

# Stone Soup News



THE STONE SOUP FOUNDATION COMMUNIQUE

Fall 2007

## Stone Soup Director Announces Plans for Growth



Founder and director of Stone Soup, **Lynn McGary**, announced this week that medical tests conducted recently at **Vanderbilt University Hospital** indicate she is healthy again after a difficult bout with renal cancer, chemotherapy, and surgery last year.

While Lynn still has cancer she is feeling fit and says she is ready to have a year of significant progress.

"I am looking forward to this year with renewed strength and thankfulness for all the prayers and thoughts families and volunteers showed to me and Stone Soup over the last 16 months. Thank you for helping keep Stone Soup moving forward, we are now entering the fifth year!"

### Family and Volunteer Communications

Starting this Fall term, **Britt Stephens** will serve as coordinator for church-based volunteer recruitment. Ministry partner church and home for Stone Soup, **Judson Baptist Church**, is taking the lead in this effort.

A special packet of information is available to use in churches to inform parents and volunteers about Stone

Soup Friday Night. Contact Britt or call to receive a packet to use with your church.

Britt's e-mail: [britt.stephens@ots.treas.gov](mailto:britt.stephens@ots.treas.gov)

Stone Soup: 615.599.3326

### Monthly Updates

We are improving the monthly communication to help us better serve our families and volunteers.

**Watch for e-mail updates** to keep your family and student informed..

Starting in September provide updated information for your correct e-mail address and the one best suited to receive monthly updates from Stone Soup.

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### Special points of interest:

- **WATCH NEW VIDEO CLIP TO SEE A STONE SOUP EVENT!**  
[WWW.STONESOUPNEWS.COM](http://WWW.STONESOUPNEWS.COM)
- **STONE SOUP FEATURED AT NATIONAL ACCESS CONFERENCE ON DISABILITIES**

**Stone Soup**  
FRIENDS OF ALL ABILITIES

## Stone Soup, Judson, & Our Family

A Special Note of Thanks by **Doug and Gussie Thomason**

Your [Lynn McGary's] knowledge of children with special needs has really helped us transition our son, Henry, to feel a part of Judson church.

It makes a difference to have someone who can directly show others how to modify activities and rooms so that children like Henry and our family can partici-

pate in church functions.

Judson definitely has a great love for children. Many experts out in the community know how to help children with special needs. We see the best of both in you.

We are excited to work toward a more fulfilling future with Stone Soup and Judson in 2007-08.



Henry Thomason and Chase Nolan build a "Lego" ark.

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## Stone Soup News



Crystal Bell  
at the  
Christmas season

### Bell Family Loves “the Soup”

Last year my daughter decided to make Stone Soup on Sunday her “church.” As a young person seeking more independence she wanted to go to Stone Soup on Sunday, which made it necessary for me to not attend my own church on Sunday mornings.

I am grateful to my pastor at Franklin Christian Church, Franklin, TN, for encouraging this transition step in our daughter’s life and affirming

our supporting her attendance at Stone Soup on Sunday.

I thought I would greatly miss my women’s Bible study, and I did. However, I was very blessed by the quality of Bible teaching to such a diverse group of students—and I learned so much myself.

The pace is completely different than any other church teaching effort—it is more

personal - suited to each person in attendance—a slower pace—and with more hands on experiences in the lesson.

My daughter learned to sing there—what a joy to hear her sing at home now.

We are blessed for what Stone Soup means to our family. My husband and I highly recommend it.

Belinda and Orson Bell

TRAINING FOR  
VOLUNTEERS  
IS HELD EVERY  
MONTH  
SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER AT  
LEAST ONCE  
THIS YEAR

*“I thought it would be boring or a little intimidating to volunteer but it was a great time for me and my family.”*  
- Steve Perrigo

### Theme: Volunteers Needed to Highlight The Vocations

“Each year Stone Soup Friday Night has a theme. This year’s theme is: ‘Practicing Your Gifts for a Vocation,’” said director, Lynn McGary.

**We are looking for volunteers from a wide range of professions to help children imagine what they would like to do in life.**

Dreaming about a future role helps inspire students of all ages to develop what skills or interests they have, no matter what may be their

eventual vocation.

Last year, Fiona, with Down’s Syndrome, gave a speech at our Tee Off Dessert for the Golf Challenge. She shared that learning to read early and taking clerical training helped her find a vocation at the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation in Franklin, TN.

Each month we will focus on vocations in one category, such as: talking, listening, helping, protecting, team-

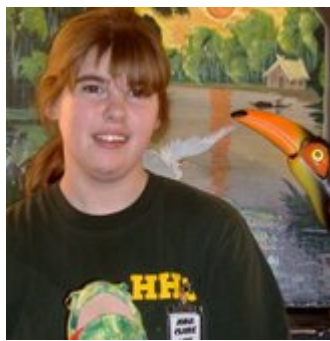
work, creating things, organizing, researching, honoring others, and nature.

For example, a radio announcer is a talker, a helper may be a package handler, one involved with nature may be a plant specialist at a greenhouse, a protector may be a doctor or medical assistant, a team player may perform in a musical group.

**Call 599.3326 today to volunteer and to represent your profession this year.**



Rainforest Home—Brazil



Alpha-Omega Children’s Home - Amazon





## David Blair Pointed the Way for the 2006 Golf Challenge

"I learned about Stone Soup's impact through my participation in the Golf Challenge last year. I look forward to my continued involvement this year with Stone Soup," noted **Craig Souder**, Southwestern Company, Nashville.

Stone Soup received over \$18,000.00 from donors supporting the players at the Challenge, held at the Old

Natchez Country Club..

**David Blair** led the field in individual fundraising with over \$5,000.00 raised.

**Mark Leath and Ted Bley-meier** of Golf for Goodness Sake, served to organize the event.

**Joe Greene**, founder of CEO Fellowship in Brentwood, TN hosted the Tee Off Dessert at his home, Isola Bella.

**Bill Harrison, Rob Harvey, Tad Wert, David Blair, Jeff Nolan, Spence Oliver, and Ross McGary**, served as captains.

Lynn McGary noted that her treatment for cancer caused some delays and expressed her appreciation for all who worked so hard to make the Challenge a success.



David Blair coaches his daughter, Kristin, at Stone Soup Friday Night

## Expanding the Vision To New Families

Stone Soup focuses once a year on finding the funding to enable the building of community with "friends of all abilities." It is that time of year again!

**This year our goal is \$35,000.00.** For several years now our director, Lynn McGary and her husband, Ross, have provided signifi-

cant program development through their own efforts. Last year was the first time a more formal funding effort was established.

Loyal friends of Stone Soup have provided the bulk of funding needed to establish Stone Soup since its inception in 2003.

Stone Soup is now entering its **fifth year of successful service** to the Middle Tennessee community.

"Your generous donation will **make it possible to expand our efforts and to serve many more families** who desire to be a part of Stone Soup," noted **Bill Harrison, a Stone "Super" Volunteer.**

**"I NEED YOUR HELP TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED IN STONE SOUP. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN!"**

- LYNN MCGARY

## Growth Plans (continued from front page)

### Work with Families

Lynn McGary serves families by counseling, tutoring, attending IEP meetings, and other support that is a vital but behind-the-scenes effort to assist families and children of all levels of ability. This year those efforts are coming back to previous levels.

### Announcements and Prayer Requests

Pray as **Megan Stephens**, a local university intern, comes

to learn from and assist our Director.

Pray for **Stone Soup Friday Night curriculum development to be funded.** This will allow for expansion of Stone Soup to other locations and to increase the number of families served at our current Judson church campus.

Pray for **Judson church and Stone Soup as a building project gets underway** to bring more opportunities to

families seeking to strengthen or establish a spiritual focus with their children.

Pray for our director, Lynn McGary, for protection and healing as she seeks ways to fight cancer.

**Lynn and Ross McGary will return to Brazil again this year, at Christmas,** to continue developing the work of Stone Soup there. This trip is graciously funded by Brazilians in support of Stone Soup.

### Make checks payable to:

Stone Soup Foundation

All gifts are tax deductible.

### Mail your gift to:

Stone Soup Foundation  
4900 Franklin Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37220

Stone Soup Foundation is a 501(c)3 Non-profit organization—a Congressional District Program of the National Heritage Family of Foundations

[www.stonesoupnews.com](http://www.stonesoupnews.com)



**Requests For Information:**

Office, 615.599.3326  
Donna Blair, 615.376.9777

Web-site:  
[www.stonesoupnews.com](http://www.stonesoupnews.com)

*Stone Soup—Friends of All Abilities is celebrating the beginning of its 5th year. Stone Soup connects families of children and young adults with special needs to a community of friends. By creating opportunities to connect the gifts of each individual to the larger community everyone benefits.*

*Stone Soup is a nationally recognized church-based program that serves families in Middle Tennessee. It is in partnership with Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, TN, where it makes its home.*

**Participation is open to interested families and volunteers from throughout the region.**

*Stone Soup Friday Night is held the third Friday night of each month, except July, August, and December. Holiday Camp at Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 1st, 2007. Stone Soup on Sunday is offered to those families looking for a friendly church to attend. Visit our web-site for more information on how to get connected! Web-site: [www.stonesoupnews.com](http://www.stonesoupnews.com)*



## Data: Stone Soup Activities and Accomplishments for 2006-07

Stone Soup served over **40 families** on a monthly basis.

Over **2500 hours of service** were provided to families through **Friday Nights, Stone Soup on Sunday**, personal support and counsel, tutoring of students, educational support to families for IEP meetings and medical needs, support for families finding solutions for long-term care options, hospital visits, and Holiday Camp at Christmas.

**Financial needs** of a single mom and child were met at Christmas time.

A number of families found spiritual support through the work of the Stone Soup Director and others. Several

families touched by Stone Soup got involved more fully in guiding their **children's spiritual development**.

Three families who moved to three different states were **supported by phone** as they transitioned to new communities, schools, churches, and organizations.

**In-home respites** were provided each month to several different families throughout the year, some in emergency situations on short notice.

**Lunch meetings and house calls** with moms were met by our director, Lynn McGary.

Our director counseled with leaders of the **Alpha and Omega Children's Home** in

a remote **Amazon rainforest**, while visiting Brazil in October.

**500 parents** participated in a 2 day seminar on early childhood development conducted by Lynn McGary.

The fourth annual **Holiday Camp at Christmas** had over 100 people involved.

Over **150 individuals volunteered** in making Stone Soup a success last year.

Volunteers came from **6 different church congregations**.

Stone Soup was one of six church-based programs **featured at the national Access Conference on Disabilities** held in 2006 in Washington, D.C. and Northern VA.



Rachel Stocker enjoys a happy moment with counselors during a Stone Soup activity