

Family Focus Newsletter

SERVICES AND ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Kids Take Center Stage at Upcoming Art Show

PathWays PA's 4th Annual Charity Art Show & Auction is quickly approaching. On Sunday, March 27, from 3-7PM in the Valley Forge Radisson's Waterford Ballroom, PathWays PA and some of the region's most talented artists will again come together to host great art for a great cause!

In addition to original fine art, this year's event will also include jewelry, photography and ceramics. Even more exciting, the art show will feature original artwork by the children who reside at our Center for Families (CFF) in Wawa, PA. The CFF is a supervised residential program for homeless mothers who wish to avoid foster care placement for their children. The staff at the CFF work with moms to promote self-sufficiency; education; parenting and life skills; self-esteem and movement towards life goals. The CFF also promotes the healthy physical, emotional and social development of children through early childhood development programs; enrollment and maintenance of school aged children in the local school system; an after-school homework club and summer activities.

"Children have fun creating art, and can express themselves this way," says Lisa Prinzo, an artist participating in this year's event. "Art opens the doors to creativity and skill."

Artist and PathWays to the Stars Art Show & Auction Co-coordinator Cathy Peluso agrees: "Artwork allows a child to express their imagination, to show their colors."

The children at the CFF will spend a day working with Peluso and renowned artist Dane Tilghman to create their pieces for the event. Tilghman, one of the most prolific and talented African-American artists of our generation, is excited to introduce a new creative outlet to the children. "I think it's a good thing for the kids to participate in the show. It will also give them a sense of accomplishment, this is likely the first time they have shown their art in an art show alongside professional artists." Tilghman is no stranger to having his art appraised by the public. He has had works presented to such notables as actor Ossie Davis, comedian Bill Cosby and political leader Nelson Mandela. Additionally, Tilghman has been commissioned by the Philadelphia Phillies to create work for Citizens Bank Park, and by the Atlanta Braves for a mural at Turner Field. "I'm sure participating in the art show will make the kids feel great. It will also contribute towards their own well-being by helping us raise funds."

Last year's annual art show & auction raised in excess of \$13,000. While we hope to far exceed that number this time around, Lisa Prinzo put it best: "The most exciting thing about this year's event will be the addition of children's art. We mustn't forget the reason for the show, which is helping families to better their lives. Featuring children's art will remind us of the cause."

Tickets to the art show are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. To purchase tickets or a tribute page in our program book (\$250), contact Pam Przybylski at 610-543-5022 x234 or pprzybylski@pathwayspa.org. Tickets may also be purchased online at <http://pathways.ticketleap.com/artshow/>.



Read more about the additions to the 2011 PathWays PA Charity Art Show & Auction on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter.

Message From the President



I am amazed by the creativity and energy of children perhaps more than anything I see in my job at PathWays PA. Many of the kids who have been touched by our agency have been exposed to significant pain, loss and trauma during their lives. But, I find inspiration in their spirit to move through these challenges and thrive when their caregivers are given the support they need to be positive role models. The moms who progress through our programs are on the road to self-sufficiency, but they also serve as a beacon for their children to reach higher and to be successful in school, extra-curricular activities and eventually as productive and happy adults. PathWays PA is the connector that helps a woman change her life through self-empowerment. We provide families with the tools they need to move along the continuum from poverty to self-sufficiency. We have worked with moms who have not completed high school and have witnessed the turnaround in their lives as they complete their GEDs and in many instances move onto post-secondary education. This is a mom who will leave public assistance behind and move to become self-reliant in supporting herself and her family. This is the magic I find in our formula for success and it has brought me joy to witness this phenomenon throughout my years at PathWays PA.

This year we will be featuring the art of our children during our 4th Annual PathWays to the Stars Charity Art Show & Auction that will be held on Sunday, March 27 from 3 to 7 PM at the Radisson Valley Forge. The artwork of our kids will be displayed right alongside paintings by famous and talented regional artists. I can't think of a better way to have fun and to support the important work we do for low-income women, children and families each and everyday. I hope you can join us and directly support our moms and kids as they strive to move forward in their lives.

Sincerely,
Carol Goertzel

Free Tax Preparation for Low-income Families

PathWays PA understands the importance of tax refunds for working families, particularly during these challenging economic times. That's why we've established the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax preparation by IRS-trained tax preparers for families earning \$50,000 or less.

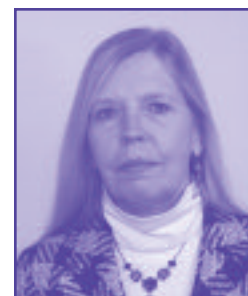
Consumers are often lured into services provided by tax preparation companies by a promise of quick tax returns. Some companies go as far as offering same-day cash, in the form of a Return Anticipation Loan (RAL), a loan given to the consumer based on what the company thinks the tax refund will be. While the idea of quick cash in hand is appealing, consumers are often unaware of traps set by some tax preparation companies, such as high interest on RALs and large preparation fees. In the end, these "loans" may end up costing the family hundreds, or even thousands of dollars, money they simply cannot afford to pay.

PathWays PA's VITA program provides low-income households a safe, effective and free alternative to tax preparation companies. By using IRS-trained tax preparers, the VITA program volunteers know how to look for those specific tax credits which benefit low-income families. In 2010, the VITA program prepared over 1,600 taxes, totaling \$2.7 million in returns to clients and their families. This year, PathWays PA's VITA program received a prestigious IRS VITA Grant, as well as funding from the National Community Tax Coalition to promote our focus on building financial resources during tax time. We take the convenience of free tax preparation one step further by offering the VITA program at three sites in Delaware County, along with various sites in West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia. The program also provides over 80 mobile tax preparation sites, bringing services to employers and organizations whose employees qualify for Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC).

To get your taxes done for free, or for further information on PathWays PA's VITA program, please call Ann at (800) 209-2914.

Who We Are Interviews

Janet Lane-Margetich, Senior Manager of Human Resources, PathWays PA



Tell us about your education. I received my Bachelor of Science degree from Neumann University in Business Management, and my certification as a Professional in Human Resources from Villanova University.

How long have you been at PathWays PA? It will be seven years this June.

Tell us your position and a little bit about the work you do. I am the Senior

Manager of Human Resources. My office is responsible for the administration and oversight of all employees' recruitment, pre-employment screenings, new employee orientations, health and welfare benefits, workers compensation, unemployment compensation, etc. We also ensure all staff employment records are in compliance with agency requirements and program regulations as well as city, state and federal laws. Overall, we do all that we can to assist employees and management with a variety of issues that fall under the scope of Human Resources.

What is your favorite thing about your job? My co-workers. I have two excellent assistants, Chris Stoddard and Linda Dougherty, both of whom are invaluable in the functioning of HR. I report to Maryann Calhoun who is a

true pleasure to work for. Maryann offers great support, knowledge and has a great ability to make the most complicated situations manageable. All of the staff and management here at PathWays PA are wonderful. Everyone is so dedicated and committed to the work that they do. Having come from a corporate background, I find great personal fulfillment and satisfaction in knowing that at the end of the day the employees I support are helping others make a difference in their lives.

What is the most challenging thing? There are many challenges in HR, and they can change moment to moment. We have recently seen many changes in both State and Federal law, as well as program regulations. All of these changes have a large impact on our day-to-day functions here in HR, and it is critical for us to be aware and ensure that we are in compliance at all times.

How does PathWays PA make a difference? PathWays PA is a great organization with a broad spectrum of programs which benefit many people in many ways. From helping achieve a GED, to job placement and sustainment, it's amazing how many different areas we touch upon. All of our programs are capable of impacting people's lives and making a difference. It is truly an honor to be part of such a wonderful agency!

Crystal Shannon, PathWays PA Board Member



Where were you raised? I spent the majority of my childhood in North Philadelphia. Just before high school, my family moved to Cheltenham Township, where my parents still reside.

Who or what influenced you most? My parents had the most influence on my life. They had little access to education growing up in the segregated South. Apart from God and family, which came first, educational achievements meant everything to them.

Where was your first job, and what did you do? My first meaningful employment was with Vanguard right out of college. I was hired as a Fund Accountant and maintained the records for a number of mutual funds.

What lessons did you learn from that job? I learned why attention to detail mattered. Thousands of investors were depending on me to price the funds accurately.

Where did you receive education after high school? I attended Penn State, University Park Campus, majoring in Finance and obtained my MBA at Villanova University.

What is your current job? I still work for Vanguard. I am

responsible for a number of shared services functions within our Recordkeeping Services department, that provides plan and investment administration for institutional retirement plan clients.

Why do you serve on PathWays PA's board? I wanted to serve my community in a more concrete way. I've made financial donations for over twenty years and participated in numerous volunteer events, but I'm seeking a greater sense of satisfaction that comes with helping one organization achieve its goals. I was introduced to PathWays PA a number of years ago and the mission really resonated with me. As I learned more, PathWays PA felt like a great fit with my interests and values.

What are your goals at PathWays PA? My immediate goal is to learn and fulfill the board responsibilities, then do whatever I can to contribute in a meaningful way.

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



When: Sunday, March 27, 2011, 3-7PM

**Where: Valley Forge Radisson's Waterford Ballroom
1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406**

Tickets to the art show, which include admission and light refreshments, are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. To reserve your tickets, or to purchase a full-page tribute ad in our event program book (\$250), contact Pam Przybylski at 610-543-5022 x234 or pprzybylski@pathwayspa.org. Tickets may also be purchased online at <http://pathways.ticketleap.com/artshow/>.

The 2011 PathWays to the Stars Charity Art show & auction will feature more items than ever before! Along with fine art, the event will also feature original artwork by the children residing at our Center for Families, jewelry, ceramics and photography. Below are some highlights of the items that will be made available on March 27, 2011.

Kids' Corner

Perhaps the most exciting addition to our annual art show is original artwork by the children who reside at our Center for Families. The children will spend a day working with artist and event co-coordinator Cathy Peluso and renowned artist Dane Tilghman to create their own pieces for the event. 100% of Kids' Corner proceeds will benefit the over 6,000 low-income women, children and families served by PathWays PA.



Jewelry

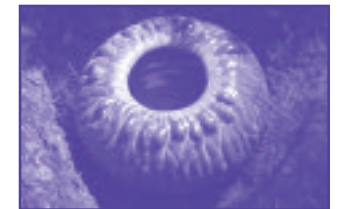
An array of jewelry will be available at this year's event. Jewelers Patty Cunningham and Amy Ragsdale, among others, will offer original and eye-catching earrings, necklaces, pendants, bracelets and more! 30% of jewelry proceeds will go to the programs and services provided by PathWays PA.



Jewelry by Amy Ragsdale

Ceramics

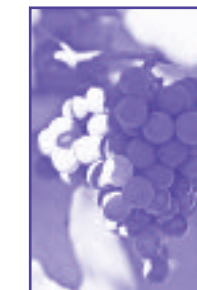
Ceramics is another new addition to the 2011 art show & auction, one that we're sure will prove popular. Artists Larry Buss and Roy Wilbur will lend their creations to PathWays PA, providing original pieces that will not only dazzle attendees, but advance PathWays PA's mission of moving poverty-stricken families to self-sufficiency and well-being.



Ceramics by Larry Buss

Photography

Photography has proven a popular feature at past art shows, and this year's event will offer a wider selection for guests. Photographer and repeat art show participant Bob Grieb, whose original photographs are always a huge hit, will once again collaborate with PathWays PA. This year we also welcome the involvement of photographers Alice George and Janet MacGaffey. Original framed pieces will be available for purchase, along with portrait sessions, prints, magnets and more!



Photos by Alice George

Fine Art

The backbone of the charity art show & auction has always been fine art, and we will continue that tradition again this year. Participating fine artists include: Linda Killingsworth, Martin May, Deb Northey, Jane Choc, Patty Cunningham, Vicki Dorsam, Annette Alessi, Cathy Peluso, Lisa Prinzo, Kathy Deaville, Nick Santoleri, Madeleine Kelly and Dane Tilghman. Like all other pieces for sale, 30% of fine art proceeds will benefit PathWays PA.



Dane Tilghman

Madeleine Kelly



Linda Killingsworth



Martin May



Catherine Peluso

Philadelphia
Success Story

A single mother of one, 20-year-old Toni was lost and it seemed to her she faced a life without viable options for survival. She came to PathWays PA through the Transitional Living Program (TLP) which provides housing and supportive services for pregnant teens or young moms facing a life on the streets. TLP provided stability for Toni and her son, while also affording the young mother a chance to pursue her GED, look into post-secondary education, hone her child-rearing skills and develop a career plan. Once Toni settled into a secure living environment, the TLP staff referred her to another PathWays PA program - Financial Path\$.

Financial Path\$ teaches low-income

For the first time in her life, Toni feels like she is moving in a positive direction...

participants how to manage personal finances and save money with a goal of attaining economic self-sufficiency. Case managers at Financial Path\$ worked with Toni to teach her how to comparison shop, research banking products, manage her debt and implement spending strategies to save money. Toni created a long-term plan to become debt free. She also opened a 529 College Saving account to begin saving towards her son's college education.

Through PathWays PA, Toni found a network of programs that are serving as a guide to reach stability and financial security. For the first time in her life, Toni feels like she is moving in a positive direction, and she has a realistic prospect that her son will enjoy opportunities for success unknown to her during her childhood.

Delaware
County
Success Story



Olivia Sarnor needed a way to make ends meet. After her ex-husband fell ill and was unable to provide child support for her two daughters, it was up to Olivia to supply her family with essentials, like food and vital household items. Olivia's salary as a Direct Care Worker was insufficient for maintaining a household, and the Delaware County resident needed to find another solution fast. Things were beginning to look hopeless when Olivia heard of PathWays PA. She decided to look into the agency's services for low-income families, and soon discovered that PathWays PA was the solution to her family's struggles.

At PathWays PA, Olivia worked with Family Advocate Vernice Lloyd to determine her eligibility for supportive services. Following a screening process, Vernice was able to assist Olivia with the

often intimidating and confusing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process. Within a few weeks, Olivia was found eligible for SNAP, a service that helped alleviate one of her family's largest monthly expenses. Now Olivia receives just over \$200 in grocery assistance each month, and this has been the determining factor in keeping her household afloat.

"Coming to PathWays PA and getting the help I needed has made buying food and running my household so much easier."

"Thank God for PathWays PA, they've been so good to me," Olivia says. "Buying groceries had become very difficult, especially while trying to support kids. Coming to PathWays PA and getting the help I needed has made buying food and running my household so much easier."

Olivia continues to work hard as a Direct Care Worker, and says she feels more financially sound because of PathWays PA. What's most important is that Olivia can now rest easy knowing that she can provide living essentials for her family.

PathWays to the Stars 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	Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran	Jane Pepper
Chubb & Son	David Park	Lyn & George Ross
Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	PECO	Richard Whittington & Jane Coleman

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

Mary Lynn & Paul Beck	Carol Goertzel & Charlene Flanagan	Keystone Mercy Health Plan	Sarah Phocas
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Commerce Bank	Jane Hiller Farran	Patty Miller & William Schultz	Allen Reese & Joseph M. Hengel
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Delaware County Chamber of Commerce	Joseph & Louise Huber	Yvonne Norris	Connie & Sankey Williams
		Bruce Oestreich	

Rising Sun Club members - annual gift of \$500

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

Shooting Stars Club members - annual gift of \$250

Amerimar Realty Co.	Deacons of Middletown Presbyterian Church	Joan Haldeman	Sherman & Zoe Perkins
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Susan Crandall	Goodwill	Sarah Ellen Lenahan	Carole White
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Lynne Cutler		Maxine Maddox Dornemann	Sara & Michael Yow
Michael & Janice Darab		James & Lois Mathis	
		PA Packaging & Print	

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

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://pathwaysparesourceelibrary.blogspot.com/>

Twitter - @PathWaysPolicy - @EarnedSickTime - @Paths2Benefits

Facebook - PathWays PA - Financial Path\$





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Questions or comments?
Please send them to
areese@pathwayspa.org
or call 610-543-5022.

United Way donor choice #01619

Consider a Legacy to PathWays PA

A charitable bequest is a donation made at the time of death through a will or trust. You can make a bequest of any size and direct the gift to support the PathWays PA programs and services that are most important to you.

For many, a bequest is a continuation of a lifetime of charitable giving. Bequests are a vital source of support for PathWays PA. Your gift will help to assure continuing assistance to over 6,000 low-income women, teens and families who receive our services each year. PathWays PA particularly values unrestricted gifts, which can be used to support priority needs.

To arrange a bequest for yourself or on behalf of a friend or family member, please contact Pam Przybylski at 610-543-5022 x234.

**PathWays PA’s Presence Around the
 Greater Philadelphia Region**

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Transitional Living Program
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Center for Families
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