



Pathways

TO INDEPENDENCE™

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

New Study Lounge Keeps Clients Motivated

Pathways to Independence cares about the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our clients. As the pandemic continues to impact our clients, they have experienced increased isolation and lack of connection. Online classes can be challenging and after many hours stuck inside and alone, the young women of Pathways are missing a sense of community.

To answer this call, clients, volunteers, and donors have come together to create a safe study space. Utilizing a vacant 2-bedroom apartment and an adjacent backyard

on the property, Pathways has set out to create a study lounge and outside study area. Clients have been instrumental in this project, not only was a pandemic-compliant study space their idea, but they also come together to set up the study lounge themselves.

The study lounge includes a strong Wi-Fi signal, socially distanced study areas, cleaning supplies and masks for Covid safety, and coffee and snacks, so that our cash-pressed clients do not have to study on an empty stomach. The indoor study lounge is now complete and will be open for as long as the pandemic requires online courses and social distancing; the outside study space will be a permanent addition to our building and it is in the works.

*If you would like to contribute to this project, please reach out to goretty.ramos@pathwaystoindependence.org to find out more.



"STUDYING FROM HOME HAS BEEN A REAL CHALLENGE AND WAS TAKING A TOLL ON MY MENTAL HEALTH. SINCE THE OPENING OF THE STUDY LOUNGE, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BREAK THE MONOTONY OF STUDYING IN THE SAME PLACE AND AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS AT HOME. THE SNACKS AND DRINKS PROVIDED HAVE BEEN AN EXTRA BONUS - JUST WHEN I THINK PATHWAYS HAS GIVEN ALL THEY CAN GIVE; THEY FIND A WAY TO KEEP GIVING MORE!" -MAGGIE

"THE STUDY ROOM GAVE ME A MUCH-NEEDED SENSE OF NORMALCY. I FELT LIKE I WAS BACK IN THE LIBRARY FREE OF DISTRACTIONS AND FAR ENOUGH FROM THE COMFORT OF MY BED THAT I COULD FOCUS ON MY ASSIGNMENTS."

-MIA



Friends of Pathways Inaugural Livestream Event Exceeds Expectations

“Go big on behalf of the future. Stand out and make a difference in these young women’s lives.” This was the call from Pathways to Independence Executive Director Goretty Ramos at the 24th annual Friends of Pathways fundraiser.

Despite reimagining the annual block party fundraiser as an online event, the evening was a great success and achieved our financial goal of raising 75% of Pathways’ annual operating budget. “This year especially in such uncertain times, we are so grateful for the generosity from everyone who supported Pathways with their time, services and donations to make this event a success,” said Fund Developer, Lisa Mais.

Afaf Konja and Justice Joslin hosted an inspirational evening, including musical performances by Brett Young, the 2018 Country Music Awards’ New Male Vocalist of the year and the Scotty Mac Band. The prestigious

Change Maker Award was awarded to Brett Young for helping us share the Pathways mission through his beautiful, heartfelt music.

The evening also featured an emotional three-part documentary, Who I Am..., from award-winning film director Noah Berlow. Four Pathways clients and graduates were featured, sharing their journeys to overcome challenges and achieve success.

featured in the documentary and joined Konja on the livestream. She shared her story of overcoming the odds and finding a path to success saying, “When it was time for me to pay it forward, I came to Pathways to help others find their way.”

To our generous guests, supporters, volunteers, and partners we can’t thank you enough. Without you and the generous support of all our sponsors, including long-time Presenting Sponsor, Farmers & Merchants Bank we would not have reached our goal without you.



Tiffany Jacobs, a Pathways graduate, Freedom Writer, and Pathways to Independence board member was



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Security Amidst an Era of Uncertainty

As a current Pathways to Independence client, I cannot imagine how difficult it would be for me to cope with this pandemic, and with the division ripping through an increasingly polarized nation, if I did not have the supportive people and services that Pathways provides.

Many Pathways clients, including myself, are finding school to be exponentially harder during this remote, online learning COVID era. Spending so much time isolated in my apartment to attend Zoom classes can be lonely and difficult to deal with. My incredible therapist increased my EMDR sessions and routinely texts me to check in. My amazing mentor has been my guiding force in keeping me balanced, reminding me to breathe, and reminding me how important self-care and rest is.

PATHWAYS HAS PROVIDED ME SO MUCH NORMALCY IN A WORLD THAT'S FAR FROM NORMAL RIGHT NOW. -FRANC

I am not afraid of not having money to buy food or becoming homeless if I get laid off from work during COVID. I know I have a safe home, and the support to get me through whatever comes my way.



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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



Season Greetings from Pathway's Board Chair

I always feel my connection to others most clearly around the holidays. I become more aware of how much we all need each other, and how wonderful it is to be connected, each person bringing their individual gifts to the table that is our world. We at Pathways are so grateful for the connection to our clients, our providers, our donors, and everyone



who has touched or been touched by Pathways this year. Now, more than ever, our gestures of caring and goodwill keep us connected.

We wish you all a sweet and love filled holiday season, with all the blessings that connection with each other can bring.

Elizabeth Hogrebe, Board Chair

Pathways' Auto Coordinators Keep Our Clients Moving Forward

Reliable and convenient transportation is vital to the safety and well-being of our program participants. Our two volunteer Auto Coordinators oversee the procurement and maintenance of the vehicles our young women need to be successful along their path to independence.

Jim McGee and **Glen Simpson** come well-equipped to handle the myriad of auto issues that arise as our clients travel to class, work, therapy, and other endeavors. (Even in this season of Covid, their cars are essential). Jim, a former mechanic, has been generously donating his time for over 3 years. Glen, who worked as a service technician for 20+ years and service manager for 10 years, has been with us for the past 2 years.

The job of the Auto Coordinator

includes such responsibilities as arranging repair of the clients' cars with repair shops, as well as acting as advocate when issues arise. Glen Simpson obtains used cars for new clients without their own car, as well as replacements for those cars which have outlived the cost of repair.

Our coordinators give a shout-out to the auto professionals who keep our clients' cars maintained: Sean at **Great Bear Auto Center**, Shane at **Schmidty's Garage**, and **Econo Lube n Tune & Brakes** (all on Beach Blvd in Huntington Beach); **Phat's Auto** in Covina; and Joe from **Metric Motors** on Valley View in Cypress. Phat has been instrumental in locating good used cars for Pathways.

Pathways is grateful for the volunteers who keep our clients safe on the road.



THE CAR DAD:

JOE FROM METRIC MOTORS, AKA "THE CAR DAD," LEARNED OF OUR ORGANIZATION FROM A CUSTOMER WHO SERVED ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE NOT ONLY REPAIRS OUR CLIENTS' CARS; HE DISPENSES ESSENTIAL ADVICE ON PROPER CAR CARE. JOE LOVES TO HEAR OF THE SUCCESS OF OUR CLIENTS, A PATHWAYS PROVIDER SINCE 2014, HE DESCRIBES HIS VITAL ROLE IN DIMINUTIVE TERMS: "MY TEENY PART IN PATHWAYS IS TO GET THE CLIENTS WHERE THEY GOTTA GO!"



Pathways helps clients like Andrea drive safely and confidently.



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 *Pathways Graduates*



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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