



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

Our Graduates

A graduation ceremony is always a momentous occasion, but it's especially meaningful when it honors the hard-won successes of our Pathways to Independence clients. Two proud graduates were celebrated by an admiring crowd of current clients, volunteers, donors and staff at a virtual event on January 24th. Executive Director, Goretty Ramos, congratulated the young women and commended them on their impressive academic achievements and awards.

Like Pathways graduates before them, both faced daunting challenges in their early lives, and getting into and through college seemed impossible at times. The personal circumstances that bring young women into the program are unique, but many have faced homelessness, addictions, incarceration and abuse.

Graduation stands as proof of their courage and determination to succeed in spite of the many obstacles in their paths. As they look toward the future, they know they already have what it takes to thrive in their chosen careers.

The proud graduates all expressed deep gratitude for Pathways and made it clear that the material help, emotional support and loving encouragement they received from the staff, their volunteer teams and donors was crucial to their success. They advised Pathways' current students to take advantage of everything the program has to offer. "Don't be afraid to ask for help. They genuinely want to help you."

Ramos also announced the newest recipients of the Pathways Character Award. Nominated by

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their mentors, the award recognizes clients who have exhibited significant personal growth and character.

One of Pathways new clients, Samantha, was very moved as Ramos read from the nomination submissions.

"Hearing the mentors express their warm feelings about their mentees gave me a sense of belonging, and learning about the difficulties other clients have faced and the new skills they're working on gave me a sense of hope."

Graduation can be bittersweet, with its endings and new beginnings, but our newest graduates can be confident they will not be forgotten. The entire Pathways community is cheering them on and wishing them the best.



Teresa Ramirez, Bachelor in Physics from California State University, Fullerton. Sally Casanova Scholar, Ronald E. McNair Scholar, Louis Stokes for Minority Participation Research Scholar, and a Black Family Fellow.

"You never fail until you stop trying." - Albert Einstein



Megan Sabatino, Bachelor with a double major in Criminology and Psychology and Social Behavior, from University of California, Irvine.



**"KNOWING YOUR
OWN DARKNESS IS
THE BEST METHOD
FOR DEALING WITH THE
DARKNESS'S OF OTHER
PEOPLE. ONE DOES NOT BECOME
ENLIGHTENED BY IMAGINING
FIGURES OF LIGHT, BUT BY MAKING
THE DARKNESS CONSCIOUS. THE MOST
TERRIFYING THING IS TO ACCEPT ONESELF
COMPLETELY. YOUR VISIONS WILL BECOME CLEAR
ONLY WHEN YOU CAN LOOK INTO YOUR OWN HEART. WHO
LOOKS OUTSIDE, DREAMS; WHO LOOKS INSIDE, AWAKES."**

-CARL JUNG



Pathways Alum Loves Helping Others

Diana, the daughter of a single mom, lived in a two-bedroom, one bath apartment with 10 others in the home. After graduation from Ocean View High School, she could no longer remain at home, so she moved out and attempted to make her way through college on her own.

Struggling and at the end of her rope, she considered dropping out; completely lacking in self-assurance, Diana did not anticipate being accepted into Pathways. When you get the chance to earn your degree, you take it!

After four and a half years in the program, she held both a BA from CSUF and a Special Education credential. She was impressed with the family atmosphere and support she received as a Pathways client.

She credits therapy with her success: "Therapy was instrumental in helping me learn coping strategies, communication skills, and the development of relationships."

When you get the chance to share your skills, you take it! Diana began her career in education at age 19, working as an instructional aide at Westminster High School. Upon her exit from Pathways, she began working as a substitute teacher in Garden Grove. The next school year, she accepted her current, full-time position in an L.A.-area school district, where she has taught Special Education students for 7 years. Asked about how she copes with the challenge of remote learning, she admits that it's hard, but with her love of technology, she has made it work.

If you get the chance to fulfill lifetime dreams, you take it, and you may even be able to share with loved ones!

Diana has been able to help her brother complete his own education, while living rent-free in her home. (He's now employed in the IT field, working in the entertainment industry). And, in a notable role reversal, was able to buy a car for her mom!

With such a full plate, does Diana ever have time for fun? The answer is YES!

Among her interests are travel, dancing, and animals. Her dog, Donut, and cat, Mochi, frequently allow her out of the house to travel to such exotic destinations as Iceland, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Croatia. She has traveled to some 19 countries!

We celebrate her unique and notable accomplishments. So, Diana, our pandemic restrictions may currently inhibit this activity, but when you get the chance, we hope you'll DANCE!

HER IMPRESSIVE RESUME INCLUDES

THE FOLLOW CREDENTIALS: B.A.,

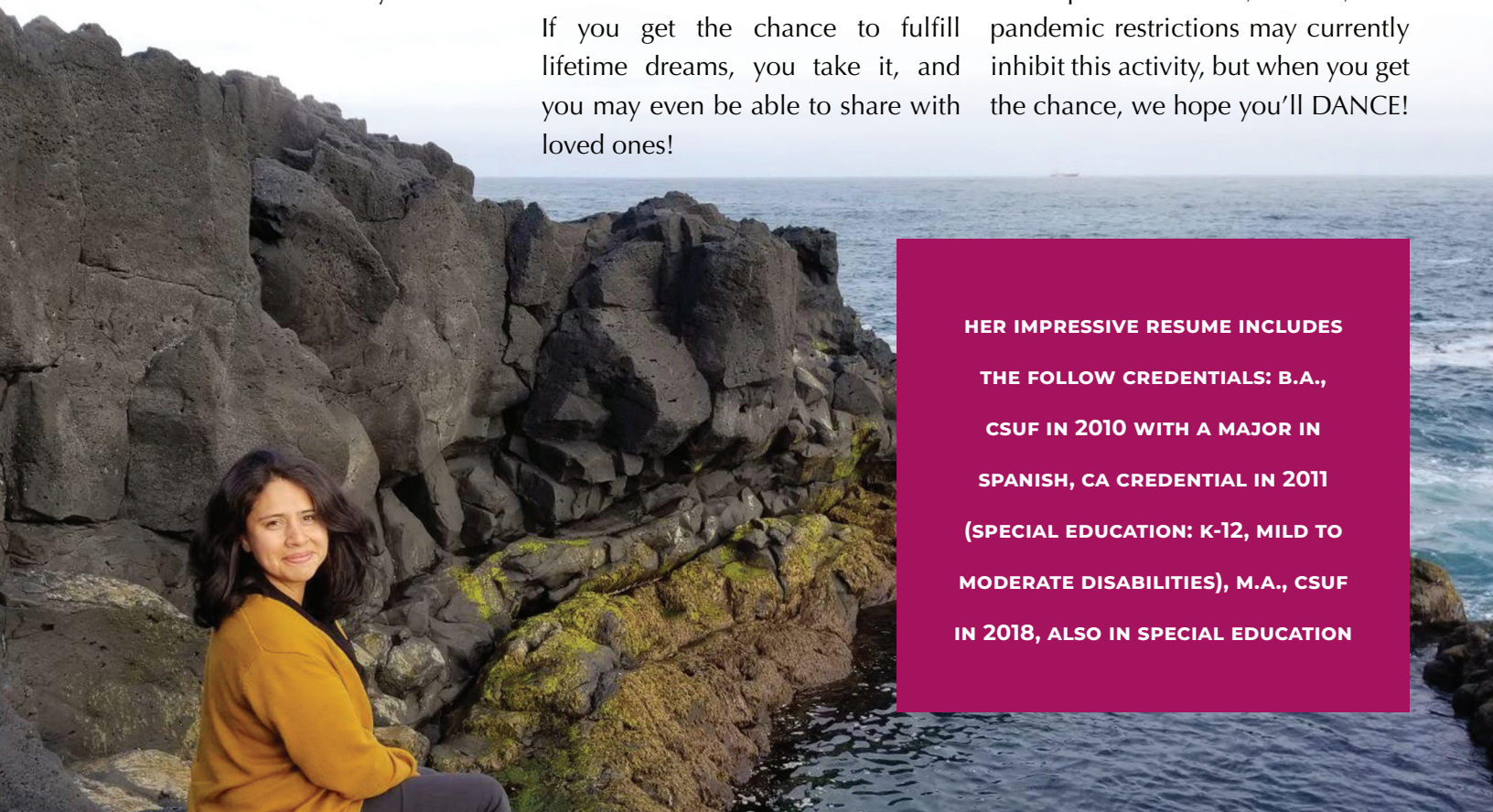
CSUF IN 2010 WITH A MAJOR IN

SPANISH, CA CREDENTIAL IN 2011

(SPECIAL EDUCATION: K-12, MILD TO

MODERATE DISABILITIES), M.A., CSUF

IN 2018, ALSO IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



Message from Board Chair, Elizabeth Hogrebe

I am more than pleased to welcome four new members to the Pathways Board of Directors for 2021!

Dr. Janet Horenstein brings the perspective of years as an obstetrician including significant periods of time working with women in a variety of cultures overseas.

Lindsay Mais brings both deep knowledge of the world of finance and long experience as an active member of Friends of Pathways, our amazing group of fundraising volunteers.

Michelle Mathews comes to our Board with years of experience in the field of Social Work, and

Sarah Nguyen brings a significant level of expertise in education, nonprofit operations and specifically financial operations.

In addition, both Michelle and Sarah are former Pathways clients, bringing experience and perspective that we on the board place a high premium on, to help steer the organization to ever greater impact and success.

Welcome new board members! We can't wait to be partnering with you!



Janet Horenstein

I am honored to be on the board of Pathways to Independence. The clients are some of the most motivated women I have known. Observing their maturation and ability to go above and beyond is incredible. I am excited to add to their success.



Lindsay Mais

I am honored and thrilled to join the Board. I have been involved with Friends of Pathways for over 13 years now and look forward to continue serving this amazing organization in a different capacity. It is my personal philanthropic mission to do good, meaningful work and to specifically lift up women in all aspects of our community. Pathways meets that call to action and I look forward to bringing my best to the Board.



Michelle Mathews,

Alumni of Pathways to Independence

I am so excited to serve Pathways! It is a program that changed my life for the better. Pathways is the only organization that fully wraps around the client; empowering these women to re-parent themselves and live full, big lives!



Sara Nguyen

Alumni of Pathways to Independence

Pathways has impacted my life in many ways. As a previous graduate, I am so proud that I am able to give back to Pathways and impact the lives of the many women who will have the opportunity to be in the program.

MENTOR

Are you a female-identified, compassionate professional with a yearning to give back?

Do you like to listen deeply while empowering others to reclaim their own unique voices? Are you willing to work with a team to meet the individual needs of a mentee?

If this sounds like you, or if you would like to learn how to have these critical skillsets, please contact our Program Manager, Eydie Pasicel, at eydie.pasicel@pathwaystoindependence.org to find out about our Summer 2021 Mentor Training.



Want to Become a Volunteer?

Learn how you can
make a huge difference.

Volunteer opportunities
available for:

MENTORS

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS
& 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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Janet Horenstein

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



This holiday season (and always!) let your gifts to your loved ones also benefit Pathways to Independence!

Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases when you shop at Amazon Smile.

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Thank you so much for your support!