



# Stepping Stone

## A Support Center for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Dear Jeffco Zoning Office;

June 9, 2013

My name is Bryn Galisewski and I am just starting up a new business, Stepping Stone, A Support Center for Adults with Developmental Disabilities. I have contracted with Columbine Hills Church on 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave, Littleton, CO 80123 (S. Kipling and Coal Mine Rd.) to use their multi-purpose room Mondays-Fridays 9-4 to house this agency. It is my understanding that this might require going through a rezoning process, though I am hoping that the existing special use (I believe for a previous school), can be applied in perpetuity to our school.

Although we are calling Stepping Stone a "support center," it is really a school patterned after the Montessori philosophy of separate stations with more individualized teaching on a 1-1 up to a 1-4 teacher to student to teacher ratio. Although our students will technically be adults, given their disabilities, most of them function at about the level of a 5-10 year old. We will be teaching them life skills toward the goal of more independent living and, if feasible, possible future employment. They will log hours in each of the stations to fulfill a customized IEP (Individualized Education Plan). We hope to be able to provide these services to those who have no government funding as well as those with Medicaid, with the use of committed volunteers and some fund raising activities. There is a huge need for these kind of services, given that about 88% of DD adults have no funding beyond family resources, and at age 21, pretty much fall off the grid for any support to help them move toward independence and purposeful living.

We are excited about the potential this church facility provides as it includes a full gymnasium, a large kitchen, a community garden, a food bank and even a coffee bar. It is set back on about 9 acres of land, surrounded by the small businesses that cluster around Fun City, all of which have potential to be places our students could volunteer or work. It is on a bus route and given that most of our adults don't drive, there will be no traffic problems. We will start with 4 students, and probably never exceed 20. We realize Stepping Stone will be a small drop in the bucket to meet the overwhelming needs in the DD population, but at least it is a start. Please help us get this up and running soon. One of our potential students has tried to commit suicide 3 times this past year out of a sense of the purposelessness of her life.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration, Bryn Galisewski  
**9700 Old Coal Mine Ave. Littleton, CO 80127 720-839-4626**