




 Pathways  
TO INDEPENDENCE™




As we prepare to celebrate **35 years of impact**, I feel an incredible sense of excitement and gratitude.

I have been part of Pathways for 18 years first serving for 14 years as a board member and mentor. From the beginning, I loved the grassroots spirit that Pathways was built on, and I will always honor and be grateful to Dave Bishop and Joyce Bishop for their vision. They showed us what true impact can look like when you help **one woman at a time achieve real transformation and empowerment**.

In December, we celebrated the graduation of...

 **MP**, age 29, who earned her degree in **Theater Arts from California State University Fullerton**. She graduated with an outstanding GPA and continues to pursue her career in theater. I recently had coffee with her, and witnessing her growth and confidence over the years has been truly awe-inspiring. She is now working and is part of The Groundlings, one of the most prestigious theater training programs.

In January we had the privilege of welcoming two new clients into Pathways.

 **MB**, age 24, is attending **Long Beach City College** and is part of a dual-enrollment program with **California State University Channel Islands**. She is pursuing her **RN/BSN in Nursing**. When asked about a recent accomplishment, she shared how proud she was to earn an **A on her first Critical Care quiz**, covering complex ICU-level material including advanced hemodynamics, shock states, and prioritization. As she put it, *"The stress is real, but so is the progress."*

 **HM**, age 21, a sophomore at **California State University Long Beach** majoring in **Kinesiology**.

When asked about a recent accomplishment, she simply but powerfully shared: *"Showing up to church every Sunday and joining the Pathways program."* Sometimes the most meaningful steps forward begin with simply showing up.

I also want to share a brief **board update**. I am deeply honored to work alongside such a passionate, caring, and thoughtful group of leaders.

This year we said goodbye to **Anita Beltran-Sutt of US Bank**, who completed six years of dedicated service and reached her term limit. While we will miss her voice on the board, we are thrilled that she will continue supporting Pathways as part of our **Friends of Pathways (FOP)**.

We were also blessed to welcome back **Raymond Cervantez, First VP for Farmers & Merchants Bank**, who previously served six years on the board. After a year serving as Board Chair for **JFCS**, he has rejoined the Pathways board. Raymond and I share a special connection, as he served as Board Chair during our transition to becoming a professionally staffed organization.

I am also excited to be working with our new **Board Chair, Robert Casares, Owner/Agent State Farm**. Robert brings a new lens to this role and I'm excited to continue implementing our strategic plan through 2027.

With this transition, we also said goodbye to **Lindsay Mais, Wealth Management with USB**, whose leadership helped guide Pathways through the important process of rewriting our bylaws and building a board that is deeply connected and engaged.

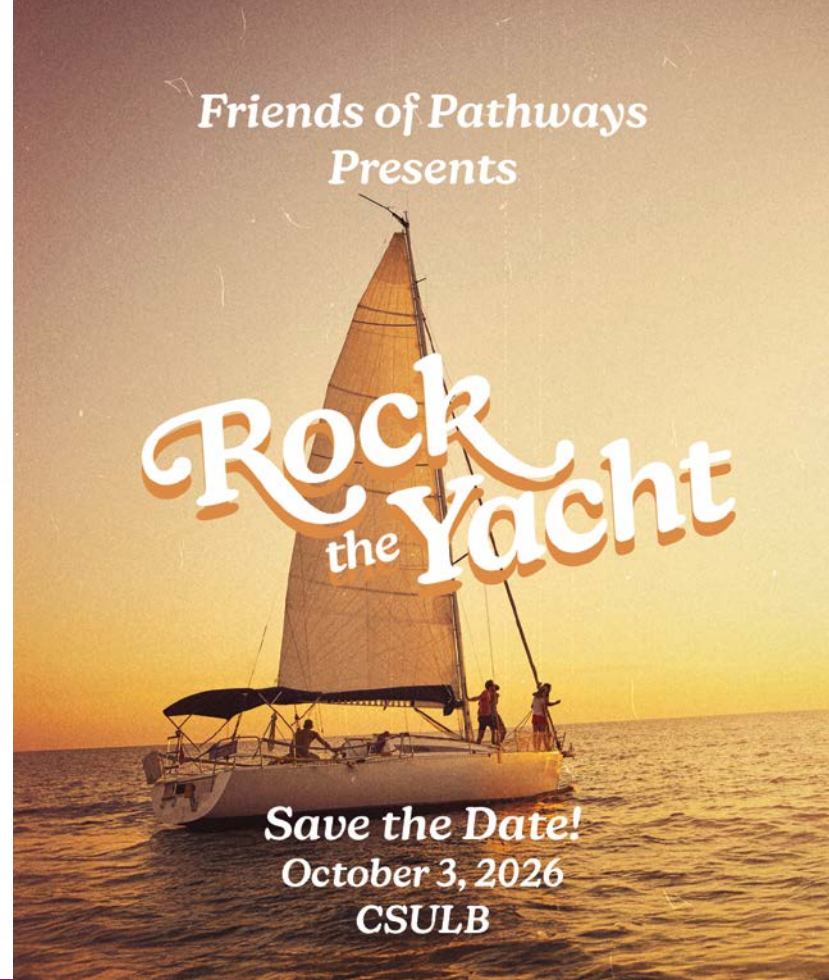
As we look ahead to our **35th anniversary**, I am filled

with anticipation. This summer we will welcome our **500th client** into the Pathways program, a milestone that reflects the lives that have been transformed over the past three and a half decades.

And as we celebrate this moment, we also look forward to the next **35 years of impact.**

To learn more about our clients' journeys, please visit our website and read their blogs.

Love and light,  
*Diana*



## Volunteer Brunch



This year's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch was a beautiful celebration held at the Gathering Clubhouse at Flora Park. Surrounded by community and appreciation, we were honored to recognize four outstanding individuals: Changemaker Award recipient Lindsay Mais, Spirit of Volunteerism Award recipient Zoe Hagmann, Pathways Volunteer Award recipient Collette "Queenie" Anderson, and The Ruth Grace Award presented to Angelica Sanchez by the OneVine Foundation. It was a truly meaningful and inspiring event.



*Zoe Hagmann, Spirit of Volunteerism Award, Queenie Anderson, Pathways Volunteer Award & Lindsay Mais, The Changemaker Award.*



# Dear Pathways Community,

I am incredibly grateful and excited for 2026 and the opportunity to chair this amazing group of people. I would like to begin by recognizing Anita Beltran-Sutt, who termed off our board this year. Her dedication, leadership, and experience as a long-time board member have been integral to the success we have achieved over the past few years. We are deeply thankful for her years of service and hope to welcome her back in the near future.



We are also fortunate this year to welcome Raymond Cervantez back to the board. After terming off for one year, he has chosen to rejoin the Pathways family and help us build on the successes of 2025. It is fitting that Raymond be part of the third and final year of our strategic plan, as he played a key role in setting us on this path back in 2024. Welcome back, Raymond!

We kicked off 2026 with a very successful annual board retreat. Our ongoing focus remains on executing our strategic plan, and I can confidently say we are on track to meet the goals we set as an organization. While this process is continuous, the retreat served as a powerful reminder of the incredible progress we have made toward better serving our clients and community.

None of this work would be possible without the many volunteers, mentors, and donors who make it all happen. Thank you for believing in our mission and the potential of every client we serve. On behalf of the board, I want to express how incredibly blessed we are to have such a strong community supporting and strengthening us as we overcome challenges and continue to serve the young women in our program.

We look forward to an inspiring and impactful 2026, confident that together we will continue to grow, overcome challenges, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients.

*Robert Casares*



# Introducing the New Monarchs

## Who are the Monarchs?

They are our new sustainer group created especially for long-time Friends of Pathways and other volunteers who want to stay connected without taking on the volume of work that Friends of Pathways does. Their hard work over the years have built a legacy of transformation and community for the young women we serve.

We recently gathered at the Boathouse on the Bay for Monarch Mingle Hour.



## PATHWAYS RETREAT

After a hallmark year of powerful firsts as an organization, the Pathways to Independence community began 2026 by coming together for the second time at our annual client retreat. On January 31, Pathways' clients, staff and volunteers gathered to connect, team-build and engage with our fantastic mission. We were fortunate to spend the day at the Huntington Beach Senior Center, an accommodating venue amongst a gorgeous landscape.

Our organization's theme for the year is, 'Choose Grace'. Executive Director Diana Hill opened the day of events with a powerful message, "Grace meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us". It was fitting to begin the retreat with reflection and gratitude, acknowledging our many blessings.

We were very fortunate to host Jeff Levine, President & CEO of Long Beach Rescue Mission. He is cherished amongst our community of partners. A spiritual and community leader, Jeff graciously shared his very

moving story of resilience, forgiveness and faith with our clients. This was a great opportunity to reflect on our own perseverance and how it plays into our engagement with Pathways to Independence.

As a community, we prioritize and place a huge focus on wellness. This stays in the foreground of our events and is one of the focal points of our annual retreat. In that light, we eased into the beautiful morning with an outdoor yoga class. Led by one of our Client Coordinators, Suzanne Watts, clients and volunteers participated in breathwork, yoga asanas, movement and positive speak to ourselves and one another. The sun truly smiled upon us, as an ordinary day in January felt like a summertime getaway.

A few of our amazing Friends of Pathways generously volunteered their time to prepare boxed lunches for the working lunch portion of the retreat. Most of our fantastic team members joined this session to meet clients face-to-face and refresh them on their particular roles. Client Coordinators and their cohorts sat together and worked as a team to revisit and recommit to the Client Agreements. Taking the teamwork a step further, each cohort was assigned a few specific agreements and presented each to the entire group. This was an exceptionally creative way to engage with one another, have a little fun with our commitments, and even practice public speaking.

Later that afternoon, mentors joined the group for a nature walk around the lush property. The mentoring program is a critical aspect to our organization and has been transformed significantly in the last year. Currently, all 38 of our Pathways clients have a mentor. Gathering together as a community in person really makes a difference; it was meaningful to include mentors in the retreat for the first time.

**Perhaps one of the most sought-after portions of the retreat is the alumni panel. We were fortunate to welcome six Pathways alumni to join an open conversation with current clients.** In this conversation, clients were given the opportunity to ask questions in which the alumni would respond directly. Many topics were discussed, from budgeting to time management, career planning to self-confidence. It was truly so special to host clients that had graduated as recently as this past year, and



as long ago as 20 years. Connecting past and present Pathways clients to share leadership as community; this is the butterfly effect in action.

The spectacular day culminated with special recognition from the One Vine Foundation, and Marissa Tang. **She honored Angelica Sanchez, a Pathways to Independence alumni, with the Ruth Grace Award, for her charitable commitment and the positive difference she's made in the community.** Many of us were moved to tears. In celebration, we shared a meal together and parted ways into the evening, inspired.

Together, clients, staff, volunteers and alumni created a groundbreaking experience that truly epitomized this year's theme. Through collaboration, commitment and community, we certainly Choose Grace.

*Liz Gallagher*

Client Coordinator

Angelica Sanchez (Grace Award winner) and Marissa Tang (Executive Director of OneVine Foundation)



## Seal Beach Run



Pathways to Independence was proud to take part in the Seal Beach Run, with 25 participants from our incredible community showing up to walk and run together. Clients, mentors, coordinators, Friends of Pathways, and staff all joined in, making it a fun and meaningful morning filled with energy, connection, and support. We are also deeply grateful that the Seal Beach Run continues to support Pathways each year with a generous grant, helping us further our mission and impact.



### THIS QUARTER'S SHELL OUT CHARITY RECIPIENT

Great cause. Join us at Johnny Rebs' True South to support Pathways for March, April & May.

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL FOOD.**

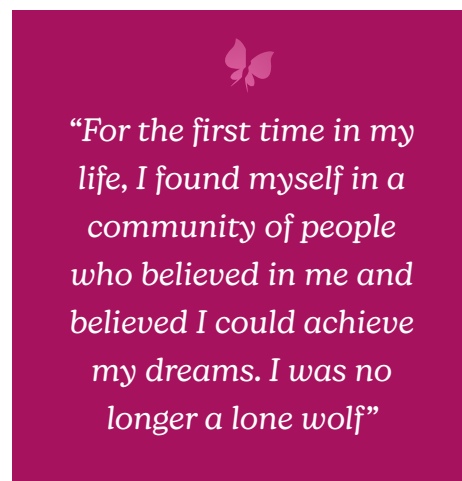


## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

When I met Dave and Joyce Bishop in 2006, I was working full-time to support myself through college while struggling to stay sober from alcohol and drug addiction. Like many others, I had turned to substances to cope with childhood trauma. I joined Pathways to Independence that year and moved into my first apartment on Dunbar. By that time, I had become fiercely independent and resilient. I jokingly referred to myself as a “lone wolf” who didn’t need a pack because I had learned that the world could not be trusted. The only person I believed I could depend on was myself.

Pathways provided the financial support I needed, which I was deeply grateful for, but it quickly became much more than that. The young women living around me in the Pathways apartments became friends I slowly learned to trust. We had battle scars to share, painful stories from our pasts, and dreams for the future.

Our lives became intertwined in healthy ways as we began letting go of the coping mechanisms that had once helped us survive but were now harming us. **For the first time in my life, I found myself in a community of people who believed in me and believed I could achieve my dreams. I was no longer a lone wolf,** I had found a pack that loved me, supported me, and could be trusted.



*“For the first time in my life, I found myself in a community of people who believed in me and believed I could achieve my dreams. I was no longer a lone wolf”*

Many people through Pathways helped shape me, but my counselor left a particularly lasting impression. He walked with me through addiction and stood beside me even when I relapsed. He kept me tethered to my hopes and dreams when I struggled to believe in them myself. One lesson he repeated often has stayed with me ever since:

*“Those who experience deep sorrow and pain can experience a deeper joy than most people will ever know.”*

Again and again, he told me he believed I would one day experience a depth of freedom and joy that would become healing in its own right. His deep faith in God, combined with practical guidance for healing, helped me believe that a future marked by sobriety and joy was possible.

In May 2010, I graduated from Pathways to Independence with my Bachelor’s degree in Social Work, magna cum laude. I served as President of the Associated Students of Social Work and hosted campus-wide events raising awareness for vulnerable populations. My focus was human trafficking, and I had the honor of working at Human Options Inc, a domestic violence shelter in Orange County, Ca, where I was able to support women escaping trafficking situations. I also worked with the Village of Hope and the House of Hope through the Orange County Rescue Mission.

In 2011, I married my best friend, Simeon Lohrmann: today we have three children: Judah (12), Adalynn (10), and Justice (8). During those years I also worked part-time with Novo, helping to train and equip missionaries in prayer strategies for renewal and transformation in their places of ministry.

In 2020, while giving birth to our fourth child, I experienced a medical emergency that led to deep tragedy. Our daughter, Elizabeth Joy, passed away during labor. My faith entered a season of profound darkness as our family walked through grief and trauma. Even in that darkness, when God often felt absent, I remembered my counselor’s words and sometimes whispered them to myself:

*“Those who feel deep sorrow will also feel deep joy.”*

Today our family lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Simeon serves full-time with Novo as the Director of Mobilization and also leads worship at our church and at our children’s school. In December 2024, I graduated from Richmond University with a Master of Arts in Ministry with an emphasis in Anglican Studies and was accepted into a doctoral program through Richmond in 2025. For now, I have paused that work while our family settles after a recent move.

Our home is full with three kids, three dogs, and plenty of laughter. We love hiking, exploring, playing games, creating together, and curling up to read books aloud. I am no longer alone. I am deeply rooted in family, community, and the body of Christ.

While I would love to say the last twenty years have been filled only with joy, the truth is more complex, and perhaps more beautiful. I have learned that joy and sorrow mingle together, like partners on a dance floor. Yes, I have known deep pain. But it's true, I have also experienced deep, abiding joy.

The four years I spent with Pathways changed the trajectory of my life. Pathways did more than help me finish college, it gave me the counseling, community, and support that helped me rebuild a life that once felt impossible. **Because of Pathways, a young woman who once believed she had to survive alone learned how to live in trust, healing, hope, and joy.**

Sometimes, I think about the young women who are now stepping into the same place where my journey began. They may feel uncertain or guarded, just as I once did. But because of the generosity of those who support Pathways, they are being given something extraordinary: a safe place to heal, people who believe in them, and the opportunity to discover the life that is still ahead of them.

**My story is just one among many. But I am living proof that when someone is given the right support, community, and care at the right moment, it can change everything.**

For that, I will always be grateful.

With deep joy and appreciation,

*Johanna Lohrmann*



# HER

Helping Empower Resilience

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Make a Difference Monthly

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We invite supporters to make a monthly commitment that fuels lasting change. Your monthly gift provides stability, resources, and encouragement, helping young women achieve independence, one milestone at a time.

HELPING | EMPOWER | RESILIENCE | HER

## Yoga

Our Yoga with Purpose event, hosted by the Emerging Philanthropists of Pathways (EPP) & Sarah Pisani (our yoga instructor), brought 48 participants together on a beautiful March morning. Through movement and mindfulness, the group raised \$2,200 to support the mission of Pathways.





Education, Healthcare, Therapy and  
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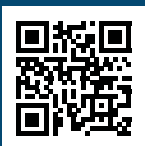
# Love Is

A DAY TO INVEST IN MENTAL WELLNESS  
& HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

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**1 CAUSE**

- LOVE IS** SUPPORTING MENTAL WELLNESS.
- LOVE IS** ENCOURAGING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
- LOVE IS** SHOWING UP FOR EACH OTHER.

Join us in our Love is campaign to support the incredible young women at Pathways to Independence.



Donate on  
May 27, 2026

