

For Immediate Release
Contact: Jennie Armstrong
919.781.0156, ext. 113

STEPUP MINISTRY NAMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

RALEIGH, June 2, 2008 – StepUP Ministry today announced the appointment of two new staff members. Steve Swayne has been named as associate director, and Molly Shepherd Nichols has been hired as development associate.

StepUP Ministry is a non-profit interfaith organization that provides individuals and families in Wake County with a second chance in life through job- and life-skills development. StepUp's Jubilee Jobs and Life Skills programs successfully served hundreds of participants in 2007 alone, backed by 130 employers and 280 volunteers.

Jennie Armstrong, executive director of StepUP Ministry, said "We're truly excited to welcome these new staff members who bring with them tremendous expertise, work experience and a strong commitment to serving the people of this community."

Swayne is a seasoned executive with 10 years experience in the business sector and eight years experience in the non-profit arena. His key responsibilities for StepUP include program administration, finance, fund development and grant writing.

"Steve will lead the agency in our effort to grow our foundation support and will be directly responsible for the operational and financial oversight of the agency," Armstrong said.

Swayne comes to StepUP from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he ran and sold a nationwide marketing business. Previously, he was an operations manager at Wildhorse Canyon for Young Life, which included overseeing day-to-day operations and coordination of services for campers of all ages. He also spent seven years working in public relations and marketing for the NBA.

"I was attracted to StepUP because of two reasons: the true passion and dedication the staff has to help individuals and families become more successful, and the organization's belief that self sufficiency is truly a skill that all individuals need," said Swayne.

Swayne is a native of Southern California and holds a bachelor's degree in history and psychology from Claremont McKenna College. He and his wife, Laura, live in Raleigh. They have four children.

Nichols joins the StepUP Ministry staff after serving nearly a decade in the production department at Dickinson, Logan, Todd and Barber Inc., a real estate finance and investment firm. She is an active member of the Junior League of Raleigh and the Meredith College alumnae association board.

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“Molly brings ten-plus years of volunteer work in managing projects and fundraisers and provides StepUP with expertise in marketing, communications and event planning,” Armstrong said.

Nichols is a native of North Wilkesboro and holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from Meredith College. She and her husband, Darwin, live in Raleigh.

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Raleigh-based StepUP Ministry, founded in 1988, is an interfaith community that prepares people who are ready and willing to make positive changes in their lives to become self-sufficient. This goal is accomplished through a year-long, phased program leading to safe, affordable housing and stable, life-sustaining employment. Components of StepUP include the Jubilee Jobs employment initiative and the Life Skills program, which addresses issues such as financial literacy, physical and mental health and positive relationships. For more information, visit www.step-up.us or call 919.781.0156.