

Pathways to Independence  
P.O. Box 43  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

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**Pathways to Independence**

P.O. Box 43, Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
562.493.9048

www.pathwaystoIndependence.org  
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 Pathways to Independence 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 information about Pathways to Independence, please call 562.493.9048



*Save the date · Saturday, October 3, 2015*

FOR FRIENDS OF PATHWAYS 19TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

3 OPPORTUNITY TICKETS \$25

Grand Prize: Dream Vacation! \$4,000 toward a vacation destination of your choosing (made through local travel agent)

Second Prize: Apple Watch (38mm Stainless Steel Case with Black Sport Band) AND iPad Mini3 Wi-Fi

Third Prize: \$500 Gift Certificate to South Coast Plaza

Please contact Katie Larson for opportunity tickets at 562.673.5335 or katielarson@verizon.net

 **Pathways**  
TO INDEPENDENCE™

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

**Summer 2015**

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 Pathways Graduate

**Pathways to Independence Celebrates Two of Our Newest Graduates**

Written by current Pathways Client, Erin Butler

On the evening of June 26th Pathways clients, mentors, board members, and benefactors gathered once again to celebrate the transformation of two exceptional young women; Megan and Kascha. Dave Bishop opened the ceremony by perplexing the attendees. He came to the microphone donning a priest's robe. "As some of you know," he said, "I spent four years in a seminary studying to be a priest..." After the initial laughter subsided, a solemnity brushed over the audience as Dave described a recent reunion with his former classmates. In the company of his old friends he said he became reacquainted with a familiar depth in his life and, "in the days and weeks that followed," he explained, "I thought a lot about what they

said, and my thoughts took me to you Pathways girls. It never ceases to amaze me the depth that each of you has."



Introducing the first graduate, he cited Megan's autobiography. When applying for Pathways she wrote, "Ever since I was a child I wasn't good enough. I was never worthy- just a fly on the wall. I've never done drugs, didn't drink until I was 21. I've never been in trouble with the law. Why me? What did I do wrong?" Despite being a well-rounded, well-behaved child, she remained the subject of contention and neglect in her family for most of her life. Her mother called her ugly and stupid, and told her often

that she would not amount to anything. Shortly after graduating from high school her mother told her to leave and never come back. At the end of her application to Pathways Megan wrote, "I don't give up. If I give up she wins."

When Megan joined Pathways she excelled. She was a great student, worked hard in therapy, and tried her best in every endeavor she pursued. At the ceremony she thanked several Pathways volunteers for their services, support, time, and kind words. She turned to the audience and said, "don't give up, you're your worst enemy." Megan never gave up. She was accepted into California State University, Long Beach and received her degree in religious studies. She currently works for Disney and is anticipating a career in Adventures by Disney. She said, "If I give up than my mom was right. And I don't want her to be right. I want to prove to her that I am smart. I am capable. I am independent. I am worth something. I am pretty." Megan was beautiful that night when she spoke.



Next, Dave introduced Kascha. Of herself Kascha wrote, "As a child if you were to ask me if I were happy I would say 'yes' and that was a lie." By the age of seven, Kascha's childhood home became characterized by sexual abuse and the subsequent neglect of poor parenting. After several failed pleas to her mother for protection, Kascha was finally removed from the home by authorities and sent to Orangewood Children's Home for a brief, few-month stay. Upon her return home, Kascha wrote that her bedroom became a "crime scene." Her mother retained contact with her perpetrator and Kascha felt betrayed.

Kascha joined Pathways and dove into therapy three times a week. She says "My first year of Pathways was my hardest; I thought I was going to get kicked out." Initially, her grades suffered as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder, but with the right help she began to find her strength. She thanked several of the Pathways volunteers for the life she has today. Brushing away tears of gratitude and happiness she said, "This program is not a pass or fail sort of thing." Kascha received her bachelor's degree in Human Services from California State University, Fullerton with a 3.54 GPA and has been accepted into the Master's Program in the fall to become a Marriage and Family Therapist.

Congratulations to our graduates!

Look what's new...  
Pathways to Independence has a new website!  
To view, go to [www.pathwaystoindependence.org](http://www.pathwaystoindependence.org)

Hot, Hot, Hot! Join us for Hot Havana Nights on October 3rd!

Friends of Pathways will be turning up the heat this year as we transform the streets of Park Estates into Old Havana for our 19th annual “Hot Havana Nights” fundraiser on October 3, starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$125, which includes entrance to the party, adult beverages, food, silent and live auctions, live music and lots of Salsa dancing!

We “friends” are working hard to create a magical evening in Hot Havana for our supporters, but we need your help to make it a success for Pathways! There are many ways for you to get involved!

Would you consider becoming a sponsor of our event? Sponsorships start at \$500 and include 2 tickets to the event. You can find more information on our new website, in this newsletter, or by contacting Lisa Mais.

We also have Opportunity Tickets for sale at 3 for \$25.00 for a chance to win a dream vacation worth \$4,000, an Apple Watch and Ipad air, and a \$500 gift certificate to South Coast Plaza! Many thanks go to longtime Pathways supporters, Glen and Debbie Bickerstaff for generously underwriting our Opportunity Drawing. Please contact Katie Larson at [katielarson@verizon.net](mailto:katielarson@verizon.net) for tickets.

We are also looking for donations of quality items for our live and silent auctions; services, travel, concerts, theater tickets and gift certificates are especially welcome. If you or someone you know such

as a relative, friend, or business relation has something to donate, be sure to advise them that their donations are tax deductible. Please contact Linda McDonald at [mcdonaldmouse@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonaldmouse@gmail.com) or Louella Hundt at [Louella.hundt@gmail.com](mailto:Louella.hundt@gmail.com) for more information.

Last year, Friends of Pathways raised over \$500,000 at the British Invasion in the Park! This year, the challenge is to top that figure, so we’re going to need all the help we can possibly get.

There’s no doubt that Friends of Pathways is raising the bar every year with their fundraiser! In large part due to the success of the fundraisers, Pathways to Independence has been able to add several clients to their roster each year. We are thrilled to have 52 young women currently enrolled in our program! We couldn’t have done it without your support! Thank you!

Our hope now is that we can continue to grow and extend a hand to more young women in need so that they may overcome the debilitating effects of neglect and abuse and turn their lives around to a brighter, better future.

To purchase tickets for the event, please visit our new website, [PathwaystoIndependence.org](http://PathwaystoIndependence.org). If you’re interested in becoming a sponsor, donating an auction item or purchasing opportunity tickets, please call Lisa Mais at (562) 884-3629 or email her at [friendsofpathways@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpathways@gmail.com).

Thank You to USBank  
for your generous  
support of  
Pathways to  
Independence  
program!



FRIENDS OF PATHWAYS PRESENTS  
Hot Havana Nights  
IN THE PARK • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

SPONSORSHIP FORM

☐ DIAMOND \$10,000

Benefits include:

- 10 invitations to VIP party & event
- VIP check-in & priority checkout
- Full page ad on front or back cover in event program
- Recognition during opening remarks by Pathways founder
- Recognition on website & signage at event
- Commemorative event photograph

☐ PLATINUM \$7,500

Benefits include:

- 10 invitations to VIP party & event
- VIP check-in & priority checkout
- Full page ad in event program
- Recognition during opening remarks by Pathways founder
- Recognition on website & signage at event
- Commemorative event photograph

☐ GOLD \$5,000

Benefits include:

- 8 invitations to event with VIP check-in
- 3/4 page ad in event program
- Recognition during opening remarks by Pathways founder
- Recognition on website & signage at event

☐ SILVER \$2,500

Benefits include:

- 6 tickets to event
- 1/2 page ad in event program
- Recognition on website & signage at event

☐ BRONZE \$1,000

Benefits include:

- 4 tickets to event
- 1/4 page ad in event program
- Recognition in program & signage at event

☐ COPPER \$500

Benefits include:

- 2 tickets to event
- Recognition in program & signage at event

☐ EVENT PROGRAM AD

• Cover Full Page, Full Color Digital Ad (5.5" X 8.5")

• Full Page Digital Ad (5.5" X 8.5")

• 3/4 Page Digital Ad (5.5" X 6.3")

• 1/2 Page Digital Ad (5.5" X 4.25")

• 1/4 Page Digital Ad (2.75" X 4.25")

CORPORATE, BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL: (Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Business \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Sorry, I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE: All checks and graphics must be received by September 18th, in order to be recognized in the program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
Please mail this form & a check to:  
Lisa Mais, Fund developer  
3152 Blume Dr. Los Alamitos, CA, 90720  
[friendsofpathways@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpathways@gmail.com)

For more info about program as call/email:  
Deanna Byron  
Phone: 562-212-8579  
[Deanna.byron@verizon.net](mailto:Deanna.byron@verizon.net)

Federal Tax Id # 33-0148082

How would you like your name or business name to be displayed on signage at the event:

\_\_\_\_\_

Options on submitting info/graphics for program:

☐ I've mailed a hard copy of the graphics to be scanned to 3152 Blume Dr. Los Alamitos, CA 90720

☐ I've emailed the graphics to [deanna.byron@verizon.net](mailto:deanna.byron@verizon.net). Any graphics sent should be in .jpg format and will be sized according to donation amount.

☐ Please use the below information to create an ad for me.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_