

ALUMNA SUCCESS STORY

## Making A Difference

She couldn't imagine how beautiful life could be. "Pathways has changed every part of my life—I knew it would, but not like this!"

Hearing of Pathways through a dear friend, Brittany was incredulous at first, but she was impressed as she vicariously experienced the transformation of her friend's life. "I got to witness her journey, not knowing that I'd be next."


Brittany entered the program as a college sophomore. She was able to move into our building immediately. "My apartment became my own little safe haven, and I fell in love with my independence."


She credits the weekly therapeutic sessions offered by Pathways as the most valuable component of our program. "Today I love myself more than I ever thought possible. Not only have I been able to put past hurts to rest, I've also been able to forgive myself for the things that weren't my burden to carry in the first place."

To illustrate her commitment to making our world a more beautiful place, Brittany cites this quote from Jane Goodall: "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

One way Brittany has been making a difference is through community outreach. Even as a busy full time student, working a part time job, she managed to share her time with orphaned children in Tijuana. She continues her involvement there, at Corazon de Vida, enriching kids' lives through sports, crafts, and music. Her generous and giving spirit, coupled with a love of new places, will provide her with many opportunities to continue to be a force for good in our world.

Brittany graduated just last May from Cal State LA, majoring in Social Work. Nominated by her professors, she was honored with the Leadership Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success. Her long-awaited diploma was the springboard to a future of successful endeavors.



  
"I just landed a position at a residential mental health crisis facility!"



# 80's Flashback

## A Totally Tubular '80s Flashback Event Raises \$850K to benefit the young women of Pathways to Independence

Friends of Pathways 27th Annual Event was held at "The Beach" CSULB and whisked attendees back to the fun and energetic '80s on October 7, 2023. The event came alive with the band Knyght Ryder, enticing the crowd to dance to iconic '80s tunes. Amidst the groove, guests could savor delicious bites from 35 of Long Beach and Seal Beach's top restaurants. Simultaneously, they participated in spirited bidding wars over various Silent and Live Auction items and experiences, such as trips to Napa Valley, Mammoth, Cabo, the Croatian Coast, and Mallorca, Spain.

This year's event will support 34 amazing young women in pursuing higher education and independence. The presentation included two Change Maker Awards honoring – Friend of Pathways, Patti Flynn, and President of CSULB Jane Close Conoley for their contributions, along with a video with three Pathways Alumni sharing their story and where they are now, you can check out our website to view it. The pinnacle of the evening was a heartwarming speech delivered by one of Pathways' outstanding clients. This exemplary student, who consistently earns straight A's, shared her challenging childhood experiences and how Pathways has illuminated a path toward a promising future in the field of Public Health.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and underwriters, whose generosity empowers Pathways to provide essential services—ranging from educational expenses to housing and therapy.

The event was not only a delightful trip down memory lane but also a testament to the incredible impact of Pathways in transforming lives and shaping brighter futures. Thanks to your unwavering support, we met and exceeded all expectations.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB & PAM FUNARI FOR BRINGING THEIR METICULOUSLY RESTORED 1967 FERRARI NART SPYDER FOR THE FERRIS BUELLERS DAY OFF VIGNETTE.**



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

*Lisa & Frank*  
**CHAPMAN**

**TITLE SPONSOR**



**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

### **Diamond Sponsors**

Christie Peck  
Jean & Jerry Green  
In Memory of Evelyn Flam  
Larry & Helen Hoag Foundation

### **Ruby Sponsors**

Browning Family - In Memory of  
Kathryn Browning  
Diana Wolf - Pacific Coast  
Capital Management  
Diane & Mike Jensen  
Dr. Kathy Erlick  
Dr. Misha Heller, MD Heller  
Dermatology & Aesthetic  
Surgery  
KBI - Kinsbursky Brothers Intl.  
Komax Systems, Inc.  
KWA Ministries  
The Capital Group  
Tilley Family Fund  
Traffic Management, Inc.  
US Bank  
Wells Fargo - Wealth & Investment  
Management / Richard &  
Cheryl Jacobs  
Xuemei Wei

### **Platinum Sponsors**

Cathy Hansen - Hansen Steel  
Services & Pro-coil, Inc.  
In Memory of George Anderson

### **Gold Sponsors**

Audrey Nichol Hauth  
GB Remanufacturing  
HOWARD CDM / STEELCRAFT  
Kathy & Rick Kaplan  
In Memory of Lori Giacomini  
Michael & Diane Stephens  
Pathways to Independence  
Board of Directors  
Peter & Carolyn Shea  
Toyota TABC  
Trench Shoring Company

### **Silver Sponsors**

Bob & Mary Alice Braly  
Citizens Business Bank  
HD Orthodontics,  
Dr. Heather Desh  
Henry and Erin Walker  
James W. Eaton Foundation  
Jean & Jerry Green  
Lindsay Mais  
& John Anderson, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Erich Josephs  
Rossmoor Woman's Club  
Sandi Young  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Trojan and Co.  
Accountancy Corporation

### **Bronze Sponsors**

Ann & Steven Collins  
Avalon Bay Communities  
Bioenergy Devco  
Cindy & Tom Kiley  
Denise & Robert Luher  
Indoor Environments  
Gene & Kathy Schugg  
In Loving Memory  
of Joanna Perry  
James & Ingrid Stern  
Jan & Jerry Maize  
Jane & Charles Thomas  
Jim & Stacie Ferry  
Karen Peter  
Los Altos Dental  
McRae Care  
Foundation Fund  
Patti Flynn & Jim Dohn  
Performance Plus Tire –  
The Feldmans  
Rosemary Voss –  
Voss Consulting Group  
Soberlink -Tracie Kawaguchi  
Supreme Berry Farms  
TAB Hardware Inc.  
William Timberlake

### **Copper Sponsors**

Denise & Rick Gimenez  
Eddie Kesky General  
Contractor  
Fabiola Figueroa  
Gioia & Larry Pastre  
Julia Gowin  
Leslie & Mark Turpin  
Leone Electric  
Loree Scarborough  
& Dennis McConkey  
Maribel & Gregg Mullery  
Nancy & Mark Smerkanich  
Natalie & Dave Barron  
Pettigrew Construction, Inc.  
Rancho Garden Club  
Robert & Noreen Curry  
Suzie & Mark Price  
Terri Chapman  
Wil & Susan Drouin

### **Restaurants & Beverages**

Aroma di Roma  
Baja Sonora  
Bistro Bar  
Chick-fil-A  
(LB Towne Center)  
Colossus  
Dogz Bar & Grill  
Dutch's BrewHouse  
Eat Fantastic  
Ellie's  
Finbar's Italian Kitchen  
Gaslamp Music +  
Bar + Kitchen  
Gladstone's Long Beach  
Joe Jost's  
Legends Sports Bar  
& Restaurant  
Lucille's Smokehouse  
Bar-B-Que  
Michael's On Naples  
Noble Bird  
Nonna Mercato

Ola Mexican Kitchen  
Panxa Cocina  
Roe Seafood  
Shady Grove Foods  
Taco Shore  
Tantalum Restaurant  
The Attic  
The Beach House  
@ Seal Beach  
The Boathouse  
On The Bay  
The Grand  
The 908  
Thunderbolt Pizza  
Walt's Wharf  
Willmore Wine Bar  
Wood & Salt Tavern  
Yucatan Grill  
TrustedGut Brewing  
Green Cheek Beer Co.  
Louisa Lawless  
Port City Tavern  
Farmers & Merchants Bank

### **Underwriters**

CI Solutions  
Clare Elser  
DeLynn Schoenholtz  
Huntington Beach  
Elks Lodge  
Linda Vas  
Louella & Kevin Hundt  
Patti Flynn  
Sage Real Estate  
Seal Beach 16th Garage  
Sheree Palma  
Surf City Rotary of  
Huntington Beach  
Teri Smith  
Tinker Strellich-Range  
Traffic Management, Inc.

### **Entertainers**

Knyght Ryder and  
Mari Dunn

# Program Updates

2023 has been an amazing year for Pathways to Independence so far. Here's a summary of the key highlights.

## Celebrated our key Volunteers

Sharon Dickson and Nikki Harris (Former Therapist Directors and Board members) received the PTI Volunteer award, and Renee Banchiere (long-time Coordinator and Mentor) was named a Spirit of Volunteerism Awardee by One OC

## 2023 Clients

It has been an exciting Spring and Fall. We have accepted 14 new clients into Pathways:

### Spring

- ♥ LP – Orange Coast College Major Aviation
- ♥ LA – Orange Coast College Major Dietitian/Nutrition
- ♥ AP – Golden West College Major Bio
- ♥ MM – Cal Poly Pomona Major Hospitality

### Summer

- ♥ PH – Golden West College Major Cosmetology
- ♥ FB – Orange Coast College Major Bio

### Fall

- ♥ KR – Golden West College Major Undetermined
- ♥ MA – CSU Long Beach Major Education
- ♥ CP – Cerritos College Major Undetermined
- ♥ MT – Golden West College Major Social Work
- ♥ JN – Cerritos Major Social Work
- ♥ CE – CSU Dominguez Hills Major Business Admin
- ♥ CP - Long Beach City College Major Business Admin

## Employees

We had to say farewell to a couple of very impactful team members this year:

**Cindy Gillis** has been our admin for the last 14 years. Cindy is retiring from Pathways to spend more time with her new grandbaby. We are grateful for all Cindy has done for Pathways, and we hope she won't go too far.

**Eydie Pasicel**, Program Director, has been with Pathways for four years. Eydie has been pivotal in Pathways'

Client-centered approach to support and services. Our clients adore her and will be missed. We are excited for her and the next chapter in her career.

We also have had the honor of welcoming two new team members.

**Jan Pollitt** – The Therapist Director - Jan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked with L.A and Orange County vulnerable populations for over 35 years. She retired from the County of Orange Child Protective Services and has been a director in many non-profit programs working with survivors of domestic violence and clients struggling with substance use. Jan is strongly committed to working with women to aid in their self-empowerment and to help them create lives they never even dared to imagine. Jan is so honored to be a part of Pathways to Independence.



**Nancy Blasi** – Administrative Assistant - Nancy comes to Pathways to Independence from the business world, bringing more than twenty years of expertise in sales, marketing, and strategic planning for major consumer brands. While managing a sales region in the greater Southern California area, she also earned her MBA. When her daughters were in middle school, she took a break from the corporate ladder, choosing instead to work part time while serving the community through Girl Scout leadership, PTA boards, National Charity League and most recently, Meals on Wheels. Joining the Pathways staff is an incredible opportunity to serve these inspirational young women, while working alongside an incredibly dedicated team.





## Client Coordinators

Pathways can only exist with our volunteers. This year, we have Welcomed two new Client Coordinators. This is a huge job, and we are beyond grateful for these two compassionate, professional women who have been added to our team:

**Liz Gallagher** – Elizabeth is delighted to be a volunteer with Pathways to Independence. She began as a mentor in June 2022 and is honored to have recently began working as a Client Coordinator. She is passionate about education advocacy and started her work as a mentor to elementary school students fifteen years ago. While her professional experience is in realm of office administration, she is most fulfilled while being of service to children and young women at transitional ages. Contributing to the Pathways team is an enormous source of love in her life - most especially through the connection shared with clients.



**Dalia Cahana-Amitay** - Client Coordinator - Dalia is a new volunteer with Pathways to Independence, serving both as Client Coordinator and Mentor. Her biggest passion in life is to help people discover and maximize their potential, which is why she joined the Pathways team. Throughout her career as a college professor, as well as in her current role as a national board-certified health and wellness coach, she learned how important it is to support others, as they gain knowledge and insight into what will allow them to be happy and successful. When asked what she thinks about Pathways, she said, "I'm in awe of Pathways mission and dedicated staff and am grateful for the opportunity to be able to guide our young amazing women as they develop the tools to attain their life goals."



## Summer Get-Together

As we prepared to start the new school year, Pathways hosted a Client/Mentor get-together at the Dubar buildings. This is a relaxed time before the start of school when we can connect and enjoy each other's company. We also got the chance to introduce some new clients, mentors, and coordinators.





## Strategic Plan

The Pathways is working on its first strategic plan. Aiming for Continuous Improvement - The plan will be a living document that allows us to have a culture of continuous improvement because of our desire to go from great to greater. Goal Alignment – So our organization can align its activities and resources with our mission and goals. This will ensure we focus on what matters the most and avoid mission drift.



The board's goal is to ensure Pathways will be here as an organization to support young women for generations to come. We expect to complete the plan in early spring, so stay tuned.

## Pathways in the News

We have been fortunate these past few months to have received wonderful publicity from - Rossmoor Living Magazine, The Sun Newspaper, The News Enterprise, LB908 Magazine. I also enjoyed being interviewed with one of our amazing Graduates, Tiffany Jacobs, for KTLA This Morning. We love the opportunity to spread the word about our mission and amazing clients.



## Deep Gratitude

As we enter the season of gratitude, I want to convey my profound appreciation. I'm immensely thankful to the Board for their unwavering support of our clients and my leadership. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our generous donors, who contribute with Pathways at the core of their hearts. Our many dedicated volunteers are indispensable in bringing Pathways to life, and their commitment is truly remarkable. My small yet incredibly dedicated team, with their steadfast belief in the daily work we undertake, deserves special recognition. Last but not least, I want to express my profound admiration for our clients – they are our true heroes. They represent a remarkable group of young women destined to create a significant impact on our world, filling me with hope for the future.



# Young Philanthropist

## OF PATHWAYS

Pathways is working to grow our connection in the community, with a new arm of support. YPP (Young Philanthropist of Pathways) members are joining together to raise awareness, funding, volunteer their time and talents, and to network with a group of like-minded individuals while supporting the Pathways mission.

### REASONS TO JOIN YPP:

**Meaningful Impact:** Make a direct impact on the lives of young women in need. Your contributions empower them with education, therapy, mentorship, and essential resources.

### SKILL ENHANCEMENT:

Develop leadership and teamwork skills through hands-on projects, enriching your own professional growth.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Interact with the local communities, understand their needs, and work collaboratively to create lasting change.

### INSPIRING EVENTS:

Attend events, gain insights and share inspiration with like-minded individuals.

### PURPOSEFUL VOLUNTEERING:

Dedicate your time and expertise to make a difference firsthand.

Ready to be a force for good? Don't miss another YPP Event. **Our next event is on December 5th** (see back cover for more information). Learn more about important dates at [PathwaysToIndependence.org](http://PathwaysToIndependence.org) or reach out to Lisa Mais.

*Together, let's transform lives and break the cycle of poverty and abuse.*



# 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](mailto:lisa.mais@pathwaystoindependence.org) to learn more or to donate

Donations





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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 LOS ALAMITOS, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 143

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Robert Casares
  - Raymond Cervantez – *Board Chair*
  - Joseph Dzida
  - Jerry Green
  - Sylvia Hendron
  - Tracey Hutton – *Secretary*
  - Ana Lopez
  - Lindsay Mais – *Treasurer*
  - Anita Beltran-Sutt
- .....
- Diana Hill – *Executive Director*

Join us in spreading holiday cheer to our clients *all year long!*

Consider giving Amazon gift cards.

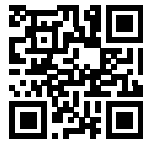
Please mail to P.O. Box 43, Los Alamitos, CA 90720, or email Nancy.blasi@pathwaystoindependence.org for more info. It will ensure our clients in need can enjoy essential supplies and a little extra warmth throughout the year. *Thank you for making a lasting difference!*



**December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00-8:00pm**  
**The Boathouse**  
 190 N Marina Dr  
 Long Beach, CA 90803

*Young Philanthropist  
 holiday party!*

You are invited for an evening of conversation and community. Hosted hors d'oeuvres, wine and drinks.



Become a member where you will build social and business relationships while also supporting the young women of Pathways.

Email [nancy.blasi@pathwaystoindependence.org](mailto:nancy.blasi@pathwaystoindependence.org) that you are a yes!

**DONATE YOUR CAR!**



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 370 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** or Contact Diana Hill at [Diana.hill@pathwaystoindependence.org](mailto:Diana.hill@pathwaystoindependence.org)