The Holiday Wrap-Up

The 2013 holiday season here at PathWays PA was an incredible one to behold and our staff, board of directors and client families are very grateful for the generosity we were shown by all our Adopt-a-Family donors. Special thanks to PECO (adopted 79 families), Stradley Ronon (adopted 28 families) and Boeing (adopted 19 families) for their incredible support this year.

Our Annual Holiday Fund Drive was a big success for our agency this year as well! Thanks to our wonderful donors, we were able to raise over $14,000. This funding will allow our staff to continue to promote education, teach parenting and life skills, foster self-esteem and give the women, children and teens in our residential facilities the opportunity to accomplish their life goals.

On December 20th, PathWays PA held its annual holiday party at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center of Essington, where client families and their children were able to have a great afternoon of celebrating the holidays with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you, Clarion Hotel, for hosting this joyous event! Happy New Year to all from PathWays PA!

A Look at Our 35th Anniversary Gala

Our 35th Anniversary “PathWays to the Stars” Gala was our biggest event to date. Over 300 guests came to The Franklin Institute on Friday, Nov. 2nd to celebrate this landmark anniversary and pay tribute to the retirement of Carol Goertzel, PathWays PA’s President & CEO of 20 years. To the left, Carol is pictured passing the torch of leadership to Brenda Dawson, Vice President of PathWays PA of eight years.

We were thrilled to recognize Daniel Fitzpatrick, Citizens Bank; Elizabeth Murphy, PECO; and Lisa Nutter, Philadelphia Academies, Inc., as our 2013 Trailblazer Honorees. Because of the support of our friends, board and sponsors, we were able to raise over $175,000 to continue furthering our mission! Thank you to all for your generosity!
**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 I write my first message in my new position as President and CEO, I am reflecting on the changing times in which we are working and living. On November 1, 2013, I accepted the torch from Carol Goertzel at our 35th Anniversary Gala as we celebrated her 20 years of leadership at PathWays PA. The event was our grandest yet. The evening was full of friendship, positive energy and inspiration, and I could not have asked for a more encouraging way to enter this new role in leadership.

I am excited to share with you a few of PathWays PA’s most recent points of pride:

- In December 2013, we were licensed to open the Carol Goertzel Learning Center at our Center for Families (CFF) residence, which allows us to provide child care services to the children who live at the CFF. Read more about this achievement on page 5.

- Our VITA program kicked off the 2014 tax season on January 27th with increased services in Philadelphia and Camden. This season, PathWays has expanded Commuter VITA and is now offering tax assistance at SEPTA’s Market East Train station in addition to Suburban Station. We have also opened a new tax site at the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Technology in Northwest Philadelphia. In Camden, PathWays has partnered with Camden County Community College to offer weekly tax service at the College’s Camden campus.

- HeroesPath is our newest initiative that offers veterans services, skills and support to help ensure success in civilian life. The program recently launched a new website, which can be accessed at HeroesPathWay.com.

- We were asked by the office of Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi to host an event in Philadelphia highlighting the Women’s Economic Agenda, which focused on equal pay, family friendly workplaces and affordable childcare. Keynote speaker Leader Pelosi shared the discussion floor with Congressman Fattah, Congresswoman Edwards and several local speakers who shared their personal stories with the audience. Our Vice President of Policy, Strategy and Communications, Marianne Bellesorte, hosted the event.

Please join us for our 36th Anniversary Spring Celebration Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Cocktail Reception on Thursday, April 24th. This year we will be honoring Kristin Smeins, Garnet Valley School District Social Worker, and The Fresh Market of Brinton Lake for their help and devotion to enhancing the lives of the client families of PathWays PA.

I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the staff, board and friends of PathWays PA and look forward to leading this agency as we continue to light the path for women, children, teens and families. Your support and generosity gives our staff the perseverance and motivation needed to continue changing lives, restoring hope and improving our community. You allow us to make a difference, and for that we are grateful.

Sincerely,

Brenda Dawson
A New Chapter for BCP

The Basic Center Program (BCP), PathWays PA's West Philadelphia-based emergency shelter for runaway and/or homeless teen girls under age 18, is starting 2014 by launching drop-in services for non-residential clients. Services will include homework help, workshops, mentorship and activities as well as access to support groups, counseling and case management.

“Many of the girls in West Philadelphia are still couch-surfing,” says Program Manager Liz Miles. “They may not be ready to be a residential client yet, but that doesn’t mean they don’t need our support. The new drop-in service is going to meet a huge need by giving the girls access to services they didn’t know were there.”

Thanks to financial contributions from members of ValleyPoint Church, BCP is opening a teen lounge for residential and non-residential clients, giving the girls a safe place to spend time and relax. For more information about BCP, contact Liz Miles at emiles@pathwayspa.org.

Delaware County
- PathWays PA: 310 Amosland Rd., Holmes
- J. Lewis Crozer Library: 620 Engle St., Chester
- Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union: Wharf at Rivertown – 2501 Seaport Dr., Chester

Philadelphia
- Women In Transition: 21 South 12th St., 6th Floor
- Calvary United Methodist Church: 801 South 48th St. (corner of 48th & Baltimore)
- SEPTA Suburban Station: 34 North 16th St. & JFK Blvd.
- SEPTA Market East Station: Market St. (between 10th & 11th St.)
- Philadelphia Center for Arts & Technology: 211 Eastburn Ave.

Policy Corner

When Women Succeed, America Succeeds

When women succeed, America succeeds; a simple, true concept. Women make up almost half of America’s workforce and act as breadwinners in 40 percent of families, so when outdated workplace policies prevent women from succeeding, the families and economy that rely on these women suffer(s), too. This concept is gaining national traction with the new, nonpartisan Women’s Economic Agenda. In February 2014, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi joined PathWays PA to discuss this Agenda and how it can help families by focusing on three issues:

- **Equal Pay:** The wage gap between what men and women earn each year amounts to more than $11,000.
- **Affordable Childcare.** Nearly two-thirds of American women with pre-school age children work; yet families are generally left on their own for providing childcare. The Agenda is bringing attention to the need for country-wide Pre-K access.
- **Work & Family Balance:** Many Americans lack access to paid sick days to care for themselves or their family. When workers have to take unpaid sick days, they face potential job loss or have less money in their pockets.

These issues are growing beyond the federal level. Pennsylvania has introduced a Women’s Health Agenda based on similar policies, and Philadelphia City Council will be holding hearings on the Women’s Economic Agenda in March 2014.

Did you know?

Last year, PathWays PA prepared 354 taxes, which brought $3,727,749 in state and federal refunds back into the community.
Managed by PathWays PA, HeroesPath is a new initiative that offers veterans in Southeastern Pennsylvania one-stop access to a full range of services, opportunities, programs and supports that facilitate a successful transition from military service to civilian employment and family life. HeroesPath provides:

- **Job Readiness & Employment Guidance**: Includes resume building, interview preparation, translating military skills to civilian careers.

- **Comprehensive Service Referral Network**: HeroesPath's Warm-Line connects veterans with community resources and provides access to workshops and career counseling.

- **Veterans Resource Guide**: PathWays PA is developing a guide that identifies regional services and organizations serving veterans.

- **Employment Support Groups**: Weekly group meetings that facilitate successful employment and reintegration.

- **Veterans Issues Discussion Series**: Lecture/discussion series held at various locations focused on veteran-related topics.

- **Family Violence Prevention/Healthy Family Workshops**: Quarterly workshops focusing on violence prevention, anger management and parenting skills.

For more information, contact Eve Thomas at ethomas@pathwayspa.org or 610-543-5022 ext. 256. You may also visit the program’s new website at www.HeroesPathWay.com.

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PathWays PA’s programs are in need of volunteers. You can make a difference by donating your time in one of the following two programs:

**Adult Education: Tutors & Class Aides**
Our Adult Education program offers free classes to help low-income adults earn their GED and needs volunteer tutors and class aides. No experience required!

- **Requirements**: Possess a college degree or be enrolled in college courses; volunteer three hours per week throughout program; and reliable transportation.
- **For more details**, contact Rosemarie Whiteley at rwhiteley@pathwayspa.org or 610-543-5022 x227.

**Achieving Independence Center: Mentors for Teen Youths**
Our mentoring program matches adults with teens who are aging out of the foster care system. Mentors provide guidance and support to the teens as they set personal goals and transition into adulthood. Interested mentors will be screened and interviewed to find a good match.

- **Requirements**: Commitment to program/mentee for one year; reach out to mentee once a week (phone, email, etc.); have own transportation; and interact face-to-face with mentee twice a month.
- **For more details**, contact Whitney Lupton at wlupton@aicenter.us or 215-574-9194.
A Very Special Thank You to our 2013 Funders*

*List includes funders that donated $5,000 or more in 2013.

Introducing the Carol Goertzel Learning Center

We are thrilled to announce the licensure of the Carol Goertzel Learning Center at our Center for Families in Wawa, PA! On December 6th, the Carol Goertzel Learning Center was awarded a license to operate as an early childhood center, creating a fully licensed day care that will serve the families living at the Center for Families.

The mission of the Carol Goertzel Learning Center is to provide quality child care and learning experiences for children in a caring and safe environment; while helping them to develop socially, creatively, emotionally, physically and intellectually. The Learning Center provides children an opportunity to express their individuality in a safe and nurturing environment that offers a variety of experiences to enhance their development and colorful walls to stimulate their senses.

The Learning Center features three rooms that cater to different age groups:

- The Infant Room: Newborns-12 months old
- The Rainbow Room: 13 months-3 years old (photo below)
- The Ladybug Room: 3-5 years old

2014 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 2nd
Delaware County Council “Stand for Children” Resolution
The Court House, Media
Resolution presentation to PathWays PA in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month

Thursday, April 24th
36th Anniversary “Wine, Cheese & Chocolate” Spring Celebration
Duportail House, Chesterbrook – 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Annual spring cocktail reception featuring live music, a silent auction and wines, cheeses and chocolates from our region

Wednesday, April 30th
“Stand for Children” Book Reading
Location TBA – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
In recognition of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month

Friday, November 21st
36th Anniversary “PathWays to the Stars” Fall Gala
The Franklin Institute – 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Annual fall gala celebrating PathWays PA’s 36th anniversary featuring live music, live and silent auctions, cocktail reception, recognition ceremony and dinner
PATHWAYS PA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chairperson
Bruce Oestreich – Community Representative
Vice Chairperson
Jane Barr Pino – Jane Barr Pino & Associates
Secretary
Sabrina Brooks – PECO
Treasurer
Kelly O’Leary – Chubb Group of Ins. Co.

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NEWSLETTER CREATIVE TEAM
Fran Franchi – Editor
Kelsey Dodds – Editor
Cathy Peluso – Graphic Designer

Questions or comments? Contact Fran Franchi at ffranchi@pathwayspa.org or 610-543-5022 x205

Make a Difference in the Life of a Homeless Mother & Child

Lynne* came to us late one evening. She had no money or food, just a single bag of clothes for her and her baby. She was scared after having spent the previous night in what she described as “a terrible place,” and didn’t think it was safe to go back. Lynne had nowhere to go and felt totally alone.

PathWays PA welcomed her with open arms, a hot meal and a promise that tomorrow was a new day filled with opportunity and hope. We gave Lynne and her baby a home in one of our residential facilities and helped her begin to heal. Within a week, she and her baby had restored their physical health and Lynne was gaining confidence in her ability to take care of herself and her child. With our help, she began setting goals for herself and overtime, she started to achieve them. Lynne no longer felt alone. Today, Lynne is on her way to earning her GED®, finding employment and becoming self-sufficient.

Please help us raise $30,000 for these residential programs that provide homeless mothers, like Lynne, and their children with a safe shelter, a strong support system and the tools they need to become happy, healthy and self-sufficient. Your gift can save a life.

*Name has been changed