

Cycles of Life

Recent Pathways alum, Julie, shares her story of meeting life's challenges with optimism and determination.

I graduated the Pathways program in June of 2021 with a BS in Child Development from CSU Dominguez Hills and also completed a Foundational Level Math Teaching Credential program at CSUDH.

Currently placing my future career on pause, I am employed at a fertility center doing administrative work. Pathways has taught me that I need to take care of myself in order to show up for others. I am still working with my Pathways therapist who's helping me discover my best self. I can't wait to bring that into my future classroom with my future students.

I would not be alive without the help of Pathways and others, and I want to be able to support others in their journeys to realize their best lives and break the cycle of self-destructive behavior. At 10 years sober, sponsoring others on their path to sobriety, using the 12 steps of AA, is the single most important part of my life.

I am training for the AIDS Life/Cycle, a 545 bike ride to raise funds for the Los Angeles LGBT Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Thank you, Pathways donors, for saving my life, many times over actually. And for giving me the tools not just to survive, but to thrive. You have given me something that no one can ever take away. I had never experienced that compassion before. I am honestly grateful.



“Pathways has taught me that I need to take care of myself in order to show up for others.”



Friends of Pathways celebrated its 26th annual fundraiser on October 1, 2022, in the Park Estates neighborhood of Long Beach in support of Pathways to Independence. This year's theme was Pathways to the Future. Guests were greeted with an out-of-this-world-themed décor, futuristic cocktails, and posters from many beloved intergalactic shows and films. Many embraced the theme by dressing up as space cowboys, astronauts, aliens, and characters from Star Wars and Star Trek.

The evening featured food prepared by 30 local restaurants and enjoyed by over 600 attendees. The evening's festivities began with a silent auction that included an array of fabulous items and services, followed by an enthusiastic live auction that offered opportunities to bid on trips to Napa Valley, Mammoth, Nashville and Cabo San Lucas. The evening culminated with a sensational silent disco dance party fueled by cosmic tunes.

Lisa Fluke, Volunteer Education Director and Pathways' Board Member, and Susie Price, Long Beach Councilwoman and a supporter of the Pathways' mission, were honored for their contributions by the organization's Program Director Eydie Pasicel, Friend of Pathways' long-time volunteer member Terese Parkin and Executive Director, Diana Hill.

We are excited to share that Pathways to The Future raised over \$800,000. These funds will help support Pathways to Independence, a social impact organization with a long, strong track record of helping young women in need attain a college education and discover their path to self-sufficiency. The highlight of the evening was a moving presentation by a current Pathways client, who explained her difficult childhood and how, with the help and support of Pathways, she has found a positive path with a bright and promising future in healthcare.

We appreciate your continued support and are excited to attain our goal of reaching full capacity in the very near future.



Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, supporting businesses, and volunteers who made this possible

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Wood and Salt Tavern

Thank you to the Park Estates Neighborhood, especially our Party Hosts

Allan and Georgianna Kolsky
Dr. Philip and Ruth Yuan
Dr. Willie and Carmen Goffney
Dr. Zuri Murrell and Dr. Shalu Gupta
Matt and Yuliya Browning
Mr. & Mrs. Erich Josephs

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Committed Leadership Continues

DIANA HILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On August 25th, the Pathways to Independence Board held a special meeting and unanimously voted to approve Diana Hill as the permanent Executive Director for the organization. Diana had served as the Interim Executive Director for Pathways to Independence from March 1, 2022 to August 2022. During that 6-month period, Diana has delivered on 4 specific goals that she presented to the Board in our March meeting:

- 1) Recruit Clients who will thrive at PTI - graduation rate at 80% +
- 2) Support fundraising efforts towards goal number one
- 3) Create a culture of ONE organization
- 4) Support the vision of the board

For those individuals serving on the Board, working on Staff, involved as a volunteer, or a Friend of Pathways, I believe that ALL will agree that we are blessed to have Diana accept the role of Executive Director.



Prior to her role as Executive Director, Diana served on the Board of Directors for Pathways to Independence. She has been involved with the organization for over 15 years.

Diana has also actively served as a community leader for over 25 years within Los Alamitos and Greater Orange County. She is currently a governing board member for the Los Alamitos School District.



In addition to her community involvement, Diana brings a vast knowledge on how to manage a business. Diana owned and operated her own business for 18 years. This experience provides her with the leadership needed to effectively lead Pathways. Her leadership has allowed her to be a tremendous support system to her staff, be an advocate for our clients, and be a trusted partner with the board.

As the Board President, I have the honor of meeting with Diana one-on-one on a weekly basis. During our meetings, she is always prepared to discuss how we can best move our organization forward and how we can take Pathways to the next level. Her passion for her staff and our clients is very evident when she speaks.

As Diana creates a culture of ONE organization, she continuously preaches "UNITED IN MISSION". As a board member, staff, volunteer, or Friend of Pathways, we have one common purpose. That purpose is for all of us to march forward unified in our mission, that we all hold dear in our hearts, and transform the lives of young women from disadvantaged backgrounds. Welcome Diana!

Raymond Cervantez
Board Chair

Annual Client/Mentor BBQ

After three long years, Pathways clients had an opportunity to have their annual client/mentor “BBQ” before the fall semester.

We gathered on Sunday, September 11th, in the early evening. Instead of gathering at a mentor’s home, we started a new tradition and held it in the backyard of our Pathways’ apartment building, home to many of our clients and one of our Pathways building. It was very well received.

The BBQ started with the mentors setting up and having a quick update from the staff about the program. Then the “Taco Shore” VW bus arrived to set up; they served an incredible array of Mexican Food specialties. When Pathways clients arrived, they were greeted with hugs from their mentors, directors, and staff. It was a warm and fun environment.

Then on to the meal!! A Pathways mentor and Long Beach Council Woman, Mary Zendejas, started us off with a blessing and moment of silence in memory of 911. All in attendance enjoyed tons of delicious food; some went back for seconds and even thirds.

Toward the end of our meal, we were all treated by a current member of our Friend of Pathways Team, Terese Parkin who led us in a short Chair of Joy experience. It was a great way to adjust our mindset to Living the Joyely (www.joyely.com) lifestyle.

As we were cleaning up and getting ready for a short client meeting, a beautiful double rainbow appeared. It was the perfect way to close out the evening of community connections and celebration.



Fresh Start: *New Student Welcome*



Mell

CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE LINGUISTICS
& DEAF CULTURE

Each of us is like a small piece of thread that contributes to the weaving of a very large and beautiful tapestry. Without our individual contribution, the tapestry would be incomplete."
- Mary C. Neal



Anette

LONG BEACH
CITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATION
OF JUSTICE

"My mission in life is not to survive but to thrive and do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."
-Maya Angelou



Ariela

GOLDEN WEST
COLLEGE
STAY TUNED...

"Such is the power of mindful, selfless generosity. At the deepest level, there is no giver, there is no gift, and no recipient...only the universe rearranging itself."
-Jon Kabat Zinn



Heather

ORANGE COAST
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STAY TUNED...

"I lived in that solitude which is painful in youth, but delicious in maturity."
-Albert Einstein



Jessica

CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY,
LONG BEACH
CREATIVE WRITING/
COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE

"Be curious, not judgemental."
-Walt Whitman



Daisy

GOLDEN WEST
COLLEGE
MICROBIOLOGY

"Let your faith be bigger than your fears."
-Author unknown



Jenny

CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY,
LONG BEACH
PSYCHOLOGY

"Everyone's going to pass, and no one is going to remember anyone, so do as you please."
-Athena Scott

We Are So Very Fortunate...

PATHWAYS HAS EMBARKED
UPON A GREAT NEW
RELATIONSHIP WITH
FOODFINDERS.ORG



Executive Director Diana Hill was able to gather an array of prepared items from the Cypress Ralphs Grocery Store earlier this month and fill the Pathways Student Lounge refrigerator with a plethora of nutritious and delicious food items. Clients came with their shopping bags and were able to take home a variety of wonderful. As you can imagine, our clients responded with excitement and gratitude:

"That's amazing!! Thank you so so much to all of you who helped make this happen for us."

*"Thank you so much!!!
This is a true blessing!"*

"Wow, this is incredibly kind and so helpful! Thank you so much!"

We are truly grateful for this new wonderful partnership.

foodfinders.org



Charitable Giving & Taxes

KNOW THE RULES

As the new year approaches we hope that you will consider Pathways to Independence in your giving plans and contribute to transforming the lives of the young women we serve.

The greatest benefit of charitable giving is the knowledge that you've helped make a difference in the lives of others. Yet giving can also provide tax breaks so long as you are aware of the rules and keep track of what you have donated. You should always consult with a legal and tax professional on charitable giving matters.

There are several methods of donating to the charities that you support. There are the obvious direct gifts of cash or non-cash gifts of property (including such items as clothing, jewelry, furniture, computers, automobiles and boats) and some not so obvious ways that you can contribute:

DONATE APPRECIATED SECURITIES- Donors who are considering current year charitable contributions and are also facing long-term capital gains taxes on appreciated stock they have held for more than a year can realize a much more favorable income tax result and charitable impact by making a timely donation of the appreciated stock directly to Pathways to Independence. If a donor sells the stock first and then donates the cash proceeds to Pathways, the donor may be subject to capital gains taxes on the proceeds from the sale of the stock. But if a donor contributes appreciated stock held for more than one year directly to Pathways, the donor can usually deduct the fair market value of the donation without realizing any capital gain.

DONOR-ADVISED FUND- A donor-advised fund is like a charitable investment account and is similar to a family foundation without a lot of the IRS annual regulations. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a

donor-advised fund at a public charity, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then those funds can be invested for tax-free growth, and you can recommend grants to non-profits you care deeply about over time. Consult your tax advisor. Pathways does not provide tax advice.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT)- An arrangement in which cash or property is transferred to a trust. You and/or other beneficiaries receive income from the trust for a period of time, after which the remaining principal becomes the property of the charity.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST (CLT)- A CLT is the opposite. Charities become the income beneficiaries, receiving a stream of income from the trust for a period of time, after which the named noncharitable beneficiaries receive the remaining trust principal.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)- A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be counted toward satisfying your RMD (required minimum distribution) for the year, up to \$100,000. The QCD is excluded from your taxable income.

Charitable donations are an excellent way to make a difference in the lives of others while also reducing your taxes.

Please contact Lisa Mais 562-884-3629 or lisa.mais@pathwaystoindependence.org to learn more or to donate

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Diana Hill – *Executive Director*

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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Diana.hill@pathwaystoIndependence.org

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