

Pathways TO INDEPENDENCE™

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

FALL 2024

Welcome to Fall!

This season is an incredibly busy and exciting time at Pathways. Our clients are beginning a new semester; we're welcoming new clients into the program (we still have a waiting list of 18), and, of course, our annual fundraiser, Pathways to Paradise, was a rousing success.

We're thrilled to introduce eight exceptional new clients this fall. Below is a list of the schools and majors they are pursuing. This cohort of extraordinary young women has overcome significant challenges to be here, and we are eager to walk alongside them on their journey toward education, healing and empowerment.

AM	Santa Ana	Business: Marketing
AP	Golden West	History
KY	Golden West	Theater Arts
KK	CSU Long Beach	Business: International Business
KM	Orange Coast	Nursing
KA	Cypress	Psychology
NM	Cypress	Aviation
TB	CSU Fullerton	Business: Marketing

I want to personally thank everyone who sponsored and attended our Pathways to Paradise event.

It was a privilege to premiere our 2024 video (if you haven't seen it yet, please visit our website to view it). While our focus is on the transformation of our clients, we also highlight the Pathways Butterfly Effect and how it impacts the broader community. We witness the profound changes that Pathways brings to our clients' lives, and we see how those changes extend to future generations. One of my favorite moments in the video is when both current and former clients share how they give back and how Pathways has supported them on their journeys. I'm especially moved when our alumna Mel says, "Pathways loved me until I could love myself." That truly captures how we create lasting, meaningful change.

We also unveiled our "Tent of Dreams," where attendees had the opportunity to read inspiring quotes from our clients about what Pathways means to them. Visitors were able to learn about the schools and majors our clients are pursuing, and we had the privilege of showcasing a client's artwork that beautifully captured her transformation while in the program. This space was designed as a platform for our clients to share their stories and talents, as well as to connect and network with our supporters.



As we approach the end of 2024, we're excited to begin planning some special events for 2025, including a spiritual client retreat, a client art show, and a networking day. We're also looking forward to welcoming new clients in the spring semester. Exciting things are ahead!

Thank you for being a part of this mission!





Pathways to Paradise



SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, October 4th, 2025
CSULB

Pathways to Paradise Nets \$700,000 in a Tropical Night of Fun and Generosity!

For the 28th annual fundraiser, Friends of Pathways created a tropical paradise for guests at California State University Long Beach on October 5, 2024. "Pathways to Paradise" welcomed over 750 attendees, and provided island vibes, beachy tunes and tropical drinks served in coconut shells. Amidst the lit-up LED palm trees, guests enjoyed delicious bites from 35 premier restaurants of both Long Beach and Seal Beach. The ultimate spirit of aloha was created with the incredible sound of the band, Desperado, performing throughout the night, along with traditional Tahitian dances by The Polynesian Paradise Dancers.

The live auction, which included luxurious escapes to Paradise with a 5 day stay on Catalina Island, an exclusive Pebble Beach Getaway with private jet transportation, and a one-week stay in a Lahontan Tahoe luxury mountain retreat home, provided a great start to the event's fundraising efforts. The silent auction items created spirited bidding during the night, and combined, we surpassed all expectations. Pathways annual fundraiser has a significant impact on our budget and ability to serve our 37 clients. We currently have the biggest waiting list we've had in over 7 years. At Pathways, we are immensely grateful for all the donated items and kindness from the community.

The presentation included two Change Maker Awards honoring Friends of Pathways, Patsi Wagner and Gayle Wright, for their lifelong contributions. Introduced for the first time, a video detailing the Pathways "Butterfly Effect" shares both alumni and current clients' stories of where they are now and the impact their dreams hope to have on others. Check out our website to see the "Butterfly Effect" for yourself. The evening culminated with a sincere and heartfelt presentation by a current Pathways client, who shared her difficult childhood family experiences and how Pathways has paved her way for a future pursuing her dreams of being an artist.

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 incredible impact of Pathways in transforming lives and shaping brighter futures is due to your unwavering support. Mahalo for helping turn their dreams into reality.



Special Thanks to
Thank you to Dave Woody for letting us showcase his restored Woody

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



— Lisa & Frank —
CHAPMAN

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To see all of
our generous
donors, scan
here



Ways to Get Involved



Learn more!

Become a Mentor

Are you passionate about positively impacting the lives of college women who have overcome adversity?

Become a mentor with Pathways and be a guiding light on their path to success.

Our mentorship program aims to create lasting connections that empower these students to excel in their education.

COMMITMENT:

Time: Dedicate just four hours a month to create and nurture a meaningful connection with your mentee. We also request you attend one meeting/training a month.

Duration: Commit to supporting your mentee throughout their entire college journey.

Qualities: Demonstrate compassion, empathy, and respect for your mentee's autonomy.

WHY MENTOR?

Make a Difference: Your mentorship can be a source of inspiration and empowerment.

Support Success: Help your mentee thrive academically and personally

Cultural Diversity: Mentors of color are especially needed to provide valuable diverse perspectives.

WHAT WE OFFER:

Training: Access comprehensive mentor training to prepare you for this rewarding role.

Support: Our team is here to provide guidance and assist with any questions or concerns.

Meaningful Connections: Be a source of support and encouragement during your mentee's college journey.

HELP SHAPE FUTURES:

By becoming a mentor with Pathways, you have the opportunity to transform lives, empower college women, and support success.



Gail Levy

MENTOR COORDINATOR - PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE

Gail Levy has led an interesting life in the field of education. She earned her doctorate from the University of LaVerne in Educational Leadership. While living in Long Beach for the past 14 years, she has volunteered with Pathways to Independence as a mentor to five different clients, has been President of JFCS, a core member of NCJW's welcome circle for three Afghanistan students, volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, chaired the Long Beach Cancer League Gala, chaired Visions for the Jewish Federation (now Jewish Long Beach) and tutored children at Miller's Children's Hospital. As the mentor coordinator for PTI, she will facilitate communication between mentors and staff.





Share Your Skills

We're always on the lookout for experienced Mechanics, Dentists & Orthodontists, and Licensed Therapists. By offering your expertise, you'll be directly impacting the lives of young women striving for a brighter future.



Friends of Pathways

Join a volunteer committee raising substantial funds for Pathways to Independence, this group offers a rewarding way to give back and build lasting friendships. With over \$10.5M raised over the 28 years, their impact is truly incredible.



Emerging Philanthropists of Pathways

Engage in your community and grow your leadership skills—perfect for young changemakers passionate about social impact.

Happy Holidays!

During the holiday season, I feel the depth of our connections with each other more than ever. It's a special time to recognize just how much we all rely on and lift each other up, especially within the Pathways family. This year, each of you—our clients, providers, donors, and every person whose life touches or is touched by Pathways—has added something truly special to our journey.

These gestures of kindness, support, and goodwill keep us united and thriving. At Pathways, we are immensely grateful for the bonds we share with each of you.

May this holiday season be filled with warmth, joy, and the blessings of community and connection.

Warm wishes,
Lindsay Mais
Board Chair



RESILIENCE and Transformational CHANGE

I started with Pathways to Independence in December of 2010 and continued through the program until I graduated from Cal State University Long Beach in May of 2013. I first heard about the program through a friend who was already a participant in the program. I recall when I first applied, I was informed that there was a waitlist. But call it fate or the grace of God, I was able to start the program quickly.



ALICIA,
PATHWAYS ALUMNA

I enjoyed most aspects/requirements of the program, but to be honest, there were some uncomfortable tasks that we were required to complete to keep us eligible. Today, my 38-year-old self understands the purpose. My 24-year-old self was definitely pushed beyond my comfort level. I wasn't accustomed to checking in frequently with my mentor, seeing a therapist, doing a grade check, having to visit the doctor and dentist regularly—all tasks I'd never "had" to do.

I have always been an independent person, since I grew up in a home of alcoholics and drug addicts. While my mom and her partner were busy getting sober, and my absent father was still drinking, my brother, sister, and I were basically on our own from a young age. Some of the siblings followed our parents' path of substance abuse, but, although I was never addicted to alcohol or drugs, I was still broken, lost, and looking for someone to love and accept me. At 13, I gave birth to my beautifully wonderful daughter. Fortunately, my mom's ex-partner was willing to help with my daughter's care, allowing me to finish high school and move on to college.



I will forever be grateful for the change Pathways to Independence has instilled in me.

By the time I discovered Pathways, I was well on my way to earning my bachelor's degree in criminal justice. I could not have imagined how much this program would affect my life. There were no easy tasks when it came to being

accountable to the program. However, I am thankful for the guidelines and requirements because they have allowed me to grow emotionally and mentally into the person I am today.

Today, I am a mother, a grandmother, and a wife to the most loving and supportive husband. We own a beautiful home and have been able to provide a suitable living situation for my 3 nephews who have lost their parents in one way or another.

I am currently working in billing for a utility company... not necessarily where I want to be, but the position is temporary. I briefly worked in the Criminal Justice field but decided it wasn't for me at this time in my life. I may return to the field in the future, but simply earning that degree has already served its purpose. It has provided me with knowledge useful in my everyday life. It has also allowed me to break a cycle for my family.

Continuing my education and participating in Pathways have given me tools that put me on a very different path from that of my parents. I welcome opportunities, choices, and experiences that will have a positive influence on my children, grandchildren, and future great grandchildren.

Overall, I am content with where my life is right now. I still have struggles, but I now know how to cope or where to go for help. I honestly believe I have been strengthened by Pathways and the volunteers and contributors who sustain it.

I have been able to open my eyes and mind to change, a previously non-existent option. Change had been absolutely terrifying for me. But now I look forward to my future, and the welcome prospect of leaving the busy pace of the city to move to the country, where my daughter and grandchildren currently live.

Please note: When Alicia was accepted to Pathways it did accept women with children. In late 2011 the board decided to only accept single women without dependents.



Charitable Giving & Taxes

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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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!*



FUN, FITNESS & FUNDRAISING!

Thank you to Beach Fitness, Seal Beach for starting our November off right by raising Funds & Barbells to empower our young women!



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 375 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