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.”
Dear Friends and Supporters:

This was a year of exciting opportunities and challenging changes for PathWays PA. Our talented management and direct service staff is incredibly committed to our clients and students, giving their time and energy beyond expectation. And for that, we are grateful.

The PathWays PA Board of Directors is involved and giving, and serves as a constant inspiration to our work.

The board is our connector to the community, and board members are both continual participants and contributors. We are blessed to have so many friends and supporters throughout the Delaware Valley Region. Without them, our raising of essential funds; provision of fresh produce and basic necessities for our residential families; collecting holiday gifts for clients; and finding furniture and household goods, would simply not be possible!

We were privileged to begin several new endeavors:

• A partnership with Women In Transition (WIT) began to develop this year, which eventually resulted in their becoming a subsidiary of PathWays PA. We are looking forward to future opportunities to enhance the services we offer to teen girls and “women in transition.”

• Healthcare training courses for residents of the Philadelphia Housing Authority were offered at Women In Transition’s offices and included “Domestic Violence 101” as part of the students’ curriculum.

• Our Project Peace program, an in-home and group parenting support program for teen parents, expanded to provide services to teen parents in Delaware County through funding from Delaware County Human Services and Children and Youth Services.

• Our Industry Partnership, now called Southeastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Alliance (SEPHA), expanded to provide training to employees and employees in Montgomery and Chester counties.

• The Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Program began developing “supportive houses” for girls and teen moms who are not quite ready for total independent living.

• We expanded and reorganized our Adult Education/GED® programs and services in Delaware and Philadelphia counties.

• We also efficiently managed the downsizing of the “welfare-to-work” system, which resulted in the closing of our North Philadelphia EARN Center. Despite this downsizing, PathWays PA continues to work with Philadelphia CareerLinks, which is a PhillyWorks program.

• While the economy remained troubled, our clients faced ongoing personal, financial and employment challenges and obstacles. With city, county, state, foundation and individual funds continuing to diminish, your support is more crucial than ever!

We thank you for supporting our calls for contribution, participating in fundraising ventures and joining us at special events! It is because of your support that our staff is able to create new opportunities for success, begin the healing process and illuminate the path to self-sufficiency for all with whom we work!

Thank you!

Carol Goertzel
President/CEO, PathWays PA

Bruce Oestreich
Board Chair, PathWays PA

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**Letter to Our Friends**

**PathWays PA: The Year at a Glance**

33rd Anniversary Gala “PathWays to the Stars”

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, PathWays PA celebrated its 33rd anniversary at the Radisson Valley Forge with over 175 of our supporters. Because of the support of our sponsors, attendees and friends, we were able to raise over $134,000 that night to support our programs and services!

**ART SHOW**

Christopher Cheng's hand-painted chocolate at the 5th Annual Art Show

PathWays PA held the 5th Annual Art Show on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at the Drexelbrook Banquet and Conference Center, where we featured more than 30 local artists and honored State Senator Dominic Pileggi for his support and advocacy of low-income families. The event raised close to $17,000.

PathWays PA Welcomes Two New Board Members

In 2012, PathWays PA appointed two new members to our Board of Directors to help further our mission. Pamela Godwin, President of Change Partners, Inc.; and Dr. Sharanie Taji-Butt, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and Associate Dean, University of the Sciences, were excitedly welcomed to our agency.

2012 June Appeal Fund Drive

The June Appeal Fund Drive was launched to help generate emergency funding for homeless mothers and children in our residential facilities. Our goal was to raise $20,000 before the end of the 2011-2012, and due to a truly amazing response from our supporters, we were able to raise nearly $21,000.

**Exciting New Initiatives:**

- The Girls SHElter (or Basic Center Program) was launched in October. This program offers runaway prevention and intervention programs to homeless, runaway or at-risk teen girls.

- With the help of county funding, the Project Peace program expanded its services to include Delaware County. Project Peace Delco provides in-home parenting and education services to teen moms.

- PathWays PA's Phlebotomy certification classes received funding from Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) for PHA residents.

- In the 2012 tax filing season, we received an IRS Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) grant. This grant allowed us to provide free tax filing services to senior citizens.

- Through the support of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and the Philadelphia Foundation, Women in Transition joined PathWays PA as a subsidiary in December 2012. This partnership will allow us to better serve vulnerable women in our region.

- PathWays PA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program expanded to provide services to low-income tax filers in Camden, New Jersey. This program free tax services to low-income families and individuals.

- Through our strength in workforce development, PathWays PA received state funding to manage the Southeastern PA Healthcare Alliance (SEPHA) and expand its services in Delaware, Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

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Children & Family Services & Programs
Serving the Greater Philadelphia Region for 34 years.

Teen Girl Residential: Residential services for teen girls and their children that work towards enhancing parenting skills, establishing emotional well-being and developing self-sufficiency.
• Girls SHINE (Basic Center Program): Offers runaway prevention and intervention services for teen girls who have run away, are homeless or are at risk of becoming a runaway and/or homeless youth.
• Transitional Living Program (TLP): Provides transitional living services to young women in Philadelphia, aged 18-21 years old, who are not in the child welfare system, for an 18-month period of time.
Family Residential: Comprehensive residential services that foster a safe, healthy and economically stable future for homeless women and their children.
• Center for Families (CFF): Residential program with foster care placement prevention services for homeless mothers and their children who are working to maintain family togetherness or are in the process of being reunited.

In-Home Services: Services aimed at creating a safe and healthy environment for vulnerable children and their families.
• Project Peace: Community support program for teen mothers in Philadelphia and Delaware County that provides both in-home services and parenting education groups.

Truancy Prevention: Services that unify education, family and community by promoting a healthy school environment and violence prevention.
• Equal Partners in Change (EPC): Group of community members who work together to identify community strengths and needs through collaboration and engage underserved individuals, youth or families with the rest of the community.
• Truancy Court Support Program: Program provides case management and advocacy for at-risk families and children in the court system.

Teen Girl Community Residential: Residential and non-residential services for teen girls and their children that work toward developing self-sufficient lifestyles through life and parenting skills coaching, establishing emotional well-being and mentoring.
• Supervised Independent Living (SIL): Residential program (with non-residential services as well) for vulnerable teen girls and moms, aged 16-21 years, and their children, who are in the child welfare system.

Youth Programs: Programs that provide paid work experience, career exploration, communication and mentoring services to teen youths.
• Achieving Independence Center (AIC): Mentorship program and group workshops focused on parenting, education, developing healthy relationships and ensuring overall well-being for teens that are or have been in the foster care system.
• Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN): Partnership that provides summer employment opportunities and internships to teen moms and adolescent parents between the ages of 16-18 years old.

Self-Sufficiency & Advocacy Services & Programs
Serving the Greater Philadelphia Region for 34 years.

Adult Education: Programs that assist adults in furthering their education through classes, tutoring and coaching.
• ABC/GE®: Exam preparation courses that include tutoring services, job coaching and post-secondary enrollment assistance for adults in Delaware County and Philadelphia.
• MathWorks: Courses that provide adults with math skills necessary for successful employment.

Employment Training/Placement: Program that facilitates economic security for families through a partnership that helps parents gain employment and enhance their skill set while also identifying industry workforce needs.
• Southeastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Alliance (SEPMA): Healthcare partnership that brings together regional healthcare providers to identify and address workforce needs and skills gaps. SEPMA helps low-wage displaced workers attain the skills necessary to improve earnings, employment opportunities and career advancement.
• Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA): Funding that allows PathWays PA to provide Phlebotomy certification classes for individual PHA residents. This program helps low-income individuals achieve financial stability by achieving career goals.

Self-Sufficiency: A multifaceted approach that involves outreach, program initiatives, education and advocacy to help individuals and families along the path to economic independence and self-sufficiency.
• Achieving Reunification Center (ARC): Program that provides financial education workshops and individual counseling sessions designed to help clients realize the goal of family reunification.
• Financial Path$: Financial education program that incorporates both workshops and individual financial counseling to help low-income clients focus on their progress toward self-sufficiency.
• Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program: Provides free income tax preparation service throughout Southeastern PA and Camden, NJ to help low-income filers receive Earned Income and other tax credits. Free tax preparation is supplemented by an extensive mobile tax program that brings these services to employer sites, community centers, public transportation sites and childcare facilities. PathWays PA’s VITA program provides filers with tools and strategies that focus on using their refund to build year-round financial stability to achieve financial goals.

Policy and Research: Encourages financial self-sufficiency through research, advocacy and initiatives to benefit low-income women, children and families statewide.
• PathWays PA’s Policy Department conducts research and develops reports on the needs of low-wage families; meets with legislators to discuss important policy priorities; and presents testimony at committee hearings across Pennsylvania.
• The Policy Department has spearheaded the following initiatives in Pennsylvania:
  o Leadership of the Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces (a coalition of organizations working to give all Pennsylvanians the opportunity to earn paid sick time).  
  o Distribution of two reports for the Working Poor Families Project that investigate the needs of families in Pennsylvania entitled “Pennsylvania at a Glance” and “Ready to Compete? Pennsylvania’s Community Colleges.”
  o Federal and/or State Level Policy Issues: Involved in workforce development and training, budget advocacy, hunger issues; adult basic literacy; anti-human trafficking; financial literacy; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Earned Income Tax Credit issues.
Sarah’s Path to Happiness:
Sarah* was an 18-year-old single mom from Jamaica. Although she moved to the U.S. when she was 2 years old, Sarah still hadn’t obtained citizenship. Her years in this country had been plagued with violence, neglect and abandonment. Since Sarah came to SIL, she was able to overcome the trauma in her life and to turn her focus to succeeding in life and being the best mother possible to her children. She graduated from Delaware Valley High School in June 2012 and is planning on going to college to pursue a career in nursing. Sarah is currently working on obtaining citizenship.

Forging Positive Relationships:
Amber* joined the mentoring program in March 2012. Since then, Amber and her mentor speak almost daily. She has made several great accomplishments at the AIC, such as completing program workshops and getting accepted into the Lincoln Technical School, where she plans on studying to become a Medical Assistant. Amber is focused on her goals and utilizes all the support systems she has at her disposal. Her positive attitude, determination and dedication to the mentoring program makes her a role model and a success story at the AIC.

Helping Clients Self-Improve:
Two clients, Denise* and Sierra*, returned to TLP for help after being discharged due to non-adherence to program policies and goals. They both said they were “unprepared” to take responsibility for their personal growth and admitted to not taking advantage of TLP’s offerings while living there. Denise decided to come back to TLP as an intern through the summer “WorkReady PYN” program, and Sierra calls the staff for support in times of need. These experiences reinforced our understanding of the stages of change and highlighted new areas of need, helping us tailor our programs to better serve our clients.

Building Successful Futures:
Tara*, an 18-year-old mother, came to Project Peace Delco in November 2011. Her goal was to obtain a GED®, complete parenting training and secure stable housing. Shortly after joining Project Peace, Tara received her GED® and registered in Delaware County Community College. We also helped her access community resources for food stamps, obstetric housing and improve her parenting skills through program workshops. Her case manager also helped her obtain social security supplemental disability income, which after creating a budget gave her $300 a month of disposable income.
Laura’s Obstacles and Accomplishments:

Laura always wanted to get her GED® but dropped out of adult education classes because she was overwhelmed with her children. She was afraid of failure and combating internal challenges from her age, failed marriage and her youngest child’s school issues. However, despite her fears, Laura successfully completed her GED® tests. She has seen drastic changes in her life since she accomplished her education goals. Her confidence has significantly grown and now she is helping students who are half her age prepare for the exams. Laura is a classroom leader and a great role model for our other adult education students, as she shows that determination and hard work CAN get you were you want to go in life!

Advancing Careers:

Emily*, a seasoned Certified Nursing Assistant and Residential Counselor, enrolled in the PathWays PA PHA Philomoby course to improve her skills and increase her earning potential. Several weeks into class, Emily found herself in a housing crisis and nearly dropped the course. She told the Career Coach that she felt overwhelmed and was facing too many challenges in her personal life to continue with the program. The Career Coach worked with Emily to create a plan to balance her studies and personal life. Currently, Emily has a 95 percent average in the class and is on her way to realizing her professional goals and becoming a certified Phlebotomist.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program:

Making a Difference

• Operated 5 fixed sites in Philadelphia and Delaware counties
• Provided free tax preparation at 95 mobile sites throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region and Camden, NJ
• VITA and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs prepared 2,070 tax returns, bringing $2,981,472 in federal and state refunds to our local communities
• 34% of tax filers received the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), for a total of $514,442
• Tax preparers assisted 254 seniors and/or disabled filers to claim the Pennsylvania Property tax credit
• With the help of our Western Pennsylvania partners, over 5,600 clients were assisted, bringing back close to $5.9 million in total refunds

Individual Development Account (IDA) Program:

• Total of 47 enrollees (including graduates)
• 32 enrollees graduated
• Enrollees saved a total amount of $38,341
• A total of $95,906 was matched by the program
• The match increased to 4:1 (if student saves $1,000, they’ll receive $4,000)

Building Financial Security:

Maggie*, a 24-year-old single mom, met with a PathWays PA Financial Educator at the Achieving Reunification Center in order to find out why her credit card applications were always denied. She and her Financial Educator viewed her credit reports and found several negative items, including a number of erroneous medical bills. The reports also revealed that Maggie’s parents had opened accounts in her name years ago, which were damaging her credit score. On Maggie’s behalf, the Financial Educator disputed 13 negative accounts on her credit reports and all were removed, boosting her credit score by 119 points. Maggie is now working with her Financial Educator to build credit. She feels more confident in managing her money and is able to make informed decisions now that she understands personal finance.

Financial Path$: Helping individuals and families diminish poverty through economic self-sufficiency

*Name has been changed
A very special thank you to all of our donors—including individuals, corporations and foundations—who gave a gift between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.
The official registration and financial information of PathWays PA may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.