

Family Focus Newsletter



SERVICES AND ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PathWays PA Reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation



A statement released by the COA praises PathWays PA "for their hard work and wonderful achievement and is proud to have it as part of COA's Community of Excellence."

The Council on Accreditation (COA) has granted PathWays PA reaccreditation, recognizing the agency as an outstanding provider of social services in the Greater Philadelphia Region.

"Accreditation is a voluntary process in which we are assessed by the COA to determine if we have met set standards designed to improve our overall quality," said Brenda Dawson, Senior Vice President of Children and Family Services at PathWays PA. "We choose to be accredited because we are committed to the promotion of excellent service delivery and the continual improvement of the quality of services provided by PathWays PA."

COA reaccreditation is an objective and reliable verification process that involves a detailed review and analysis of both an organization's administrative operations and its service delivery practices. All are measured against national standards of best practice. "I would recommend accreditation for any social service agency striving for competency, excellence and optimization of their staff's great energy," said Carol Goertzel, President and CEO of PathWays PA.

"Everyone in the agency played a vital role, but particular gratitude is expressed to our board of directors, executive management, senior managers of finance and administration and program managers, who worked long and hard to make sure that reaccreditation was a seamless process," said Brenda.

"We are also grateful to our Accreditation Consultant, Martha Emerling Garrett, and our IT consultants, Dennis Fontana and Jared Young."

A statement released by the COA praises PathWays PA "for their hard work and wonderful achievement and is proud to have it as part of COA's Community of Excellence."

"Reaccreditation by a national third party is an honor," Carol reflects. "The achievement belongs to our executive team, managers, staff and board - all striving to make PathWays PA the best we can be!"

Message From the President



Who We Are Interviews

Cate Sennett, Board Member, PathWays PA



Where were you raised?

Lansdowne and Drexel Hill, PA.

Who or what influenced you most?

I was most influenced by my father, Tom Swift.

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

I worked at Wagner's Crafts Warehouse in Broomall and packed shipping orders for craft supplies.

What lessons did you learn from that job?

That I wanted a profession ("desk job") with no heavy lifting!

Where did you receive education after high school?

I received my B.S. in Communications at Drexel University and then attended Villanova University School of Law.

What is your current job?

I am an attorney and Partner in Charge of Advisory Services at Jackson Cross Partners, LLC.

When did you begin serving on the board?

June 2011.

Why do you serve on PathWays PA's board?

I am interested in giving back for the many opportunities that I was afforded. My family was hit by many adversities, and we were blessed with a great safety net of family, friends and employers that cared. I see the struggles that other families face - they do not have that net beneath them, and PathWays PA is one of the agencies that can step in where there is a void.

What are your goals at PathWays PA?

Hopefully I can give voice to some of the obstacles that families in crisis face. My family faced financial hardships due to the extreme medical bills that we incurred with my father's illness and he was employed with wonderful medical benefits at the time. I have never forgotten how hard it was for my mother to be 36-years-old, widowed and raising four children alone. Without the help of grandparents, relatives, our church and community we never would have made it, and I hope to be able to bring those life experiences to our Board discussions and decisions on the future of PathWays PA.

Charlena Ware, Program Manager, Transitional Living Program

Tell us about your education.

I have a Master's of Education from Temple University, and I am a candidate for a Master's of Social Work from Temple as well. I am scheduled to graduate in May 2012. My long-term goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

How long have you been at PathWays PA?

I was hired in March 2008 as the Transitional Living Program (TLP) supervisor.

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

I am the program manager of TLP. I conduct intake assessments for all prospective clients; facilitate group sessions; provide informal counseling to incoming clients; purchase startup supplies and stage apartments for new clients. I also conduct community education sessions and outreach to promote awareness of TLP. To ensure that clients receive a holistic and meaningful experience while working towards their respective goals, I build relationships with individuals in the community to facilitate group sessions, offer resources, build lasting connections for clients once they leave the program and continue to fortify the continuum of services for clients.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

I enjoy bearing witness to client transformations. When participants access services offered by TLP, we see their potential manifest in a myriad of ways. It is exciting to watch them accomplish goals in their journey towards self-sufficiency and healing.

What is the most challenging thing?

I wish we had more space. It impacts me deeply when I have to tell referrals slots are full knowing they have a need for our services. In these situations, I provide contact information for youth homeless programs in the city. I also put candidates on my waiting list and encourage them to contact me if they need additional resources. Recognizing the demand is high for our TLP but not being able to house each referral is challenging because of my concern for their general well-being.

How does PathWays PA make a difference?

It is a joy to see longitudinal impacts on women and children. On three separate occasions, I have unexpectedly met former PathWays PA clients. All three women praised the agency and were excited to learn that PathWays PA was still in existence. It is an honor and a privilege to work for an agency that is changing lives with long-term impact.

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These are uncertain but exciting times for PathWays PA. The public arena on the federal, state, county and local levels are basically sending the same message: resources will be diminishing for social services.

The external environment has shifted from a focus on emotional well-being to a focus on economic well-being and progress towards a lack of dependency on social system intervention and/or support. We have been flexible, intuitive and forward thinking in acquisition of grants and movement towards programs with a self-sufficiency/workforce focus, while maintaining our commitment to teens and families living with trauma. We have increased our residential programming at the same time as we have increased the reach of our Industry Partnership, financial education, VITA free tax service, in-home and community teen parent work and literacy programs.

Our Transitional Living Program, EARN Center and Industry Partnership are all held as best in class by those who support our work. We have become a recognized leader in the public policy arena, largely from our Earned Sick Time organizing and publicity.

Our challenge remains seeking support from our friends - individuals, small businesses, corporations and foundations - to continue our important work. Please consider remembering the work we do as you allocate your charitable donations in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Carol Goertzel

Donate Back to School Supplies!

A new school year is quickly approaching, and the children who participate in our residential programs are in desperate need of new school supplies.

Items Needed:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Backpacks | Crayons | Rulers |
| Pencils | Pens | Glue |
| Pocket Folders | Binders | Pencil case or bag |
| Erasers | Highlighters | Markers |
| Colored Pencils | Paper | Spiral Notebooks |
| Composition Books | Lunch bags | Pencil Sharpeners |
| Planners | Calculators | |

School supplies may be brought to our corporate office, located at 310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043, Hours of Operation: M-F, 8AM-5PM.

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."

Paid Sick Days Is Almost a Reality for Philadelphia's Workers



Over the past few years, PathWays PA has led the charge in advocating for earned sick time in Philadelphia. Facilitating the Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces, which is made up of 107 organizations, PathWays PA was involved in a massive grassroots effort that prompted Philadelphia City Council to turn the earned sick time bill into law. As we go to print on this newsletter, we are waiting for the Mayor to sign this bill, ensuring all workers have the opportunity to earn sick days in the city.

Workers from organizations with more than 10 employees will earn seven paid sick days each year. Those from organizations with five to 10 employees will earn up to four days. This time may be used to recover from illness, access preventive healthcare or take care of a sick child or family member.

"Philadelphians from all walks of life came together to fight for paid sick days for everyone in our city," said Marianne Bellesorte, a founding member of the Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces in Philadelphia and Senior Director of Policy and Public Relations at PathWays PA. "This is a common sense measure to preserve public health and promote economic security."

Earning paid sick days will help families and workers throughout the city while providing increased productivity and decreased turnover for businesses. As has already been seen in research of paid sick days from across the country, this bill is a win for everyone involved.

In recognition of their advocacy around paid sick days and the importance of this bill, the Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union Women honored Marianne Bellesorte and Kate Scully of PathWays PA on June 16, 2011. Over the months ahead, we look forward to many honors for Philadelphia as it becomes the largest city to offer sick days legislation to its constituents.

PathWays PA's Success Stories

ARRA Older Youth Program Success Story – Kimberly Jefferson



For Kimberly Jefferson, joining the PathWays PA ARRA Older Youth Work Readiness program was a second chance at employment and stability. Referred to the program by the Chester CareerLink, Kimberly was soon provided with helpful information and resources to help her reach her goals of higher education and a self-sufficient wage.

The ARRA Older Youth Work Readiness program provides job training and career readiness skills to low-income, unemployed young adults throughout Delaware County. Through this program, PathWays PA recruits employers to supply work experience for clients. The program design has clients work four days a week at an employer location, as

well as seven hours a week at PathWays PA, where they participate in workshops to enhance work etiquette and basic job skills. In addition to work skills and support, participants also receive financial counseling and communication and life skills training to enhance their career readiness.

"PathWays PA taught me that education is important," said Kimberly. "I also learned that with effort, you can achieve the goals you set for yourself." And Kimberly has done just that. With help from the ARRA Older Youth Work Readiness program, she was hired by Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Thanks to her new job, Kimberly was able to purchase a car and secure housing. She recently completed her first year at Delaware County Community College, where she is majoring in Healthcare Administration. Once Kimberly achieves her Associate's Degree, she plans to transfer to the Villanova University School of Business.

"I thank the ARRA Older Youth Work Readiness program for all they have done for me," says Kimberly. "I would not be where I am today without the help of PathWays PA!"

Truancy Success Story – Nasir Smith

15-year-old Nasir Smith was referred to the PathWays PA Truancy program by the local court system. Even as a new client, Nasir is already starting to reap the benefits of participation and program support.

The Truancy program handles cases with children as young as 6-years-old throughout 38 schools in Northwest Philadelphia. Case managers work with children and their families to address the reasons underlying the child's truancy. Services include: assessments (individual, family and community); home visits; direct family supports (case manager, intra-agency); multi-disciplinary planning/implementation; referrals to government assistance, benefits, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and discharge planning.

"I feel like this program really helps to keep me out of trouble," said Nasir, a resident of the Strawberry Mansion section of Philadelphia. "PathWays PA has helped by pushing me forward and keeping me out of the court system. They've helped me realize that school is the key to success."

With guidance from PathWays PA, Nasir has started to plan for his future. Interested in becoming a fashion mogul or music artist, he plans to attend college once he graduates from high school.

"PathWays PA has helped me form a plan to achieve my goals, and with discipline and dedication, I know I can reach them," Nasir reflects. "I have the ability to do anything I want, and if I apply myself, I can be successful."

Move-Up Program Success Story – Marla*

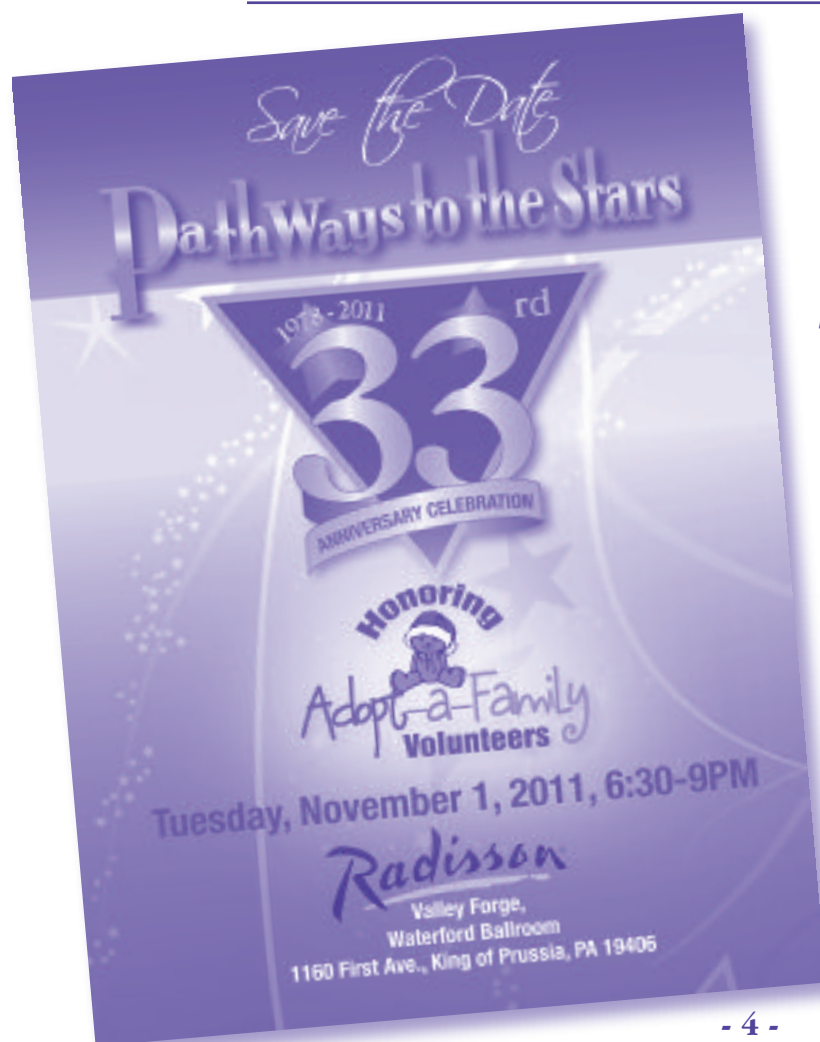
Marla, a mother of nine, started the PathWays PA Move-Up program in May 2006. Although she was in her late thirties, Marla decided she could be an inspiration to her children by finishing college.

"I enrolled in GED classes," said Marla. "I really found participation in an adult education program essential. It can lead to a respectful and substantial-paying career, not just a dead-end job." Marla has no secret formula for success, just hard work and determination. "I study hard, stay focused and ask questions."

After successfully completing her GED with high scores, Marla enrolled at Delaware County Community College. In 2008, she received her Associates in Business Management, but Marla did not stop there. In 2011, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Technical Management from DeVry University.

Marla's involvement with PathWays PA and the Move-Up program has taught her that there is no limit to reaching her dreams, and now she can pass the same lesson onto her children.

* Name has been changed.



*Help us celebrate 33 plus
years of providing residential
and social services to
women, children and families!*

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

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

*To reserve tickets, please visit:
<http://pathways.ticketleap.com/>*

or contact

Pam Przybylski at

610-543-5022 x234 or

pprzybylski@pathwayspa.org



YOUTHadelphia is the Youth Advisory Committee of the Philadelphia Foundation's Fund for Children.

The PathWays PA Transitional Living Program (TLP) has received a \$10,000 grant from YOUTHadelphia. As the Youth Advisory Committee of the Philadelphia Foundation's Fund for Children, YOUTHadelphia is comprised of teenagers who aim to cultivate leadership skills via philanthropic and civic engagement with the community.

YOUTHadelphia provides up to \$10,000 towards youth-centered organizations that offer services in the following areas:

- Service and Advocacy for Homeless Teens
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
- Teen Pregnancy Services
- Post-Secondary (College and Vocational) Preparation

Located in Philadelphia, TLP assists youth in three out of four of these target areas. After a site visit, which included YOUTHadelphia reviewers conducting an interview with TLP clients, PathWays PA was selected as one of 13 organizations to receive a grant.

"We are very excited to receive funds that will allow us to expand opportunities for our clients," said Charlena Ware, TLP Program Manager. "We feel honored that TLP was recognized by a group of emerging youth leaders."

The YOUTHadelphia grant will allow TLP clients to travel to Maryland, where they will visit the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. This will provide an excursion for participants whose recreational activities are limited due to economic hardships.

The grant will also allow TLP to:

- Expand the TLP library
- Cultivate earth stewardship via gardening lessons
- Host speakers to help clients develop leadership skills and create their own Youth Advisory Council
- Provide health and wellness opportunities, particularly exercise and nutrition
- Explore the arts in Philadelphia

Additionally, TLP plans to open the Drop-In Center, which will enable non-TLP clients to visit the office for refreshments, recreational opportunities, job search and readiness skills training as well as access to various community resources.

"Recognition from YOUTHadelphia is true validation that positive youth development and client-centered practices are being accomplished," Charlena said. "In addition, it is affirming to TLP staff that our work makes a tremendous impact."

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 pprzybyski@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](#)

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

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



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

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

Mary Lynn & Paul Beck	Carol Goertzel & Charlene Flanagan	Lim, Norris & Assoc.	Jamie Preston
Beneficial Bank	Patricia Hamill & Gina Collier	Amy Mathis	QVC
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	Yvonne Norris	Connie & Sankey Williams
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

American Expediting Co.	DNB First Bank	Health Partners	Linda Ramsey
Jane Barr Pino	John & Winton Doherty	Daniel & Beth Lyn Kubik	Joseph & Janet Saunders
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	MOMS Club of Drexel Hill	Anthony Tumminello
Delaware County Medical Society	Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union	Outreach Committee of Christ Church	Pam & Ed Zenzola
Public Health Fund, Inc.	Robert & Dottie Grieb		

Shooting Stars Club members - annual gift of \$250

Amerimar Realty Co.	Deacons of Middletown	Joan Haldeman	Sherman & Zoe Perkins
Janet Amighi	Presbyterian Church	Hot Dog Productions, Inc.	Jim & Phyllis Rohn
Frederick J. Bostwick	Educational Data Systems	Robert Hughes	Rotary Club of NE Sunrises
Delma Broussard & Raymond Johnston	Karen Esslinger	Jackson Cross Partners, LLC	Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Smith
C4	First Keystone Bank	J.C. Frisco Painting	Larry & Harriet Stone
Maryann Calhoun & Robert Tinney	Fischer Cunnane & Associates	Kimberly-Clark Corp.	Christopher Sullenberg
Chesterbrook Academy	Peggy Futch	Lyn Kugel	Sally Tracy
Peter & Stacy Clark	Gallagher Benefit Services	Kurtz Construction Co.	UBS Financial Services
Susan Crandall	Susan K. Garrison & Michael J.J. Campbell	Sarah Ellen Lenahan	Carole White
Crown Holdings, Inc.	Goodwill	Lentzcaping, Inc.	Women's Yellow Pages
Lynne Cutler	Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce	Maxine Maddox Dornemann	Sara & Michael Yow
Michael & Janice Darab		James & Lois Mathis	
		PA Packaging & Print	

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	EARN Center 926 W. Allegheny Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19133 Phone: 215-226-2600 Fax: 215-228-3980	SIL Administrative Office / Financial Path\$ 3617 Lancaster Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19104 Phone: 215-387-1470 Fax: 215-222-3673	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
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Web: www.pathwayspa.org



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Questions or comments?

Please send them to

areese@pathwayspa.org

or call 610-543-5022.

United Way donor choice #01619

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
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Pittston, PA

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.

Donations Wish List

- Baby equipment & furniture
- New or gently used clothing (any gender, age or size)
- Women's personal hygiene items i.e. shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, razors, etc.
- Baby diapers
- Baby food & formula
- School supplies (a more detailed list can be found on the page 2)
- Books
- Kitchen items i.e. kitchen electronics, pots & pans, bakeware, utensils, food storage items, etc.
- Linens

All donations can be brought to our corporate office:
310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043.

For more information regarding donations, please call 610-543-5022.