

Metamorphosis of a Pathways “Butterfly”

Introduced to the program by a co-worker, who was at the time a Pathways client, Alex was initially hesitant to apply. She had a dream of a college degree, but fears of past failure had prevented her from pursuing that goal. Throughout high school and the first year of community college, Alex struggled academically. Compounding this insecurity were even more struggles dealing with issues of addiction, toxic relationships, and poor self-esteem.


Alex was admitted to the Golden West College School of Nursing, and subsequently entered the CSULB School of Nursing — no easy task. CSULB’s nursing program is ranked #1 in California, and #2 in the nation! She graduated from this distinguished program in 2020.

Alex is currently employed as a nursing assistant in a local hospital, as she awaits passage of her licensure exam.


“I am proud of who I am and where my life is going today, and I am grateful that Pathways gave me the support and encouragement I needed to get there.”

Congratulations Alex!

We at Pathways are very proud of you and your admirable accomplishments. We send our very warmest wishes to you and your beautiful family.



“My husband and I just welcomed our first children, identical twin girls, whom we love very much.”

“My life is so much bigger and more beautiful than I have ever been able to imagine.” 



“Pathways provided me with the tools I needed to succeed: I attended weekly therapy; I was accountable to my mentor; I used the available tutoring services and to my surprise, I received A’s in almost every class!”

Pathways Client/Mentor BBQ

AUGUST 15, 2021

On August 15 Clients, mentors and staff got together for the annual summer BBQ, Zoom style! Even though the event was virtual for the second year, it definitely provided a fun and meaningful experience for everyone.

Some of the time was spent on celebrating the accomplishments of our clients, just as we have always done at every get together, virtually or in person.

GPA Awards are given to clients who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester just ended. It's always an impressive reminder of the dedication, hard work and intelligence of the women of Pathways, but when we remember these academic achievements were accomplished in a school year that was 100% virtual, it's an even bigger WOW!

GPA awards were given to a whopping 13 clients!

One of the highlights of any Pathways' client/mentor events is the Character Awards. We hear in the mentor's words about the growth, perseverance, determination, and just plain goodness of the women they mentor. We get not only wonderful insight into the changes undergone by these women, but also the joy that being a mentor can bring.

Six women were recognized by their mentors with Character Awards:

Character Awards

VANESSA

(Mentor Dayna Becker)

SAM

(Mentor Gail Ellis-Olds)

MAGGIE

(Mentor Holli Applegate)

FRANC

(Mentor Patsi Wagner)

ETTA

(Mentor Julie Kinsbursky)

CARISSA

(Mentor Gail Levy)

GPA Awards

JULIE 3.75

KATIE 3.50

MIA 3.75

JAVANNA 3.75

Javanna was also on the Honors List

MADDIE 4.00

ALLIE 4.00

ETTA 3.50

CONNIE 3.75

ANDREA 4.00

Andrea was also on the Honors List

KELLIE 4.00

Kellie was also on the Dean's List

MARIA 4.00

Maria was also on the President's List

CHARITY 4.00

FRANC 4.00

Franc was also on the President's list

and was voted Golden West College

Student of the Year!

“Even though the event was virtual for the second year, it definitely provided a fun and meaningful experience for everyone.”



“We had the great pleasure
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women who are new
to Pathways”

We had the great pleasure of meeting the hard working women who are new to Pathways:

Carolins, Nandi, Madeline, Shawnee, and Ellie

It was great to meet them, and we look forward to getting to know them better and hearing more about their growth and progress in the coming years.

A portion of the program was dedicated to the then upcoming fundraiser, Passport to Pathways European Adventure! Clients and mentors alike are asked to participate in a Peer-to-Peer fundraising campaign. The incredibly user-friendly process and tools were explained by Board member and FOP member Lindsay Mais. Clients also provide volunteer support of the annual event, and mentors are encouraged to partner with their mentees to help out with the event.

Another service opportunity was presented by Goretty Ramos. “Senior” clients – those scheduled to graduate by the end of 2022 – are invited to join alumni on an Advisory Committee dedicated to improving the process for women to smoothly and successfully transition out of Pathways when they graduate.

One thing we did miss out on by not having the event in person was all the hugs we normally get to share. Oh yeah, and the calories.... We definitely look forward to the day when we can make up for lost hugs, er, time. Until we meet again!





Thank you!

Friends of Pathways raises a record \$760,000 at their 25th annual event, “Passport to Pathways”!



This year Friends of Pathways took a unique approach to the challenges the pandemic posed for large group gatherings, and reimaged our annual Party in the Park. Three smaller individual parties were held in the beautiful backyards of homeowners in Park Estates, where we traveled to Europe right in Long Beach! Celebrating the cities of Athens, Rome, Paris and Sevilla, each party offered unique food, drinks, costumes, and entertainment, and featured a moving film and a client presentation.

Though we couldn't all be together, each party offered its own unique ambience with an emphasis on fun! Auctioneer Ben Nathan Serio used the power of technology to simultaneously broadcast to all three parties and led us through an “An Almost Live” auction and Support-a-Student appeal! Guests could also make bids on our large online auction, take photos with our mobile photo booth and the selfie stations at each party, and of course, DANCE!

Speaking of dancing, each party had incredible performances that encouraged guests to get up out of their seats! The Paris party featured DJ Lucy McNeil, an authentic Can-Can performance from Jones Into Dance Studio, and the Bierman Brothers band, who rocked the

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house! Over in Sevilla, thank you to the multi-talented singer-songwriter Danny Maika who both DJ'd and performed live music, and Dance Artist Arleen Hurtado, who performed a breathtaking Flamenco performance! The Athens/Rome house enjoyed a myriad of musicians, including DJ Shells Hylton and fabulous Opera Singer Lauren Woods, and a fun crowd-pleasing performance from Greek dance troupe Ta Karpouzia.

Each party featured food from local restaurants, including: The Attic, Baja Senora, Boathouse on the Bay, Finbars, George's Greek Café, Gladstone's, Lucille's BBQ, Michael's on Naples, Primal Alchemy, Tantalum, Vibes, and Yucatan Grill. A huge thank you to the Grocery Outlet at Norwalk and Wardlow Rd for providing wine and other beverages, as well as team of volunteers to man our bars, and Farmers & Merchants Bank for supplying water bottles.

The fundraiser, presented by Farmers & Merchants Bank and the Friends of Pathways, raised over \$760,000 for Pathways to Independence, and has raised \$9 million for Pathways over the past 25 years! Best of all, due to the wild success of this year's event, we can open up our waiting list and accept six more clients this winter! "I am blown away by the tremendous amount of support community and business members give to our organization," said new FOP Director, Erin Wilson. "The women of Friends of Pathways exemplify dedication, generosity, and creativity to make this year's event a success despite the pandemic."



We are especially grateful to our gracious homeowners Jean and Jerry Green, Sandi and Larry Lewis, and Tony Gagliardi for opening their homes and yards to our guests, and the brave clients who shared their stories before a live audience: Charity Fast, Katie Harmson, and Ashley Haro. This event



doesn't just raise money for Pathways programs, but puts a spotlight on the shining success our clients are experiencing, re-writing their stories as they achieve a college education and the freedom in independence. We are all so proud of them!

“Who We Are”

THIS YEAR'S POWERFUL FILM
BY NOAH BERLOW

“Who We Are”, a film by Noah Berlow, features four current clients (including a brand new client who started that week) and one recent graduate. We also interviewed three therapists, including Sharon Dickson, our Therapist Coordinator and a Board Member.

VIEW THIS YEAR'S POWERFUL FILM BY
NOAH BERLOW, “WHO WE ARE”
AT PATHWAYSTOINDEPENDENCE.ORG



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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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Through your donations to Pathways, our clients learn independence and their 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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