

20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Event "Cruisin'  
Route 66 in  
the Park"  
Motors To a  
Record-Breaking  
\$600,000  
for Pathways!



Pathways Clients, Friends of Pathways and Guests

What a Road Trip! On Saturday, October 1st, Friends of Pathways produced our most successful fundraiser ever! In addition to being a huge success, this year's event marked two very special milestones for Pathways - the 25th anniversary of Pathways to Independence itself, and the 20th anniversary of the Friends of Pathways volunteer organization.

"Live auction highlights included a French Laundry Napa package, an airport hangar party for 200, a stunning diamond pendant, catered dinner parties in private homes, gorgeous custom home vacations in Costa Rica, Montana and Catalina, and a Grand Prix Weekend Package with a pace car ride!"

It's hard to believe that it was really 20 years ago when a small group of women were asked to help raise money for Pathways To Independence.

With 12 students in the program, Dave and Joyce Bishop were struggling to keep things going. In our first year, Friends of Pathways raised \$38,000 to keep the doors open and allow those 12 clients to continue on their path to independence. Since then, thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many Friends of Pathways volunteers, sponsors & supporters, we have been able to reach above and beyond our goals - with our last fundraiser, Hot Havana Nights, netting over \$550,000 and this one surpassing that with a record \$600,000 raised! This additional funding has enabled us to impact more young women each year - with 50 clients currently in the program!

Park Estates was transformed into the iconic Route 66 for over 500





  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
 NEXT YEAR'S EVENT:  
**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2017**

Photos by Katie Bickerstaff Photography




guests who ate delicious food from more than 30 of the best restaurants in our area. Cactus coolers, fine wines, and crafted beers from Belmont Brewing Company helped rev the party up while guests enjoyed an impressive array of silent auction items donated by local businesses. The Hodads, a Pathways favorite, rocked the dance floor and got the crowd moving. Live auction highlights included a French Laundry Napa package, an airport hangar party for 200, a stunning diamond pendant, catered dinner parties in private homes, gorgeous custom home vacations in Costa Rica, Montana and Catalina, and a Grand Prix Weekend Package with a pace car ride!

extended Long Beach community, and our Friends of Pathways volunteers. Fund developer, Lisa Mais, said "Our Friends of Pathways committee is so passionate about Pathways; their efforts continue to impress me as each year we have better quality auction items, stronger commitments from our sponsors, more impressive food from our local restaurants, and we raise more money at our highly entertaining fundraiser".

A very special thank you goes to our presenting sponsor, Farmers and Merchants Bank, for embracing our mission and for their ongoing generosity in supporting us.

We are so proud of the amazing success of our 20th Annual "Cruisin' Route 66" event! Thanks again to all of the guests, donors, auction participants and sponsors who contributed their money, time, talents and services towards our cause, and especially to all of our Friends of Pathways volunteers for "stepping on the gas" to ensure that this year's event would be our best fundraiser yet!

  
 "Pathways to Independence is extremely grateful for the generosity of the Park Estates neighbors as well as the extended Long Beach Community"

Guests and volunteers alike got their kicks cruisin' down Route 66 and raising money for Pathways to Independence! Don't forget to "Save the Date" for next year's event, October 7, 2017 – the Friends are already planning for another amazing evening!

Pathways to Independence is extremely grateful for the generosity of our Park Estates neighbors, as well as the

Our lucky winners of the Opportunity Drawing are:

*First Prize*  
 Tom Kiley  
 a \$4,000  
 dream vacation!

*Second Prize*  
 Anna Platt  
 \$1000  
 cash

*Third Prize*  
 Sharon Dickson  
 \$500  
 cash

# *We are grateful to the following sponsors:*

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*(gold continued)*

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Long Beach Creamery  
Bogarts Coffee House  
Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Grocery Outlet  
Belmont Brewing Company

## MANY THANKS

to the Homeowners who so  
graciously let us use their street  
and neighborhood:

Bill & Marcia Sharfin  
Dave Foltz & Rosanne Carvajal  
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Doug & Cathie Richie  
Dr. Ben & Yvette Stepanoff  
Gayle Wright  
Jerry & Jean Green

Jon & Amanda Hall  
Justin & Michelle White  
Larry & Sandi Lewis  
Martin & Cynthia Howard



## Where Are They Now?

We truly appreciate the wonderful group of clients who we have been privileged to have worked together with these past 25 years. They have worked hard, confronted their pasts, transformed their lives and become women of purpose. We are proud of all of our clients, their accomplishments and their desire and ability to pay it all forward. Read about one of our graduates and where she is now...

In 2005, Margie found herself working two jobs and attempting to transfer from a community college to a four-year university. During one of her shifts at an Orange County Mexican food restaurant, she met co-worker Angelica who recommended that she apply for Pathways. A few years prior, Margie lost her younger sister in a tragic accident, and after many years of repressing her grief, the financial stresses coupled with college were causing this trauma to come to the surface. With few resources and little knowledge, unhealthy coping mechanisms gave her relief from her emotional pain. Life was headed in a downward trajectory. Pathways was a gift from above sent at the perfect time.

During her time in Pathways, Margie developed a close relationship with her therapist and mentor Claire Mann. With Claire's professional expertise, Margie was able to work through her grief and guilt and learned to develop healthy tools to process the hard things in life. She also turned her grief into a deep desire to work in healthcare. Her life experiences had given her the desire to help others who were sick and experiencing trauma as she had earlier in life. Margie graduated in June of 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine.

The original plan was to earn a degree in sociology and minor in biology and apply to medical school. Her grades in science classes, however, were lower than expected, so

she dropped the biology minor and plans to apply to medical school. That all changed when she started working at a cancer diagnostics lab where she realized that, in fact, she did have an aptitude for science. In retrospect, it's easy to explain how it took some time after college to work towards her original dreams in healthcare. Her story is common: "I was the first member of my family to attend college, which meant that I had no idea what I was doing and received little support. Everyday was a struggle to wake up, to make ends meet, and to attend my classes. No matter how badly I wanted to succeed in school, the physical exhaustion and emotional stress combined to create an intellectual environment that limited what I could do in the classroom." Pathways gave her the support she needed and because of that she was able to graduate with her bachelor's degree. What Pathways gave to Margie didn't end when she graduated college. She learned life long tools to become a successful person in the world. Today Margie is a Registered Nurse in a leading, nationally distinguished academic medical center in New Jersey.

"I'm a different person today than I was then. I'm no longer that young girl struggling to survive and create a better life for my family and myself. I'm a new person living out the goals I had set for myself so long ago. I took my losses in life, and all that Pathways has invested in me and am paying it forward in the care and support I give my patients today. I could have never imagined this would be my life today during that period before Pathways." ❀



# Gratitude from Graduates...

Pathways graduates send warm messages of congratulations for Pathways to Independence's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

"Pathways has been a life changer for me, it gave me the realistic opportunity to fulfill my goals that once were just merely dreams because I was lacking resources. I graduated from Pathways with my BS in criminal justice and sociology and I will be graduating with my MPA criminology emphasis in June. Pathways is a hidden gem amongst a chaotic and harsh world."  
~ Natalie

"Pathways found me at a time in my life where I felt broken and lost. They took me in and provided me with the tools and resources I needed to work through my past as well as prepare for the future. Once a high school drop out, now a board certified Family Nurse Practitioner. I am blessed and full of gratitude for everything Pathways did for me; they believed in me until I learned to believe in myself."  
- Candice

"Pathways to Independence gave me the opportunity at a new life. When I first got into Pathways I was unsure of everything, most of all I was unsure of myself and the things I was capable of. After 4 years being supported through school and all of the amazing services that Pathways has to offer, I am a new woman. I am forever grateful."  
~ Stefanie

"I know from personal experience that Pathways turns struggling lives into lives full of dreams, possibilities, and accomplishments beyond what would have ever been thought possible. Pathways has made this world a better place - restoring faith in humanity and providing more than just an education, but also the fundamental strengths within. The feeling of pure and genuine gratitude is something I will always have for Pathways. Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!"  
- Erin

"Pathways to Independence has completely changed the woman I am today from the inside out. Before Pathways I was lost and broken. Today I am a graduate student pursuing my Master's degree in Counseling, in hopes to help others also find their voice and themselves. I am forever grateful. Thank you Pathways and Congratulations on 25 years!"  
- Kascha

"Pathways has healed my broken spirit and given me purpose in my life. I am forever grateful for the grace that was given to me by everyone involved with Pathways. I am a successful woman at life because of all of you."  
- Seana

"Happy Anniversary Pathways. A special thank you to Dave for being there for me, believing in me and encouraging me to go on. May the Lord continue to bless Pathways."  
- Krystal

"Where no love was to be found, a path was made. I walked through the path for 6 years of my life and found freedom, and independence. When the path came to an end; that is when I discovered love was everywhere. Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pathways to Independence."  
~ Kimberly

"I am forever grateful for Pathways to Independence. Pathways rescued me out of the depths of abuse, unhealthy cycles, and hopelessness and brought me to a life I know today. Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Pathways to Independence and its countless donors, supporters, angels."  
- Aileen

"Dave Bishop, My Guardian Angel, My Benefactor, My Hero. My heart was bleeding for hope, attention, and support. In order to change I had to stop carrying the burden of my ex-caregivers' incompetence who didn't adore me. Now I am capable of flying away from the old me. Spreading my wings as a traveling hairdresser, wife, and artist. I will continue to support myself with the gifts you helped reveal to me. This butterfly will always go beyond the cosmic atmosphere thanks to the confidence you've endorsed within me."  
~ A. L. G.

"Happy anniversary Pathways! This program saved my life and helped me become a woman, rather than a damaged, scared and helpless little girl. Every person involved is incredibly dedicated to helping clients thrive. This program has the best cheerleaders (mentors, therapists, coordinators, service providers). Pathways embodies compassion, love, dedication, and above all, action. I owe my life to Pathways and all of its members, providers, and supporters, and I am forever grateful."  
- Dianne





Pathways to Independence Executive Director, Goretty Ramos and President, Patsi Wagner accept \$20,000 grant from USBank representative and Pathways Board Member, Denise Hendler.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Barke, M.D.  
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*Pathways Graduates*



Pathways was among a distinguished list of agencies that serve women and girls honored recently by Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach at their annual awards evening.

The theme focused on breast cancer prevention and domestic violence awareness. In addition to the service grant of \$1000 to Pathways, Soroptimist International presented individual "Live Your Dream" awards to exceptional persons. Lisa Fluke, Pathways Education Director, was chosen as the outstanding volunteer and \$500 was granted to Pathways in her name. Lisa is pictured here with past president of Soroptimist International, Josette Utke, on her right.