Fall 2011

Family Focus Newsletter



SERVICES AND ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Join us as we celebrate the Adopt-a-Family program and honor the 2011 Trailblazers:

Juliet Welker

Laney Vogt- Adopt-a-Family Advocate

President, Coldwell Banker Welker Real Estate

QVC

Kyra McGrath

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, WHYY

The Delaware County Daily Times

Yvonne Norris Former Chairperson of PathWays PA Board of Directors

Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 6:30-9PM

Radisson Valley Forge, Waterford Ballroom, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406

Enjoy complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres! Live Auction & Silent Auction

All proceeds from the event will help over 6,000 low-income families in the Greater Philadelphia Region!

Presented by

Hess Foundation















Tickets may be purchased online at http://pathways.ticketleap.com.

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Message From the President

s we move into the holiday season, we are strongly reminded of the vulnerable clients we serve each and every day. Some are runaways, trying to escape various types of abuse. Many have no one to turn to for love or support. And there are more still who have no home, little food and struggle just to survive everyday. For these women and children, the holidays are filled with despair, trepidation and sadness.

It's because of generous supporters like you that we are able to help our clients turn their lives around. Those of you who participate in Adopt-a-Family help our impoverished families create joyful and treasured

holiday memories. A contribution to PathWays PA genuinely helps us make a difference in the lives of so many.

Even in this challenging economic climate, we remain steadfast in our vision of helping those in crisis. Budgets have been trimmed and services have been cut, or stopped altogether, and those who need help the most are being deprived of the services and programs that can help their families survive. Sadly, we are seeing an increase in long-term unemployment, homeless teenagers and adults who lack the education and job skills necessary to sustain their families. Now, more than ever, we need your support so that we may continue to provide much needed assistance to over 6,000 women, children and families in the Greater Philadelphia Region.

Don't forget to join us as we celebrate 33 years of services and the incredible successes of our clients this November 1st. We hope to see you and your friends and colleagues at the Radisson Hotel in King of Prussia from 6:30-9PM!

Your attendance and contribution will allow our work to flourish!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Carol Houtel

PathWays PA Mission Statement

With offices throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania and advocacy initiatives on behalf of low-wage workers statewide. PathWays PA provides programs committed to the development of client self-sufficiency which leads to the fulfillment of our mission:

"To belp women, teens, children and families achieve economic independence and family well-being."

Donation Wish List

You can help over 6,000 low-income people in the Greater Philadelphia Region by donating new or gently used items to PathWays PA! We are in great need of the following items:

- Crib sheets
- Twin bed linens
- Comforters
- Pillows
- Toiletries, such as: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, baby powder, baby shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc.
- Baby equipment & furniture

- New or gently used clothing (any gender, age or size)
- Baby diapers
- Baby food & formula
- School supplies
- Kitchenwares i.e. kitchen electronics, pots & pans, bakeware, utensils, food storage items, etc.

Donations may be dropped off at our corporate office located at 310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043. Our hours of operation are M-F, 8AM-5PM.

Who We Are Interviews

Jane Hiller Farran, Board Member, PathWays PA

Where were you raised?

I was raised in a small town on the water at the beginning of Cape Cod. That is an important 'marker' for me, because I have been tied to the sea all my life.

Who or what influenced you most?

I was influenced by the sea, as I mentioned above. It is part of what defines me. I grew up paying attention to wind and weather because my whole family was made up of sailors. I was always very aware of the power of the sea and

how tiny and insignificant we humans are in comparison. I was also influenced by my parents. My mother believed that women should have careers. Her point was that we need to be able to support ourselves and our children, because you don't know what life will deal. My father was a master mariner--a sea captain. I learned a lot about systems from him, how things interconnect and affect one another, and I learned to love figuring things out.

Where was your first job, and what did you do?

My first job, beyond babysitting, was as an assistant in the Millicent Library, a lovely little gem of a library in my town. I catalogued books, put away books that were returned and checked out books to people who wanted to borrow them. I loved it.

What lessons did you learn from that job?

I learned the basics, such as keeping a work schedule, filling out time cards and showing up even after a 'sleep over' with friends. I also learned a bit about diplomacy. The head librarian was a welltravelled woman and many guests came to the library--authors,

donors, descendants of the family that built the library, etc. I was struck by how graceful the head librarian was at meeting everyone's needs. Her demeanor and skill definitely registered with me, especially since I witnessed their effects.

Where did you receive education after high school?

I went to Mt. Holyoke College. Later, after working for a few years, I went to Syracuse University for graduate work.

What is your current job?

I am Managing Partner of a small consulting firm specializing in executive development, executive coaching and organizational development. I am also Fellow at Wharton Executive Education, where I design customized executive development for international companies, teach executives and direct programs.

When did you begin serving on the board?

It was around 1992. I was brought in as a consultant to the board, and some time after my assignment was completed, I was asked to become a board member.

Why do you serve on PathWays PA's board?

I value the impact PathWays PA has on women and children in our area. Having worked with the agency for some time now, I also admire the staff and their dedication, great patience, clarity, caring and desire to have an impact.

What are your goals at PathWays PA?

To contribute in whatever ways I can to support and further the mission and strategy of the agency. I am wholly behind our dedication to assist in creating self-sufficiency for low-income women and their children in our region.

Lenora Pope, Program Manager, Basic Center Program



How long have you worked at PathWays PA? I have been with the agency since May 14, 2008.

You recently started a new position. Tell us about it.

I am the Program Manager at the Basic Center Program (BCP). My responsibilities include: daily operation of the BCP, hands-on training, staff supervision, client interaction, seeking community-based partnerships, advocating on behalf of clients and supervising interns.

Describe the purpose of the Basic Center Program.

PathWays PA's Basic Center Program is a new residential program located in West Philadelphia. Its purpose is to provide emergency shelter, basic life skills training, food, clothing and referrals for health screenings and mental health treatment on an individual basis. The program's main focus is family reunification whenever possible and appropriate placement for youth when reunification is not an option.

What excites you most about the Basic Center Program?

I get to work one-on-one with clients and give each and every one of them a chance at a good life when almost everyone else has walked away from them.

How will this program make a difference in the lives of our clients?

Our aim is to approach each individual client with dignity and respect while offering various services as well as a safe and beautiful living environment. I believe each client will walk away knowing that they were genuinely cared about while residing at the BCP.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

I get to make a difference. I was once an at risk youth and hopeless about a bright future. I was in the exact same place as some of the clients I work with. My favorite part of my job is that I get to help them see what I couldn't at their age.

What is the most challenging thing?

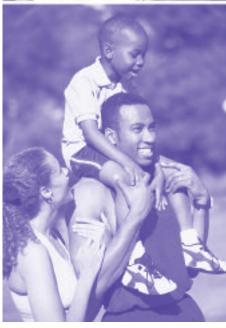
Not being able to reunite a youth with their family. I believe that family strength is what they need to grow, learn and become upstanding citizens. The world presents so many challenges for these youth, and they are less likely to fall when they have family support.

What are your hopes and dreams for the Basic Center Program? I hope and dream that the program, and PathWays PA as a whole, makes such an impact on the Philadelphia community that we are challenged to increase in size and serve more runaway homeless and at risk youth.

Policy Corner

PathWays PA's Success Stories





In addition to the 43,000 people who fell below the official poverty level in the past year, thousands more are struggling to make ends meet. It is no wonder that PathWays PA and other nonprofit agencies are seeing demand for their services skyrocket. At the same time, we are seeing an interesting phenomenon – an increased need for skilled workers. We are not alone in noticing this: a June 2011 survey by McKinsey Global Institute indicated that as many as 40 percent of U.S. employers have had positions open for more than six months for lack of

With an investment in job training, we could address both needs at once. In Philadelphia, more than 20% of adults age 25 and over dropped out before graduating high school, and another 36% ended their education with their high school diploma or GED. These Philadelphians are among the most likely to live in poverty, and could benefit the most from industry-directed training leading to good jobs. The same holds true for adults around the region, who too often ended their education with a high school diploma but now need additional training to qualify for good, available jobs.

Because job training is a long-term approach to the needs that we see, it is important to ensure families can stay above water until they find new jobs. That's why it is also important to support the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit and other refundable credits that bring millions of dollars into local communities each year while keeping families above the federal poverty level and out of welfare programs. In 2009, the EITC alone lifted more than 6.6 million people above the poverty threshold in the United States.

Please take a moment to call your Senators and let them know about the need for job-training and continuing access to refundable tax credits.

- In Pennsylvania, you can reach Senator Casey at (202) 224-6324. Senator Toomey can be reached at (202) 224-4254.
- In Delaware, you can reach Senator Carper at (202) 224-2441. Senator Coons can be reached at (202) 224-5042.
- In New Jersey, you can reach Senator Lautenberg at (202) 224-3224. Senator Menendez can be reached at (202) 224-4744.

To learn more about resources that can help your family and other families, please visit our newest blog, http://financialresourceguide.blogspot.com. This blog has information on issues including unemployment compensation, low-cost cell phone services, higher education, job search strategies and much more.

Workplace Giving

This year, when you are filling out your donation forms, please think of PathWays PA and what your donation can do for the families we serve. With as little as \$5 per pay period, you can help PathWays PA purchase a crib for a new mother or a move-in package for a family's first apartment. A donation of \$10 per pay period can provide a toddler bed, a safe car seat or some kitchen equipment for parents working to support themselves and their families.

There are five ways to support PathWays PA through your workplace giving:

- United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania: 01619
- United Way of Southeast Delaware County: Write PathWays PA on your form
- Combined Federal Campaign: 16357
- Pennsylvania SECA: 4113-0006
- Penn's Way Campaign: Designate UWSEPA and our United Way number, 01619

Don't have a workplace giving program? You can donate directly to PathWays PA through JustGive.org by visiting https://www.justgive.org/basket?acton=donate&ein=23-2001837.

Center for Families – Denellie Harris



For Denellie Harris, living at the PathWays PA Center for Families (the Center) has been life altering. A native of Philadelphia, she was referred to the Center by her Department of Human Services case worker. Denellie knew that it was time to move forward and not only formulate goals, but find a way to achieve them, for both herself and her daughter.

"The program is really great," said Denellie. "It is belping me get things done and succeed in life."

One of PathWays PA's longest running programs, the Center for Families is a residential program that serves at-risk women with children involved in the child welfare system. Clients from the Center often come from a background of homelessness, poverty and abuse. While living at the Center, these women gain access to an array of supports and learn the skills necessary to stabilize their lives, improve their parenting skills and move toward self-sufficiency.

"The program is really great," said Denellie. "It is helping me get things done and succeed in life."

Denellie is in the process of attaining her GED, and hopes to pursue a career in the mental health field. With help from the Center staff, she is also searching for housing. Thanks to PathWays PA, Denellie and her little girl are one step closer to a life of stability and endless possibilities.

Individual Development Account Program – Sherne Nelson



Financial Counselor Erin Montrose (L) and Sherne Nelson (R)

Sherne Nelson first came to PathWays PA to receive coaching on the math portion of her Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam. Once she finished the class and passed her nurse entrance exam, Sherne decided to take advantage of PathWays PA's Individual Development Account (IDA) program. In addition to helping her pay for nursing school, the IDA program taught Sherne how to manage her finances, build her savings and plan and achieve her career and educational goals.

PathWays PA's Individual Development Account (IDA) program provides a 3:1 match for low-tomoderate income individuals saving towards post secondary education. An individual can save up to \$1,000 towards their tuition and other school related expenses and is then granted a match of up to \$3,000. While in the IDA program, participants attend financial education workshops and receive individual financial counseling.

"PathWays PA has changed my life tremendously," said Sherne. "With PathWays PA's help, I was able to finish school and provide a better living environment for my daughter. With free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, I was able to use my tax refund to purchase a much needed car. PathWays PA also

Sherne recently earned her license as a Practical Nurse, and will soon be enrolling at Neumann University to work on her Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Her aspiration is to become a nurse anesthetist.

"I can honestly say that PathWays PA and the staff have had a great impact on me," Sherne said. "Before PathWays PA, I only had a high school diploma and some college credits. I felt like I was stuck in the middle of my career goals, not sure which way to go. Now I am moving forward in my career and education, I have greatly improved my finances and I am looking forward to the next phase of my life!"

PathWays PA is represented in a number of ways online. Please use the following links to find us on Facebook, Twitter and other sites.

Website - www.pathwayspa.org (If you experience technical difficulties while trying to access our website, please contact Pam at pprzybylski@pathwayspa.org or 610-543-5022 x234.)

Blogs - The PathWays PA Policy Blog: http://policypathwayspa.blogspot.com/

- The Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces Blog: http://earnedsicktime.blogspot.com/
- The Earned Sick Time Press Room: http://earnedsicktimepressroom.blogspot.com/
- The PathWays PA Resource Library: http://pathwaysparesourcelibrary.blogspot.com/

Facebook - PathWays PA - Financial Path\$

Twitter - @PathWaysPolicy - @EarnedSickTime - @Paths2Benefits

assisted me with attaining healthcare benefits and food stamps."

YouTube - PathWays PA: http://www.youtube.com/user/PathWaysPA

- Earned Sick Time: http://www.youtube.com/user/EarnedSickTime







Adopt-a-Family FAQs

With the holidays right around the corner, PathWays PA is gearing up for the Adopt-a-Family holiday program. The Adopt-a-Family program offers our client families many of the joys of the holiday season that you and I may take for granted. Thanks to the generous contributions of local donors, treasured memories of the holidays have been made possible for the families we serve. In fact, thousands of clients have benefited from this program throughout the years! Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about the holiday program.

How does the program work?

Adopt-a-Family is designed to help needy families by matching them with donors, both individual and corporate, who are eager to provide gifts and other living essentials to their adopted family. Matches are based on a client family's size and the age of their children. After being paired up with a client family, a wish list is sent to the donor with the receiving family's genders, ages, clothing sizes and holiday wishes. The donor is free to purchase any or all of the items on the clients' list, or substitute items that they feel the client may enjoy. We also encourage the gifting of non-perishable food baskets, toiletries and other types of housewares.

Can I choose my adopted family?

When you contact PathWays PA, make sure to note your preferences regarding the number of children in your adopted family, as well as gender and age. We will do our best to match you with a client family that fits your preferences.

How much does it cost to participate in Adopt-a-Family?

There is no minimum or maximum cost. You should provide whatever you are comfortable with! Some donors provide a couple of gifts for each person in their adopted family, and some donors buy every gift listed on their adopted family's wish list.

Do I need to purchase everything on my adopted family's wish list?

No! Provide what you can, and also feel free to provide items that are not listed, such as non-perishable food baskets, personal hygiene items, etc.

What is the deadline for gift drop offs?

This year's gift deadline is also our one-time weekend drop-off day: Saturday, December 17, 2011. Our hours of operation that day will be 9AM-4PM. Prior to the 17th, gifts may be dropped off Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM.

Do I need to wrap the gifts I purchased for my adopted family?

Yes. Wrap each gift separately and write the parent/child's name and identification number on each of their corresponding gifts. Place gifts in a large compactor trash bag (we find these to be the most durable, since gifts undergo multiple transports), and firmly secure a family identification number label/sign to the front of each trash bag. Please designate each bag, followed by the number of bags (e.g. 1 of 4, 2 of 4, etc).

How should I sign the gift tags on each child's gift?

You may sign the gifts from your family/donor group, Santa Claus or you may leave that portion blank if you would prefer to leave the decision up to the parent/guardian of your adopted family.

Can I provide a holiday card for my adopted family?

Of course! Please address the card to the parent/guardian of your adopted family.

How does my adopted family receive their gifts?

Client gift distribution will begin the week of December 19. PathWays PA's Senior Maintenance Worker, Gene Laird, and his team work with Adopt-a-Family Coordinator Pam Przybylski to sort and distribute gifts. Clients in our residential programs have gifts delivered right to their apartments. Clients of non-residential programs (such as Adult Education or the EARN Center) will individually pick up their gifts at their program site.

Adopt-a-Family Success Story

Lakia Laws and Cristal Perez, who participate in the PathWays PA Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program, were involved in last year's Adopt-a-Family program.

"Adopt-a-Family impacted us so much," said Lakia. Thanks to the holiday program, Lakia's young son, Lemaj, was able to enjoy gifts on Christmas morning. "Without Adopt-a-Family, I would not have been able to get presents for my son."

"My children were so happy!" shared Cristal. "I'm in school, but I don't have a job yet, so I face a whole lot of challenges this time of year. I'm grateful that Adopt-a-Family was able to provide for my sons, Eric and Evan!"

To learn more about the Adopt-a-Family program, visit http://pathwayspa.org/adopt.html or call Pam Przybylski, Adopt-a-Family Coordinator, at 610-534-5022 x234.

athWays to the Star's Annual Giving Society

In honor of our 30th anniversary PathWays PA has created an annual giving society, *PathWays to the Stars*. Any individual, couple, family or organization can help a low-income woman, child or family move from poverty to self-sufficiency through membership. Please join today!

Charter Members

Celestial Society members - annual gift of \$2,500 and above

Boeing Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Richard Whittington & Chubb & Son The Hess Foundation Jane Pepper Jane Coleman **David Park** Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran Lyn & George Ross

Galaxy Club members - annual gift of \$1,000 or above

Carol Goertzel & Charlene Flanagan Mary Lynn & Paul Beck Lim, Norris & Assoc. **Jamie Preston** Beneficial Bank Patricia Hamill & Gina Collier **Amy Mathis** Pamela Browner White Hare, Chase & Heckman Patty Miller & William Schultz Allen Reese & Joseph M. Hengel Carbochem Inc. Jane Hiller Farran **Nobel Learning Communities** Siemens Caring Hands Foundation Commerce Bank Michael & Jennifer Hrischuk Connie & Sankey Williams **Yvonne Norris** John Deckop Joseph & Louise Huber **Bruce Oestreich** Delaware County Chamber of Commerce Keystone Mercy Health Plan Sarah Phocas

Rising Sun Club members - annual gift of \$500

DNB First Bank Health Partners American Expediting Co. Outreach Committee of Christ Church Iane Barr Pino John & Winton Doherty Daniel & Beth Lvn Kubik Linda Ramsev Andrew & Roseann Bird The Donald P. Jones Foundation Ioel S. Lawson III Joseph & Janet Saunders Donna Brennan Associates Frank Consalo Sarah Ellen Lenahan **Joel Smith** Richard Elam Little Heroes - Comcast Employees of **Crozer Chester Nurses Association** Suzanne M. Tavani Brenda Dawson **Armando Flores Trinity Thrift Shop Delaware County Delaware County Medical Society** Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Victor and Lesa Lim **Anthony Tumminello** Public Health Fund, Inc. Robert & Dottie Grieb MOMS Club of Drexel Hill Pam & Ed Zenzola

Shooting Stars Club members - annual gift of \$250

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Iim & Phyllis Rohn **Rotary Club of NE Sunrisers** Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Smith Larry & Harriet Stone Christopher Sullenberg Sally Tracy **UBS Financial Services** Carole White Women's Yellow Pages Sara & Michael Yow

PathWays PA has various sites throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region, including:

Corporate Office: 310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043 / Phone: 610-543-5022 / 800-209-2914 / Fax: 610-543-1549

Center for Families Wawa, PA 19063 Phone: 610-459-9177 Fax: 610-459-3765

Michael & Janice Darab

C4

Basic Center Program 5013 Hazel Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19139 Phone: 215-397-4287 Fax: 215-397-4302

EARN Center 926 W. Allegheny Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19133 Phone: 215-226-2600 Fax: 215-228-3980

Commerce

SIL Administrative Office / Financial Path\$ 3617 Lancaster Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19104 Phone: 215-387-1470 Fax: 215-222-3673

Sherman & Zoe Perkins

Transitional Living Program 4911 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA 19139 Phone: 215-921-9672 Fax: 215-921-9674

Truancy Prevention **Project Peace** 4700 Wissahickon Ave., Suite 101 Philadelphia, PA 19144 Phone: 215-549-2686 Fax: 215-549-2688



310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043 Phone: 610-543-5022 / 800-209-2914 Fax: 610-543-1549 Web: www. pathwayspa.org



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Planned gifts are tl PathWays PA.

Memorials & I

Remembering a lo part of supporting and children in the

For more information on planned giving, memorials or donating, please contact Fran Franchi, Director of Development, at 610-543-5022 x205 or ffranchi@pathwayspa.org.

	Planned giving is a gift for life.
	Your legacy of compassion for women, children and families can live on forever. Please consider supporting PathWays PA with a planned gift. By remembering us in your will, charitable trusts or gifts of life insurance you can ensure your gift will go directly to us.
	If you are considering making a bequest, you may wish to share the following language with your advisor: "I give, devise and bequeath to PathWays PA located in Holmes, PA the sum of \$ to be used for general purposes."
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n H	onor of:
ved	one by a memorial gift to PathWays PA is an important programs and services we offer to thousands of women