



Education, Healthcare, Therapy & Mentoring
for Young Women in Need

SPRING 2020

A Community United in Care and Compassion Transforms Fear into Hope

The impact of our current health crisis due to COVID-19 has rattled all of us, and our communities, to our core. Social isolation has left us with limited access to the support systems we depend on to get us through difficult times. Panic buying and empty shelves make us feel vulnerable and concerned about our ability to sustain ourselves through a quarantine. Businesses closing and struggling make us fear for the financial future of our communities and have also left many of us unemployed and fearing for our own financial future. Most importantly, we are anxious about our health and the health of those who we love and care about.

These are uncertain times, for all of us, and most definitely for the worthy women of Pathways. The women we serve are coping with new challenges, including ambiguity about how classes will move forward and how their education path will be affected. They are also struggling through loss of work and income, putting strain on their ability to find food and pay bills, or, if they are still working, they are serving the public and have real concerns for their health and for the health of those around them.

Throughout our current crisis, we at Pathways have been able to witness amazing moments of people caring for each other. We have experienced caring support from our Pathways mentors,

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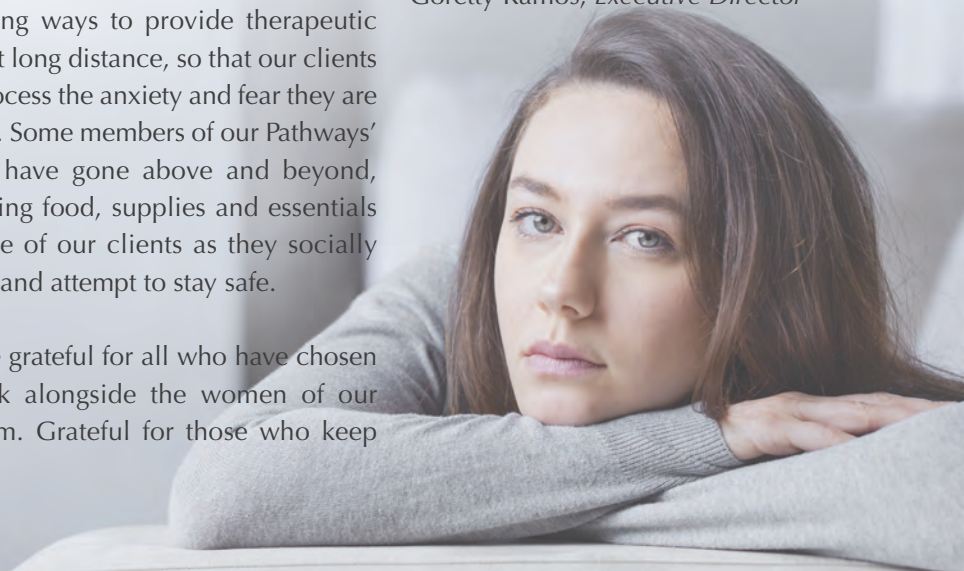
coordinators, directors, board members, employees, providers, Friends of Pathways and benefactors, many who have stepped up to meet the challenge our clients face. Our mentors are reaching out, daily if needed, to ensure our clients feel supported and to let them know they are not alone. Pathways support teams are making sure we know how our clients are coping and are identifying any resources our clients can benefit from. Our therapists are exploring ways to provide therapeutic support long distance, so that our clients can process the anxiety and fear they are feeling. Some members of our Pathways' family have gone above and beyond, delivering food, supplies and essentials to some of our clients as they socially isolate and attempt to stay safe.

We are grateful for all who have chosen to walk alongside the women of our program. Grateful for those who keep

Pathways in their thoughts and hearts. We are truly touched by the support of our community; you give us hope. We don't know what comes next, we don't yet know the effect this health emergency will have on all of us on a personal level, the effect on our clients, the effect on our programs; what we do know is that together we can get through this crisis and arrive at the new normal.

The hard-working women in our program deserve success, they are doing their best to continue moving forward, to not let this changing world defeat them. Pathways to Independence and our dedicated benefactors will continue to care, to encourage, and to support the academic dreams of our clients. We, as a community, can continue to change the future by sharing our time and resources, we can transform fear into hope.

With gratitude,
Goretty Ramos, *Executive Director*



New Board Members

Pathways is Pleased to Welcome Four New Board Members into the Pathways' Family

Our dedicated Board Members hold the mission and vision of Pathways close to their hearts, and are tasked with guiding Pathways into the future.




SHARON DICKSON

Sharon Dickson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, lives by her favorite quote from Dr Martin Luther King, Jr: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is this: What are you doing for others?"

A professional in the fields of psychotherapy and marriage and family counseling, Sharon specializes in addiction, alcoholism, and eating disorders.

Returning to the board after a three-year hiatus, Sharon volunteers at Pathways because she believes in our Mission Statement with her whole heart. Her service to our organization includes her position as Therapy Coordinator, a job she shares with fellow board member, Nikki Harris. Together they are tasked with new client interviews as well as therapy assignments, among other responsibilities. Additionally she provides weekly therapy on a pro-bono basis to several Pathways clients, who hold her in high regard.

After 31 years in private practice, Sharon will retire in 2021. Congratulations, Sharon, on concluding this chapter of your life, and on continuing your life-long commitment to service in our community. Welcome back to Pathways Board of Directors.


*"I love what we do,
and it's a gift to
see young women
turn their lives
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KATHY ERLICK

Kathy Erlick literally wrote the book (her dissertation) on achieving higher performance among team members. A Pathways volunteer since 2016, Dr. Kathy Erlick's career in aerospace engineering has spanned over 30 years.

Uniquely qualified to guide our board in attaining new heights of success, Kathy has utilized her keen management and problem-solving skills through involvement in what she describes as "that passionate group of amazing, supportive ladies," Friends of Pathways. And now her outstanding corporate expertise and organizational talent will help to inform our board's future decision-making.



Kathy enjoys hearing the success stories of our awesome clients, as their self-confidence flourishes during their journey with Pathways.

An enthusiastic volunteer, Kathy is eager to spread the word throughout our community and garner increased interest in our endeavors. When not at work or busy with volunteer responsibilities, she may be found skipping a 48-foot catamaran! Welcome aboard our Board of Directors, Dr. Erlick.


*"I want to
contribute to
helping women
become the best
they can be."*

The mission of Pathways to Independence is to transform the lives of disadvantaged single young women through education, therapy, mentoring, housing, and healthcare, to break the cycle of poverty and abuse.



ANITA BELTRAN-SUTT

An Assistant Vice-President and Branch Manager for one of our corporate sponsors, U.S. Bank, Anita Beltran-Sutt has represented her bank for the past 10 years in their support of our annual fundraiser. During the past 15 years Anita has also found time to devote to an array of philanthropic organizations, holding board positions in National Charity League and U.S. Bank Employee Development Network of Orange County.

Anita became acquainted with Pathways through her involvement with NCL (National Charity League), volunteering alongside her daughter at our annual event. She has also served as a volunteer with Los Alamitos Song and Cheer Program.



“I love this organization and the commitment to the clients...to help them fulfill their dreams.”

A strong proponent of the value of mentoring, a key element of the Pathways program, Anita anticipates continuing on her path of “giving back” to the community as she embarks on her new role as member of our board. Anita’s financial acumen and enthusiastic fundraising experience will be valuable assets in this service. Welcome and Cheers to you, Anita.



JOE DZIDA

Joe Dzida, a partner with the law firm Callanan, Rogers & Dzida, has been a practicing attorney for 40 years, with a concentration on civil litigation and trial including business and real estate matters and employment discrimination cases.

While Joe has been primarily occupied with the challenges of raising his family and running his law practice, he has also volunteered his time and energy to work as an attorney for those unable to afford legal help. He spent 3 years as a volunteer with the Domestic Violence Project, helping victims from diverse ethnic backgrounds complete

necessary paperwork in order to obtain restraining orders against their abusers and also volunteered as a litigator with the Public Law Center, which provides legal aid to those who cannot afford their own attorneys. Welcome aboard, Joe Dzida.

“Serving Pathways and its clients is an honor, responsibility and blessing!”

We are grateful for the support of our new board members and look forward to doing meaningful work together.

Pathways' Support Team Grows Stronger



RENEE SHEPHERD

My name is Renee Shepherd and I am the new Director of Development. I am a native of Carson California, where my Grandfather served on the planning committee and was very instrumental in incorporating the city in the late 1960's. After high school, I enlisted in the United States Navy where I had the pleasure to serve as a Yeoman. I gained exceptional organizational knowledge and quick problem-solving skills during my time in the Navy. After separating from the military, I studied Communications at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

I have over 15 years of non-profit fundraising experience with an emphasis on Event Planning and Strategic Fund Development. Some of my corporate experience includes fundraising for the City of Hope, Community Family Guidance Center in Cerritos, Olive Crest in Las Vegas and a host of consulting and contracting for small non-profits throughout Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

In my spare time I volunteer with other non-profit organizations that provide services to orphans in West Africa. I also enjoy spending time with my incredibly supportive and close-knit family.

One of my priorities is to increase the brand visibility of this amazing organization that does so much good in the community. I want to utilize my time at Pathways by introducing fresh new ideas for fundraising, events and community engagement. I'm super excited about the organizations untapped possibilities and look forward to many successful fundraising endeavors!

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EYDIE PASICEL

My name is Eydie Pasicel and I am the new Program Manager for client services. I have worked in the field of domestic violence for 10 years as an advocate for youth. During my time as a youth services director, I have trained hundreds of service providers on how to support victims using best practices based on the most current research. I am passionate about my own professional growth and I've completed trainings centered on Racial Equity and Healing Justice, Restorative Justice, and I'm also an alum of the Leadership Long Beach Institute. I graduated from California State University, Long Beach, where I received a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development, along with a minor in Psychology. When I'm not at work, I can be found in any number of Afro-Brazilian physical culture workshops or otherwise planning my next local travel and food adventure with my partner of over 8 years.



*"Education is Freedom."
-Paulo Freire*

The thing that I love most about Pathways is that everyone in the organization functions like the "village" in that old African Proverb. Because of this, they are able to effectively support the healing journey of many young women. It brings me so much joy to be a part of this transformational work and to know that one day our clients will have the tools to pay it forward while living their best lives!

A Young Woman Making an Impact in the World of Gravitational-Wave Physics

Current Pathways client, Teresita Ramirez, has been named a McNair Scholar. Her research and black hole simulation work has garnered a lot of recognition and has even been depicted in a documentary. Teresita was also recently featured in an Orange County Register article published on January 29th, 2020.

We are very proud of Teresita's accomplishments and her tireless dedication to her studies and her research. Teresita is also an exemplary Pathways client who always goes above and beyond to give back to the program that is supporting her through her studies. Despite all the attention and recognition she's received, Teresita leads her life from a place of absolute, humble gratitude. We are honored to witness her growth and transformation; she is an inspiration for all of us at Pathways and a strong reminder of the impact of our work and the strength of the young women we serve.



Training for Our Mentors a Total Success

This past January, we at Pathways to Independence stepped up our level of commitment to our clients by hosting our very first Mentor Training! The intensive, 24-hour training met over the course of three consecutive Saturdays and covered an array of topics that provided a wide overview and practical knowledge for our seasoned and new mentors alike. If you are interested in becoming a mentor and joining the Pathways family, we will hold another training this Summer and again in the Fall. Please reach out to our Program Manager, Eydie Pasicel: eydie.pasicel@pathwaystoindependence.org to register for our next mentor training.

"The mentor training that Pathways provided was better and more empowering than I imagined. I've already used information I learned from the expert speakers with my mentees, friends, and clients. Thank you for investing in us so we can 'pay it forward' even more."

-Holli Applegate

"The presenters widened my view of diversity, privilege and most importantly – my understanding of how adverse experiences are



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-HOLLI APPEGATE



processed and how they affect one's growth. I appreciated the chance to interact and exchange ideas with other mentors, and we received prudent advice about 'best practices' as we mentor."

-Mary Zant

"I am so grateful for Pathway's mentor training! It completely exceeded my expectations. Eydie has brought excellent professionals to educate us on difficult topics important for the women we serve, and she created a safe, nurturing environment for mentors to connect and support each other."

-Renee Banchiere

"The Mentor Training was so informative and meaningful. To have more insight into how our childhood experiences affect us, has given me more understanding of the clients we have in our program. This knowledge is so valuable, it has inspired me to reach out to those in my life with more compassion and empathy."

-Peggy Wolters



FRIENDS OF PATHWAYS

presents

Arabian Nights in the park

Save the Date
October 3, 2020



Want to Become a Volunteer?

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make a huge difference.

Volunteer opportunities
available for:

MENTORS

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& SPECIALISTS

LICENSED THERAPISTS

EXPERIENCED MECHANICS

DENTISTS & ORTHODONTISTS

OPTOMETRISTS

JOIN FRIENDS OF PATHWAYS

Pathways to Independence relies on the generosity of over 300 annual volunteers. Our volunteers are essential to the transformation and incredible growth of the young women we serve, women who come from circumstances devastated by homelessness, abuse and neglect.

EMAIL US TODAY!

Goretty.ramos@pathwaystoindependence.org



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Joe Dzida

Jerry Green

Raymond Cervantez

Tiffany Jacobs 

Sharon Dickson, LCSW

Janica Jesson 

Jeff Barke, M.D. – *Emeritus*

DONATE YOUR CAR

Want to donate a serviceable car to Pathways? Contact our volunteer Auto Coordinator, Glen Simpson: 714 579-5256 glen.simpson@carsonhonda.net



Through your donations to Pathways, our clients learn independence, and futures are changed for the better. Thank you for your consideration in contributing to Pathways.

Since its inception in 1991, over 300 young women have participated in the program. Pathways is appreciative of its personal, corporate and service organization sponsors, as well as the health care providers who donate their services without charge to improve the quality of life of Pathways clients.

For more info call 562-493-9048



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