost weekly we are blessed by Jan's love of thrift store shopping. She purchases needed baby items to go into our Welcome Home bags, cleans and repairs the items, and then delivers to our doorstep. She says she enjoys being involved in something that has lasting value. Being able to do it while enjoying her thrifting hobby makes it twice fun! Thank you, Jan!



March *~* Vancie Daniels

After attending Step By Step's first Mother's Day event at the farm with her friends, Vancie was excited for our mission of helping mothers and babies. She and her friends envisioned volunteering with us when they retired, and that's just what she did! Vancie has been a faithful part of our volunteer family for several years, helping wherever we need her.

She sorts donations in the baby room, crafts beautiful items for our Mother's Day gift shop, puts together the newsletter, and helps with our fundraising dinner and auction. Lately, she has been spending many hours in the greenhouse, helping to care for our baby plants!

Vancie says she enjoys doing something positive to help families in the community, and she also likes spending time around the staff and other volunteers. We love spending time with you, Vancie!



February *~*

Elaine Mekosky & Fran Tanner from Samaritans' Hands

Elaine Mekosky initially discovered Step By Step when she and her husband parked across the street to take a bike ride on the Foothills trail. She researched our website and shared our vision with the women of Samaritans' Hands, a group she belongs to from Northwest Church in Federal Way who sew, knit, and crochet items to donate to various organizations.

Now, she and her friend, Fran Tanner, regularly bring us beautiful tote bags, baby hats, blankets, and booties made by their talented group. Thank you, Samaritans' Hands, for your generous hearts!



Join Our Volunteer Family

If you would like to be a part of bringing hope and health to mothers and babies in need, we have many ways for you to join our team!

For more information, contact:

Annmarie Mathews

annmariemathews@stepbystepfamily.org
(253) 896-0903



WE'RE GROWING!

...in the Step By Step Greenhouse

The local Edgewood Flower Farm grew their renowned Moss Flower Baskets for decades. We're making sure that you can continue to purchase and enjoy these beautiful flower baskets - for years to come. Bill and Donna have been with us every step of the way, and we are privileged to honor and continue their legacy of fine flowers.

Proceeds support Step By Step programs and help mothers and babies in need!



PREMIUM BASKETS & FLOWERS



Greenhouse
OPENS MAY 8TH

Greenhouse Hours:

MAY 8TH - MAY 31ST*
Or until we sell out

MONDAY - SATURDAY
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Pre-Order Premium Moss Combination Flower Baskets

Order On-Line at www.legacyinmotionproject.org/flowers

Questions? Need help? Call Candi (253) 973-4214 or e-mail greenhouse@stepbystepfamily.org

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www.stepbystepfamily.org



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