

Futures are often determined to be frightening, daunting, and hopeless with a lack of emotional support, financial resources, and necessary skills to survive. Many first steps are lost before the foot can be lifted.

By Jessica, Current Pathways' Client.

Many first steps are lost before the foot can be lifted. But a growth mindset begins with perspective and continues with perseverance. In Pathways to Independence, clients are supported to make the first step, then another, then another, until they walk on their own and then run. In this season of change, Diana Hill, the organization's executive director, acknowledged that there have been many challenges, some personal and others social, that have made progress a struggle or even an impossibility. But with the love of the Pathways village and an individual's resolve, every client had something to celebrate during the Spring 2024 graduation ceremony.

Diana opened the ceremony with a reminder that journeys of growth aren't a narrow path: "These women have spent anywhere between one and six years in Pathways and they leave with a degree. But even more importantly, they have become empowered, independent women." Reflective of her confident statement, over two dozen clients were recognized for their efforts in academic prowess and community service, making the ceremony one of the organization's biggest celebrations.

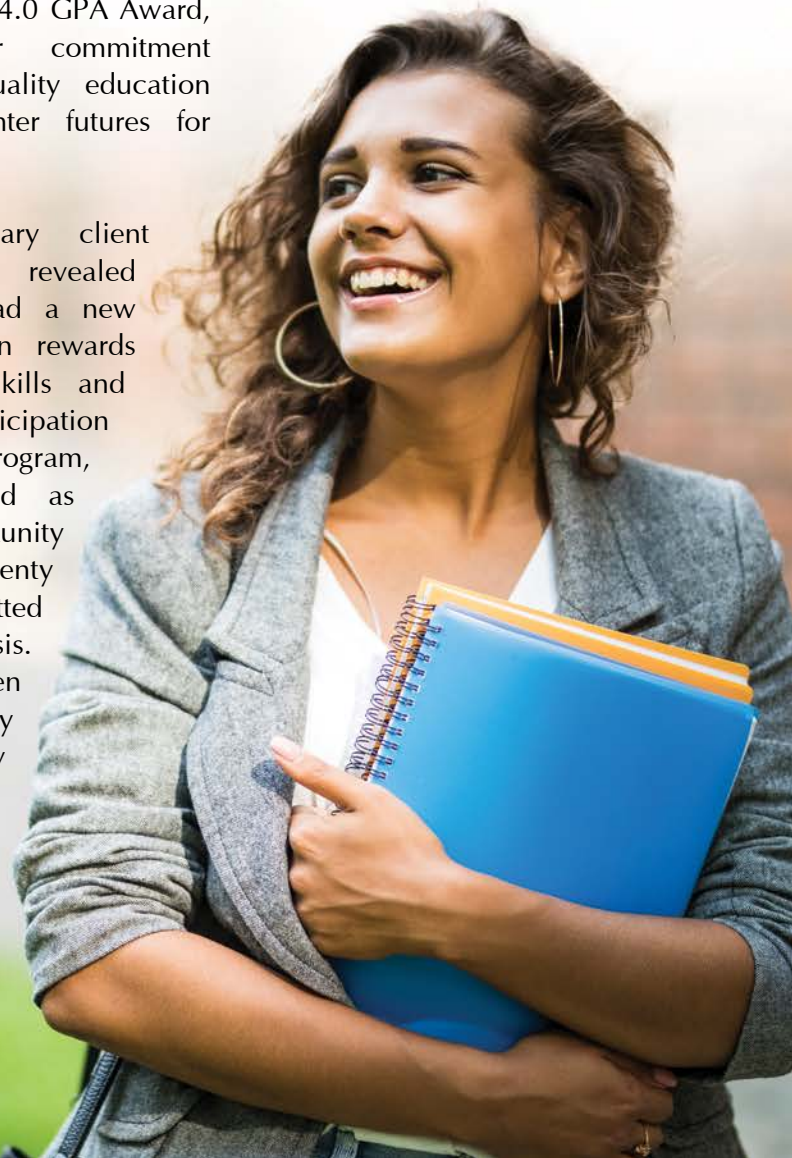
Five clients were given the Character Award, nominated by their mentors for their compassion, intelligence, resilience, and faith in growing as young, independent women. The Education Director declared seven clients as recipients of the 3.5–3.9 GPA Award along with six students as recipients of the 4.0 GPA Award, emphasizing their commitment to achieving a quality education and building brighter futures for themselves.

During the January client dinner, it was revealed that the clients had a new opportunity to earn rewards from developing skills and giving forward: Participation Incentive Rewards Program, commonly regarded as PIP. Each opportunity earns from ten to twenty points, to be submitted on a monthly basis. Its debut has proven successful with many clients, some already receiving multiple awards for their efforts.

The leading earners are as follows:

- Jessica K.: 560 points
- Heather B.: 490 points
- Jessica M.: 480 points
- Twelve additional clients have also participated in the program and are on track to winning prizes for their efforts.

"In Pathways to Independence, clients are supported to make the first step, then another, then another..."



Of course, the highlight of the event was the graduates themselves. Four clients graduated and shared personal stories with intimate focuses on their challenges, accomplishments, and relationships in Pathways to Independence.

Chase will graduate later this year with a BA in Business Sustainability from Arizona State University. She had become a client right around the time she began an online, accelerated program at ASU, dedicated to grind and shine as a stellar student during her time in Pathways. While she wished to have stayed in Pathways for a while longer, she promises to return to the Pathways community as a volunteer to support future clients. Her most valued lesson is that she doesn't have to be successful alone, and teamwork can help her thrive as a community leader.

Margarita graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a BA in Child Development. Even though her Pathways journey was short, she thrived in the program of unconditional support, which consisted of both staff members and volunteers dedicating their time to her success. Like Chase, she pledged to return as a volunteer to Pathways to fulfill her promise of serving the community.

Karen was another client that came to Pathways later, but she shared how she'd grown and learned from the short time and looks forward to starting the next chapter of her life. **She completed her BA in Studio Art at California State University, Fullerton.**

Franc is also a graduate from the CSUF campus, earning her BA in Psychology after enrolling in Pathways for six years. In her tear-filled speech, she revealed how she could barely look anyone in the eye when she first arrived; since then, she's overcome many personal and academic challenges, and has dedicated her gratitude to the staff and clients. She became a beloved friend to many clients and adored by many staff members for her unconditional love and selfless efforts to make the buildings a safe and comfortable home. She's committed to staying on site as a dutiful and personable building manager, connecting to the clients on a personal level while communicating their needs to the staff. Moreover, she has stepped up to lead the upcoming Alumni Association, which will call upon Pathways graduates to return and support a community of clients just like them.



"A Little Bit of Perseverance"

Location: Rush Park, Rossmoor, California

Lindsay Mais, a philanthropist at heart and Pathways current board chair, emphasized Diana's statement that the young women: whether active clients or graduated alumni, they're constantly creating pathways to their own version of independence (pun intended). With their empowerment, the clients have left or will leave Pathways to Independence as new, strong versions of themselves, closing the narratives of defeat, anguish, and hopelessness. "Your journey doesn't end here," Lindsay reassured everyone, "It's only the beginning of an exciting new chapter. We look forward to witnessing your continued success and the positive impact you will make in this world."



Diana Hill, ED

It's incredible to think we're already past the halfway point of the year and approaching event season! We've had many exciting developments in 2024. Here's a mid-year highlight.

CLIENT UPDATE:

We welcomed two new clients in January:

-  **PL - Golden West College, focusing on Nursing RN.**
-  **JM - CSU Fullerton, pursuing Psychology.**

Additionally, we're excited to announce that we're currently onboarding new clients for the fall, which we anticipate will bring our total current clients to 39. Stay tuned for more updates in our fall edition!

IMPACT REPORT:

As a social impact organization, I firmly believe that while we can't quantify everything we do solely through data, we leverage it to enhance our daily efforts significantly. Recently, we released our 2023 impact report, and I encourage you to take a moment to review it.



DOWNLOAD REPORT

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Much of the past year has revolved around crafting our three-year strategic plan—a journey and process for which I am deeply grateful. Now, the exciting phase begins as we implement this plan to expand our services to more women and improve our organization's effectiveness. Check out our president's article to delve deeper into our initiatives and witness our ongoing growth and transformation.



DOWNLOAD PLAN

PARTNERSHIPS:

We continue to expand our partnerships, now totaling 27. Recently, it was a delight to welcome Gisel, founder of Run Toward Your Dreams, who generously awarded nine clients with new workout shoes. Each client was asked two questions: how they stay active and the benefits they gain from athletics beyond physical health. Here are a couple of their responses:

One client shared, *"I hit the gym four days a week and have shed nearly 100 pounds in the past year. Being physically active isn't just about my body; it's also crucial for my mental well-being. It's a form of meditation for me, and I feel more fulfilled knowing I'm investing in my own health."*

Another client expressed, *"I enjoy walking in the wetlands. It helps me focus better and reduces my stress levels significantly. After a walk, I feel rejuvenated and more at ease."*

These stories highlight many of our partnerships' profound impact on our clients' overall well-being.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS:

As we expand the number of clients we serve, we recognize the need to bolster our support team. We're excited to announce the addition of a new Client Coordinator. A Client Coordinator is a senior volunteer who leads a client's support network. Join us in welcoming Delynn aboard!

Delynn Schoenholtz is a dedicated music teacher currently specializing in group piano instruction at the elementary level. Her passion for teaching is complemented by her deep interest in yoga philosophy, DeLynn has a profound love for learning, particularly in the realms of well-being, spirituality, longevity and health. A native Southern Californian she lives in Long Beach with her son Blake and forever puppy Porsche.



As summer comes to a close and we look forward to fall, one thing is clear at Pathways: our fundraiser is just around the corner! Our annual fundraiser is led by Lisa Mais, our Fund Development Officer, and supported by 90 extraordinary volunteers known as the Friends of Pathways (FOP). This event and its sponsorship generate nearly two-thirds of our annual budget. Lisa and the FOP team are incredibly talented, passionate about our mission, and know how to throw a fantastic party. I look forward to seeing many of you on October 5th!



I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer season. It is with great pleasure and a sense of responsibility that I write to you today, my first message as Chair of our esteemed Board of Directors.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Raymond Cervantez, our past Board President, for his outstanding leadership and dedication. I acknowledge the big shoes I have to fill, and I am committed to continuing the excellent work that Raymond and our Board have initiated.

I am delighted to announce a major milestone for our organization: the successful completion of our strategic plan. This comprehensive roadmap lays out our priorities for the coming years, emphasizing transparency, efficiency, and measurable outcomes. The strategic plan not only enhances the impact of our programs but also charts new ways for community engagement and support. I am confident that this plan will guide us forward, enabling us to reach more women and make a profound difference in their lives.

Recently, our Board, along with our dedicated staff and key volunteers, convened for an all-day retreat to kick-start the implementation of our strategic plan. It was a productive session where we discussed actionable steps, clarified roles, and fostered collaboration. The energy and commitment in the room were palpable, leaving us all inspired and eager to embark on this transformative journey together.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the Friends of Pathways for their tireless efforts in preparing for our upcoming event. "Pathways to Paradise" promises to be a wonderful, fun-filled occasion this October, and we hope to see you all there!

As we move forward, I invite each of you to join us on this exciting path ahead. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact and create positive change in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission,

Lindsay Mais, Board Chair

Emerging Philanthropists of Pathways

EPP is all about bringing together young professionals (20s-40s) for awesome leadership, networking, and making a difference. It's the perfect way to meet cool people, build connections, and share ideas. Plus, you'll have a blast making a real impact in our Pathways clients' lives. Join us for community projects, philanthropy, and fun! Help make our local area even better. Let's make some positive changes together!



In July members of Emerging Philanthropists of Pathways, Friends of Pathways, the Board of Directors, and our clients came together for a volunteer day Garden Party to re-landscape our Pathways to Independence buildings. We are immensely grateful to **Tom Lucas and Performance Nursery** for their generous contribution of more than 75 beautiful plants, and to **Priscilla Hockett** for her expertise in plant placement and design.



Join us for our next EPP events:

- **Sunday, August 25th**
Pickleball at Syncopated Brewery, Lakewood 12 -3 PM
- **Saturday, October 5th**
Volunteer with the annual event, Pathways to Paradise
- **Tuesday, December 3rd**
Holiday Networking Party at Boathouse on the Bay

Want to learn more?

lisa.mais@pathwaystoindependence.org

scan here



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

I had the privilege of being a Pathways client from 2012 to 2019. Before I was accepted into Pathways, I was struggling to get by in life.

I always had dreams of becoming a registered nurse, but with all the limitations in front of me, it felt so far out of reach. However, Pathways changed the trajectory of my life forever.

I received my associate's degree in Nursing (ADN) at Golden West College, then transferred to CSULB for my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Academics have never been easy for me, but with the help of Pathways and all their resources for success, I graduated my BSN program with a 3.9 GPA.

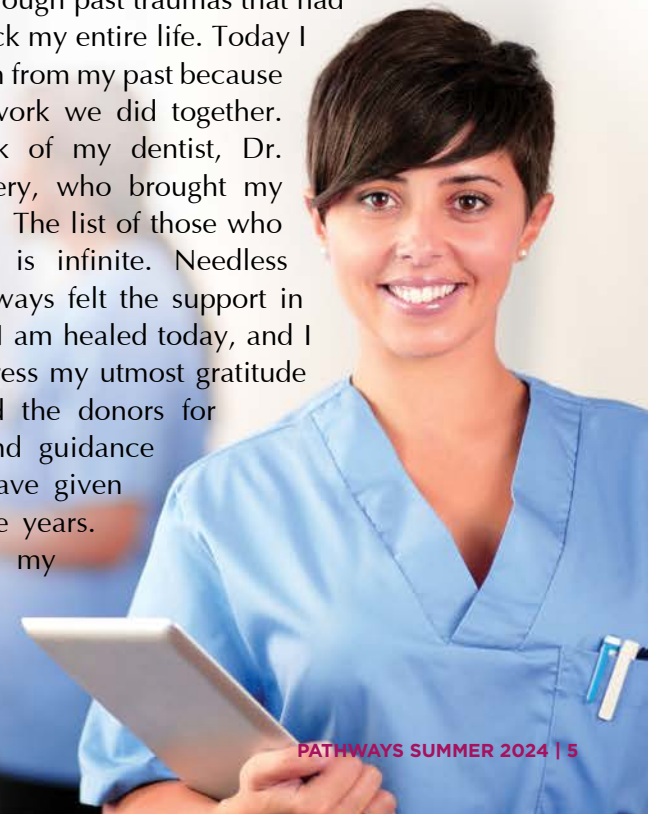
Upon graduation from Pathways, I began working as a registered nurse at Hoag Hospital, and I am currently in the process of getting my Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Education and Leadership at Vanguard University.

I love to help others, and it is truly an honor and a privilege to be supportive to patients during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I look forward to becoming a nursing educator to improve patient outcomes when I complete my Graduate School studies. I'm also looking forward to being a mentor to a Pathways client.

I am still very close with many friends whom I met in Pathways to Independence. Many of us have children, and we enjoy spending holidays and birthdays together. We are all living our best life, and it strikes me how it wouldn't have been possible without the support from Pathways and its donors.

Pathways to Independence loved me and guided me when I did not know how to do that for myself. Whether it was my tutor, Dennis, helping me to survive Statistics, or Pathways providing me with the necessary books and learning resources for my nursing program, they made sure to support me through it all.

When I think of my years as a Pathways client, there are so many special people who come to mind. I think of my mentor, Patsi, who provided me with the love and reassurance that I needed to succeed. She always made me feel safe and at ease, and it was just the kind of support I needed. I also think of my therapist, Edy Stumpf, who selflessly met with me every week to help me work through past traumas that had held me back my entire life. Today I feel freedom from my past because of all the work we did together. I also think of my dentist, Dr. Allison Emery, who brought my smile back. The list of those who helped me is infinite. Needless to say, I always felt the support in Pathways. I am healed today, and I cannot express my utmost gratitude for PTI and the donors for the love and guidance that they have given me over the years. They saved my life.





Pathways to Paradise

**Saturday, October 5th, 5:30 PM
at The Beach — CSULB**

We're bringing the party to "The Beach", and you are invited!

Get ready to soak up the sun, sway with the palm trees, and immerse yourself in island vibes as we turn the CSULB campus into a tropical paradise for our 28th annual fundraiser!

Bring your friends and family along for an evening filled with beachy tunes, tropical drinks, and delicious treats from 35 local restaurants. Embrace the spirit of aloha and join us in making a positive impact on our community.

We're excited to honor the remarkable contributions of two long-time and dedicated Pathways volunteers: **Gayle Wright**, founder of Friends of Pathways, and **Patsi Wagner**, past board president and volunteer. Mark your calendars for October 5th at 5:30 pm. See you in Paradise!



Sponsor or Underwrite

Starting as low as \$500,
Includes recognition and
Event tickets



Bid

Support our epic online auction when it launches before the event. Bid on items (or donate one to be auctioned off). All proceeds benefit Pathways programs. Contact Diana.Wolf@pathwaystoindependence.org to learn more.



Donate

Can't attend? You can still make a tax-deductible contribution to support all our Pathways programs.



Attend

Purchase tickets at pathwaystoindependence.org

**To learn more contact Lisa Mais:
lisa.mais@pathwaystoindependence.org or 562/884-3629**

If you would like to support Pathways to Independence, give online at www.pathwaystoindependence.org or mail a check to P.O. Box 43, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Visit pathwaystoindependence.org | Event is a 21 years of age & over

Opportunities for Sponsorship



Diamond Sponsorship - \$15,000

- 20 guests for the pre-event VIP party, with champagne and entertainment
- Two premier tables for 10, including table service with 6 premium wines
- Priority checkout
- Full-page color ad on front or back cover of event program (5.5" w x 8.5" h)
- Recognition during opening remarks
- New sponsor social media post, recognition on website throughout the year and signage at event

Ruby Sponsorship - \$10,000

- 10 guests for pre-event VIP party, with champagne and entertainment
- One premier table for 10, including table service, with 4 premium wines
- Priority checkout
- Full-page color ad in event program (5.5" w x 8.5" h)
- Recognition during opening remarks
- New sponsor social media post, recognition on website throughout the year and signage at event

Platinum Sponsorship - \$7,500

- 10 guests for pre-event VIP party, with champagne and entertainment
- One premier table for 10, including table service with 4 premium wines
- Priority checkout
- 3/4 page color ad in event program (5.5" w x 6.3" h)
- Recognition during opening remarks, recognition on the website throughout the year and signage at event

Gold Sponsorship - \$5,000

- 8 guests for pre-event VIP party with champagne and entertainment
- One table for 8
- 3/4 page ad in event program (5.5" w x 6.3" h)
- Recognition during opening remarks
- Recognition on website throughout the year and signage at event

Silver Sponsorship - \$2,500

- 6 tickets to event
- 1/2 page ad in event program (5.5" w x 4.25" h)
- Recognition on website and signage at event

Bronze Sponsorship - \$1,000

- 4 tickets to event
- Business card size ad in event program (2.75" w x 4.25" h)
- Recognition on website and signage at event

Copper Sponsorship - \$500

- 2 tickets to event
- Recognition in program and signage at event

Underwriting Opportunities

Entertainment- \$5,000

- One table for 8
- 3/4 page ad in event program (5.5" w x 6.3" h)
- Recognition on website and signage at the event
- Post on social media

Centerpieces - \$2,500

- 6 tickets to event
- 1/2 page ad in event program (5.5" w x 4.25" h)
- Recognition on website and signage at event

Parking - \$1000

- 4 tickets to event
- Business card size ad in event program (2.75" w x 4.25" h)
- Recognition in program and signage at event

Committed 2024 Sponsors

A BIG thank you to our headline sponsors!

— Lisa & Frank —
CHAPMAN

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Members Jean
& Jerry Green

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- Ana Lopez
- Lindsay Mais – *Board Chair*
- Jonathan Micklis
- Anita Beltran-Sutt
- Xuemei Wei
- Diana Wolf

.....
 Diana Hill – *Executive Director*



Pathways to Paradise

Saturday, October 5th, 5:30 PM
 at The Beach — CSULB



BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Come out and have some fun playing pickleball and networking with friends, and fellow young professionals.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

August 25th, 1-4 PM
 Syncopated Brewing Co.
 3671 Industry Ave., Unit c1,
 Lakewood CA 90712

RSVP ↘

Questions? Email:
 lisa.mais@pathwaystoIndependence.org

