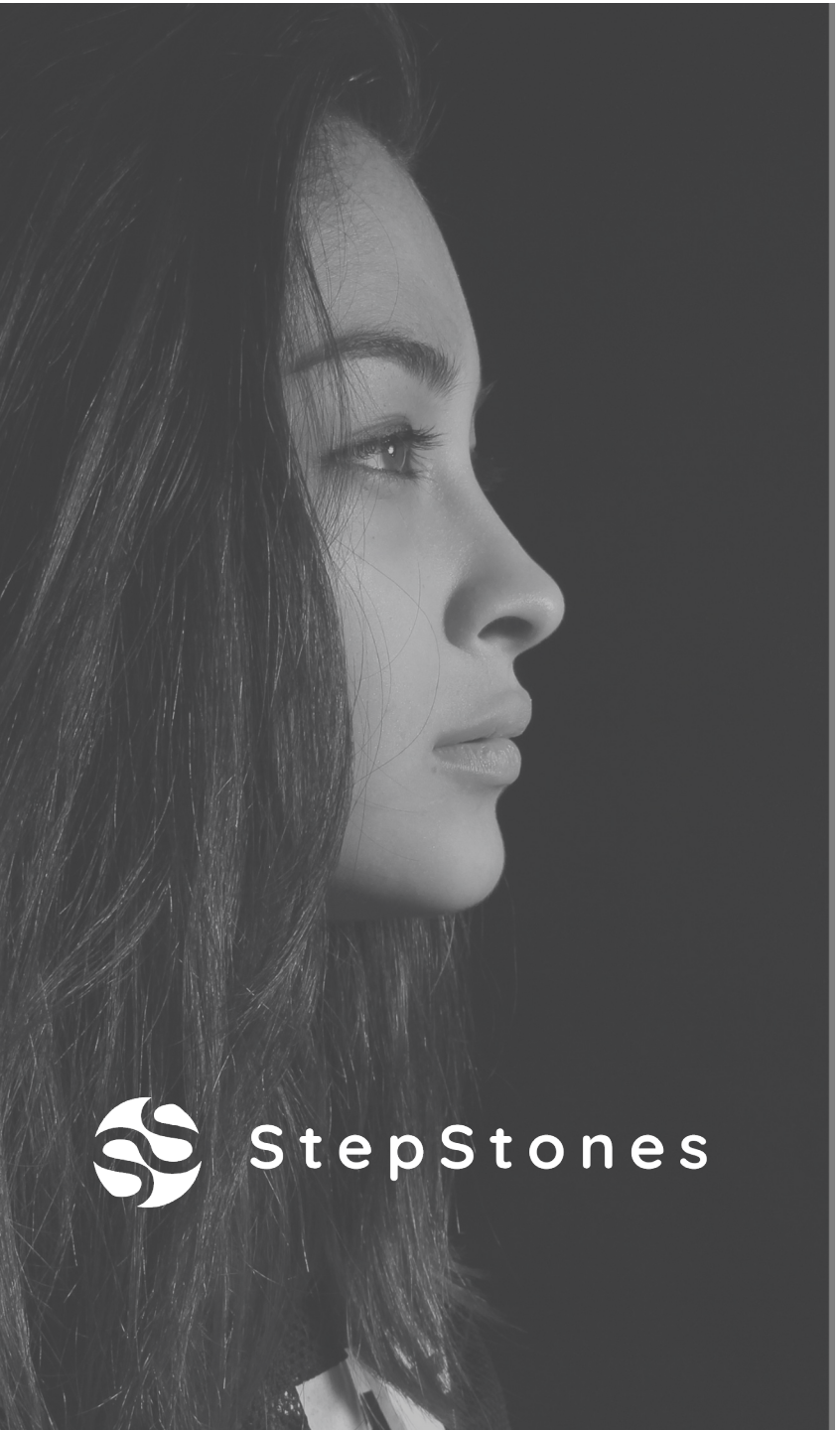
Safe at Home

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

A Youth Housing Connections Project

STEPSTONES FOR YOUTH

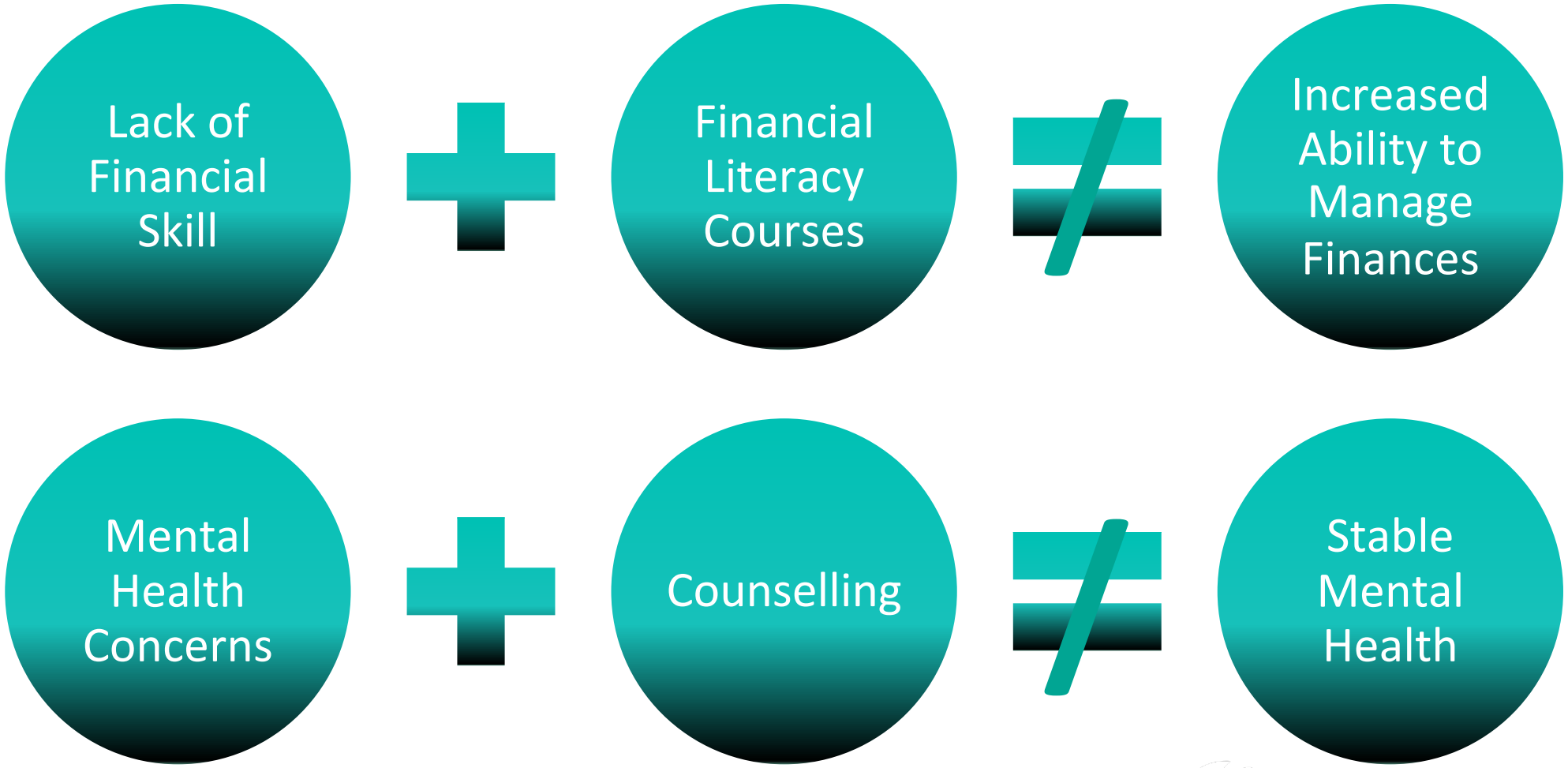


A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Transient Childhood and Housing
Institutionalized Care
Paid Professionals as Guardians
Trauma & High Ace Scores
Adverse Mental Health
Distrust in Systems Designed to Support

Few Natural Support Networks
No Unpaid Parental Figures
Holidays, Celebrations & Birthdays Alone
No-one to Call for Support
Lack of Stability and Safety Net
Lack of Hope for the Future

LOGICAL (TRADITIONAL) INTERVENTIONS



StepStones

CONNECTIONS: FIND, ENGAGE & SUPPORT

1

Trust Established

Engagement

Program Involvement

Youth Confirms Interest

2

Connection Work Begins

Previous Connection Exploration

Mobility Mapping

3

Connection Finding

50+ Connections Discovered

4

Natural Connection Roles Identified

5 Roles Identified

Primary

Secondary

2 Support

1 Mediator

5

Relationship Complexities Navigated

Intensive Support/Mediation to Connect Youth to New Network

Psychotherapy Provided

6

Network Supported

Service Navigators

Psychotherapy

Mediation

Ongoing connection finding

Housing Grants

Family work

REASONS THAT THIS MAKES SENSE

Saves Money

Maintains Cultural Connections

Increases Housing and Support Options

Creates Long-Term Sustainable Change

Youth Focused, Youth Driven, Youth Supported

A Community Approach (vs the One Person Principle)

Community Based and External to Child Protection

At Any Stage

StepStones

THE STEPSTONES BUILDING CONNECTIONS OUTCOMES

- 59% secured long term housing
- 94% of youth have established long term unpaid supportive relationships in their lives which includes the involvement of a primary support person
- 94% of youth report an increased sense of belonging
- 100% of youth utilized housing support and 28% utilized the housing grants
- 11% utilized mental health counselling support

StepStones
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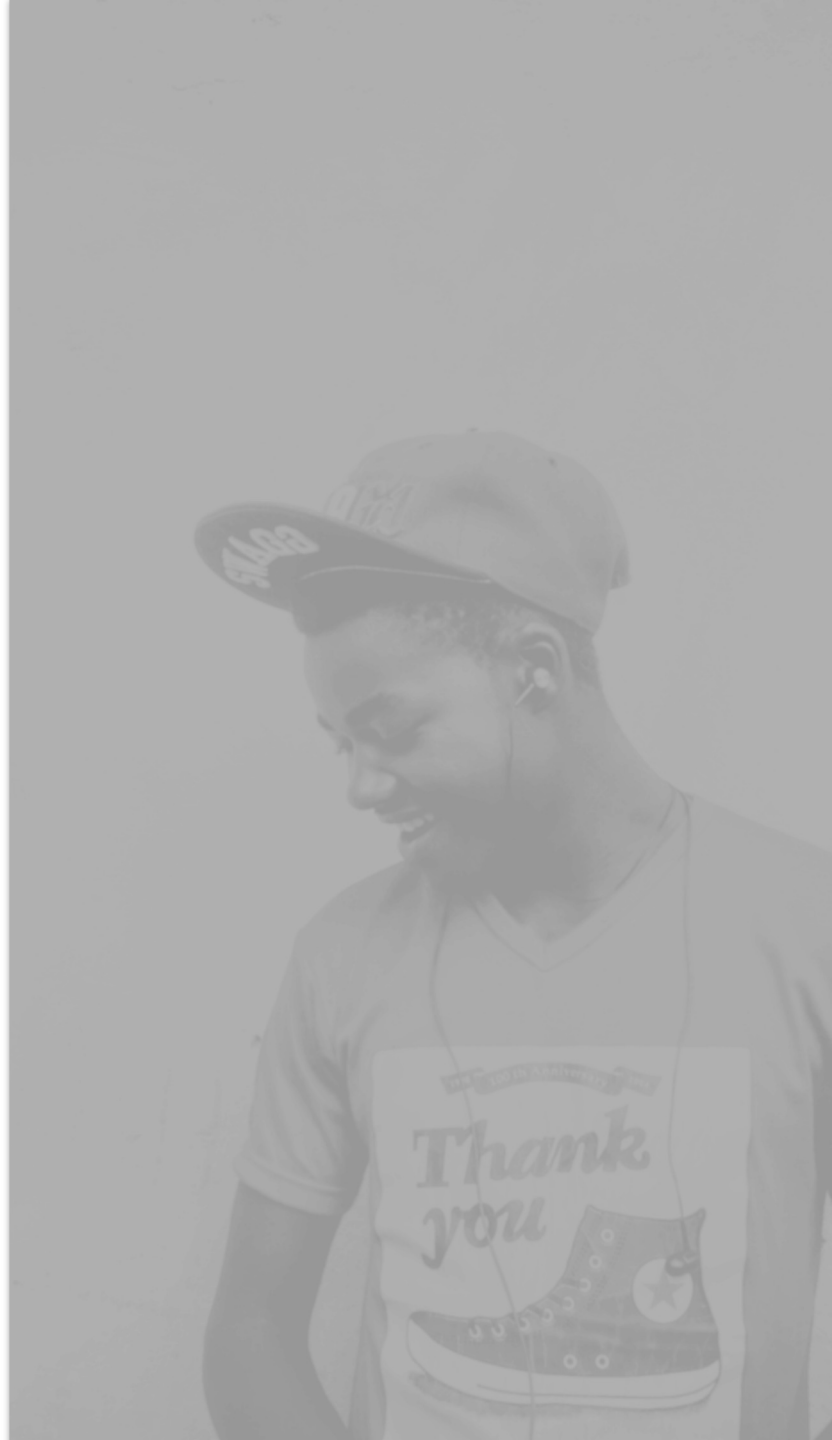
STEPSTONES OUTCOMES

With vigorous and intensive intervention and support, youth involved in StepStones' programming achieve the following results:

- **82%** have either graduated from high school or are currently attending
- **78%** of 18 year old's and older have graduated high school
- **86%** have achieved stable housing after 6 months in our program
- **27%** are attending post-secondary education after 12 months



How is this approach different from traditional family finding/seeing approaches?

- Relies on developing a community of people rather than one family
- Building a strong support network ensure long term stability because the supporters are supported
- Less reliant on social workers to complete the work
- External to Child Protection which opens up doors (More trust from community members)
- Focuses on community folks rather than family
- Youth can also live in the community and support network still makes a commitment of support