

PRESS RELEASE

Stepping Stones

Mental Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELPING EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS IS FOUNDATION FOR BUSINESS

Eastlake, OH. 2/14/05. Stepping Stones is a business of helping emotionally disturbed children achieve academic success. Susan Mikolic, the founder, is a nurse and a mother of two emotionally disturbed children. She has spent a good part of her life learning about mental illness, advocating for her children, and working with schools and government agencies to help her children succeed in spite of their illnesses.

In 2002, Mikolic invested her passion for helping children and her knowledge of mental illness into a business called Stepping Stones. Her business provides services to educators in support of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. One of the provisions of the Act calls for ALL academic scores to be counted in school scores that are submitted to the state, including emotionally disturbed and special education children.

Stepping Stones helps educators understand their emotionally disturbed students and helps them set up specific curriculum strategies and techniques so that students perform better. Students are less likely then to miss school due to increasing illness brought on by stress. When school staff understand the child's illness and assist in keeping the stress in the child's life to a minimum, the severity of the child's illness can

be best managed, the child can attend school regularly, experience success, gain self-confidence, learn, and graduate!

Mikolic gives seminars on a variety of pertinent topics to groups of families or educators who want to understand emotionally disturbed children and help them achieve academic success. She also consults with families and educators and advocates for students. Seminar topics include Supporting Academic Success for children with Mental Illness, Special Education Rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Childhood Bipolar Disorder.

Mikolic's impressive background includes Co-chair, Ohio Department of Mental Health Strategic School Success task force, Member, Steering Committee of "Mental Health, Schools, and Families Working Toward a Shared Agenda", and President of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Lake County. She continues to be active in many organizations and has spoken to groups such as the Ohio Department of Health, American School Health Association, John Carroll University, and many more.

For more information, contact Susan Mikolic at 216/513-6098.
