You're Invited to the Pathways to the Stars 33rd Annual Gala

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

- Juliet Walker
  President, Caldwell Banker Welker Real Estate
- Kyra McGraith
  Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, WHYY
- Yvonne Nornes
  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.
Message From the President

As 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 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 53 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 Horsky

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 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
- Books
- 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.

In This Issue

Message From the President
Who We Are Interviews

Janelle 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 ‘market’ 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 well-traveled 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 it.

How will you make a difference in the lives of our clients?
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 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 supervision 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.

Who do you serve on PathWays PA’s board?
I value the impact PathWays PA has on women and children in our area.

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 creating self-sufficiency for low-income women and their children in our region.
In addition to the 43,000 people who fall 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 49 percent of U.S. employers have had openings for more than six months for lack of qualified candidates.

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 tax 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) 224-6524. Senator Toomey can be reached at (202) 224-4257.
- In Delaware, you can reach Senator Carper at (202) 224-2341. 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) 224-7744.

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

PathWays PA’s Success Stories

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.

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

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-to-moderate 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 assisted me with attaining healthcare benefits and food stamps.”

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 x224.)

- 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://pathwayspareresourcelibrary.blogspot.com/

Facebook – PathWays PA – Financial Path5
Twitter - @PathWaysPolicy – @EarnedSickTime – @PathwyzBenefito
YouTube – PathWays PA: http://www.youtube.com/user/PathWaysPA
- Earned Sick Time: http://www.youtube.com/user/EarnedSickTime
Pathways to the Stars Annual Giving Society

Adopt-a-Family FAQs

Do I need to purchase everything on my adopted family’s wish list? Of course! Please address the card to the parent/guardian of your adopted family. If you need to purchase items that are not on the wish list, please do so and include them in the gift bag.

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 families. Gifts are matched 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 will enjoy. We also encourage the giving 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.

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/guardian’s name and identification number on each of their corresponding gifts. Place gifts in a large compact trash bag (we find these to be the most durable, since gifts undergo multiple transports), and firmly secure a 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 do I find out more about Adopt-a-Family? 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.

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!”

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

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

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

- Mary Lynn & Paul Beck
- Beneficial Bank
- Pamela Browne White
- Carbochem Inc.
- Commerce Bank
- John Deckop
- Delaware County Chamber of Commerce
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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.”

Planned gifts are the ultimate expression of confidence and commitment to PathWays PA.

Memorials & In Honor of:

Remembering a loved one by a memorial gift to PathWays PA is an important part of supporting the programs and services we offer to thousands of women and children in the region.

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.