Spring Celebration wrap up

On April 22, 2015 PathWays PA celebrated its 37th Anniversary at the Spring Celebration “Beer, Wine, Cheese and Chocolate” Cocktail Reception. Attendance surpassed the previous year’s celebration with over 175 people attending. Vendors from all over the community came out to share samples of their delicious treats of chocolates, cheeses, microbrews and wines from all over the world. Moore Bros. underwrote the wine tasting, and what wonderful wines they were, whites, reds and sparkling wines! Christopher’s Chocolates of Newtown Square was dipping strawberries and blueberries in chocolate as well as sampling their finest chocolates. John Duxbury a newcomer from Chillings & Chocolate of Upper Darby, was serving up sweet treats of ice cream and amazing truffles! Cabot Creamery for the third year in a row, donated a variety of farm fresh cheeses such as Alpine Cheddar and Pepper Jack. Trader Joe’s couldn’t resist being a part of this fun filled evening and served the crowd their Watermelon Coconut Cooler with a variety of cheeses, fruits and crackers. Yellow Springs Farm a local goat farm that produces its own goat cheeses was on hand sampling the best their goats have produced! We can’t forget our microbrews, both Victory of Downingtown and Yards of Philadelphia donated microbrews to the evening’s festivities. Our newest addition Chez Bonser Patisserie, French bakery came with delectable treats of chocolate Brownies and chocolate chip cookies!

PathWays PA honored Deloitte of Glen Mills for their continuous support, kindness and dedication to our Center for Families which is our largest residential facility, housing up to 50 people, Moms with their children. We raised over $45,000.00 to support this residential facility in Delaware County. We could not have been successful without our sponsors, very special Thank You to all our corporate and individual sponsors.

2014 Holiday wrap up:

The Adopt-A-Family 2014 campaign was another successful holiday season. Over 175 families were adopted by 100 PathWays PA donors. Our staff, board of directors and client families are so grateful for the amazing generosity shown by all of our donors. Special thank you to PECO, Stradley Ronon, Deloitte, Chesterbrook Academy, for their incredible support!

Very special thank you to the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center for hosting our Client Holiday Party bringing Santa and Mrs. Claus to the many children and families in our programs. Families celebrated together having a fun and festive afternoon of games, songs, and food with holiday joy abound! Thank you Clarion for hosting this wonderful event giving PathWays PA clients memories for years to come!

Finit Solutions came out to the CFF this past holiday season to give the moms and children a very merry Christmas! Finit staff members came from as far as Ohio and Wisconsin to participate in the holiday party for the residents. Thank you Finit Solutions for giving our resident mom’s and children a Christmas they will never forget!

Thank you for helping to make the past year one of our most successful! We look forward to working with you to make our next fiscal year even more successful.
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.”

Dear Friends and Colleagues –

As we begin the summer of 2015, we are so pleased to share some of our recent accomplishments.

• Our Transitional Living Programs in West Philadelphia and in the City of Chester and our Girls Shelter continue to impact the lives of young women and children. We are so pleased to have recently reunified a young woman with her family after years of estrangement.

• Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites returned over $2.5 million in federal refunds to the community this year. Together with all of our partners, DelcoAD, Westmoreland Community Action, CEIBA, and Catholic Charities, we returned over $7.1 million to low-income families, many of whom will use their refund to pay outstanding bills or make needed purchases for their families.

The road is not easy for many nonprofits in the current economy, and PathWays PA is no exception. Yet as we enter our 37th year, I continue to be amazed by the commitment and care our staff displays. Despite many challenges, our staff devote themselves to programs that create new “PathWays” for children, teens, and families. Our work remains possible because of the strong support we receive from individuals, corporations and foundations. We are so grateful for our partnerships with all of you!

I want to especially thank FINIT Solutions for the very special holiday party they sponsored for the children and moms at the Center for Families. The children were so excited to have such an incredible visit in their “own home” with Santa. Thank you FINIT for flying Santa in!

Thank you also to Boeing for their continued support of our HeroesPath program. We recently held Orientation for Veterans for welding training that is being offered in conjunction with Delaware County Community College. Welding training will take place over the summer, and participants will be prepared to enter high-demand jobs in manufacturing.

Looking to the future, we are excited to expand our Adult Basic Education and General Educational Development® (ABE/GED) classes and tutoring by adding classes at Darby Borough Hall. Our classes and tutoring sessions help students develop the literacy skills needed for careers or post-secondary education. We have modified the adult education curriculum to integrate technology in the classroom to better prepare students for 21st Century employment and entry into post-secondary education.

Thank you for a great year!

Brenda Dawson
BCP was excited to be chosen as a recipient of PECO’s day of giving back. In April, staff from PECO donated their time to beautify our BCP Program. PECO volunteers removed the debris and remnants of winter from the spacious backyard, which allows for gathering and programs to enhance the lives of the youth; they also painted and planted flowers that have added to the relaxed and therapeutic environment that we work diligently to project for our clients.

Shaniah is currently a 12th grader attending a local high school. Prior to entering the BCP Shaniah was on the verge of dropping out of school due to her living situation. With the assistance of BCP staff and our CUA partner Wordsworth, Shaniah will be graduating high school, has been accepted to Bennett College College where she plans to study education, with her ultimate goal of being an English teacher.

PathWays PA is a community partner of the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Through this partnership, PathWays PA provides training and career and employment coaching to connect Housing Authority residents with the skills and training required to gain employment and move along career ladders.

This year, PathWays PA revamped its healthcare training program for Housing Authority residents. Through this partnership, Housing Authority residents completing PathWays PA’s training program earned certification as both Certified Nurse Aides (C.N.A) and as a certified Phlebotomist. By earning both of these certifications, residents are prepared to enter healthcare careers in a number of positions, and across the full spectrum of healthcare delivery. The combined certification ensures that the residents trained will be valued by employers: their dual certification gives employers greater flexibility, allowing them to be deployed across different positions and roles to meet their organizational needs. Through the PathWays PA training program, PHA residents are well prepared to enter in-demand careers in healthcare.

In February, PathWays PA and the Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces successfully passed the earned sick days law in Philadelphia with a vote of 14-2. The bill was signed into law by Mayor Nutter, and went into effect on May 13, 2015.

In recognition of the sick days win, Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett came to Philadelphia on April 21 to show the need for cities and states to Lead on Leave. PathWays PA was closely involved in planning the event and was part of a small, invitation-only roundtable with Ms. Jarrett.

Until the bill passed, for nearly 200,000 Philadelphians, getting sick or staying home to care for a sick family member meant losing income or possibly losing a job. Nearly one quarter of adults in the US have been fired or threatened with job loss for taking time off to recover from illness or care for a sick loved one. For a low-income family without paid sick days, going just 3.5 days without wages is the equivalent to losing a month’s groceries.

To learn more about paid sick days and the rights and responsibilities of employers and workers, you can visit our website on paid sick days, www.phillyearnedsickdays.com.
William is an army veteran who was frustrated by the struggle to translate his military training into a career in Securities and Investigations. He had extensive training and relevant military experience, but was not getting offered positions beyond entry level. The HeroesPath Veterans Navigators coached him in defining his long-term career goals, and tailored his resume to better fit the industries’ needs for senior level loss prevention and investigation positions. The Veterans Navigators generated a strategic job search plan for him, beginning with members of the Employer Leadership Corps. The Veterans Navigators sent William’s resume to Capital One for a Fraud Investigator position. William was granted an interview, and another member of the Employer Leadership Corps prepared him through individual interview coaching. William was hired as a full time Fraud Investigator at Capital One and is thrilled to work with a company that offers long term career growth.

Did you know

- We just placed our 100th Veteran in employment (since the start of the program in late 2013)
- This fiscal year we have served we have served 242 veterans and will probably pass 250 by June 30
- In January we partnered with Penn State Brandywine to help Veterans build Supervisory Skills. The class was designed to take advantage of the leadership skills Veterans built through their service to prepare them for management jobs in the civilian workforce.
- May 26th we started a welding class through the support of the Boeing Company
- This summer we will be providing EMT training through the support of Lincoln Financial

How you can Help?

PathWays PA is always looking for professional people to do mock interviews with our Veteran Clients, in all areas of job training.

- If you know a Veteran who needs help gaining employment, send them to PathWays PA
- If you are an employer, start a Veterans hiring initiative,
- If you have a Veterans hiring initiative join the Employer Leadership Corps.

This group consists of over 50 employers from across Delaware County that have Veteran hiring initiatives or want to start Veteran hiring initiatives. They meet every month and the feedback that PathWays PA takes away from these meetings helps to guide the trainings we offer Veterans.
A Very Special Thank You to our Funders*

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*Funders January 1, 2014 through May 1, 2015

Pathways PA has partnered with The Boeing Company for more than ten years to provide workforce development programs to help low-income individuals gain employment, thrive in the workforce, and advance in their careers. In 2013 The Boeing Company helped to launch Pathways PA’s HeroesPath program. Over the past two years The Boeing Company has served on the HeroesPath Employer Leadership Corps which provides Pathways PA with feedback on the skills Veterans need to successfully transition from the service to civilian employment. In addition to its involvement in the HeroesPath Employer Leadership Corps The Boeing Company has supported EMT Certification Training and Welding Training for Veterans over the past two years. These trainings play a critical role in helping Veterans gain employment.

The Boeing Company’s employees have also generously donated to Pathways PA throughout the years through backpack drives and our Adopt-A-Family program. The Boeing Company and its employees have helped to make a difference in the lives of thousands of low-income individuals and families throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region. Thank you Boeing Company!
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Questions or comments? Contact Fran Franchi at ffranchi@pathwayspa.org or 610-543-5022 x205

You can make a Difference in the Life of a Homeless Mother & Child

Thank you for your past support! We are making a difference in the life of homeless families, because of people like you who care. Through your generosity and kindness we are able to not only house our homeless clients, but help them to thrive and become independent and self-sufficient.

$25 can provide a can of baby formula for a homeless baby
$50 can provide a case of diapers for a homeless baby
$100 can provide a high chair for a child in our residential homes
$250 can provide a crib for a homeless baby
$300 can provide a bed for a homeless mother or child
$500 can provide food for a mother and two children for 1 month
$1,000 can provide food for a mother and four children for 1 month
$1,500 can provide food and beds for a mother and 3 children
$5,000 can provide food and bedding for a mother and baby for 1 year

Please make your donation today! You can make a difference in the life of a child! Thank you for your support and kindness!