

REFLECTIONS

Family Pathways Volunteer Quarterly Newsletter



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The Reflections Newsletter is a quarterly publication for all volunteers and the community. Its purpose is to inform readers about upcoming volunteer opportunities and appreciation.



Message from the Volunteer Manager

Greetings past and present Family Pathways volunteers. Welcome to our first issue of the Reflections Volunteer Quarterly Newsletter. This newsletter is all about highlighting our volunteers, events and upcoming opportunities. My goal is to provide resources for you to use and share with others and show the collective impact of how much your volunteer service means to us.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors and organizations that helped us over this past year. Even though many of our volunteers had to step away at this time we had many people reach out to support us. We appreciate your continuous hard work, and for supporting Family Pathways and our mission.

Brooke Zank

Brooke Zank



Spotlight Recognition



December Spotlight Recognition Winner

Meet: Liz Andrade, Volunteer: Aging Services

I have volunteered for Family Pathways for about 6 1/2 years. I started one day a week at the Family Pathways food shelf in Forest Lake helping distribute food. Soon after I started, I asked if I could also do something with seniors. I have been delivering NAPS boxes once a month to the same ladies since the beginning. We have been able to form relationships. I chat with them once a month on delivery days. They really look forward to my visits as I may be one of the few people they see!

Now with COVID, the visits are even more important than before. What I enjoy most about volunteering is the idea that I can possibly brighten someone's day. It is mentally and physically beneficial for everyone to volunteer at some point!

Meet: Linda Thalhuber, Volunteer: Administrative Assistant Main Office

How long have you been volunteering for Family Pathways? I started volunteering right after I retired in July 2019.

Why do you volunteer for Family Pathways? Everyone at Family Pathways is so appreciative of what I do. I may not think it's a big deal, but I feel that what I do makes a difference for the administrative staff there which frees them up to do the important work of supporting our community.

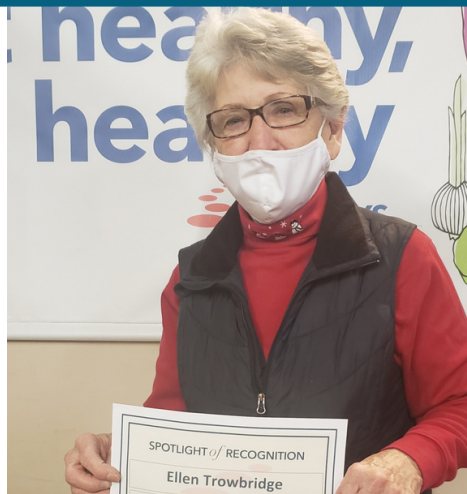
What do you like most about volunteering? Everyone has different skills. They might be organizing, working with people, building/fixing/lifting skills and managing time. Family Pathways can use volunteers with each of these skills. Volunteering gives me a chance to use the office skills I used while I was working. It's a good challenge for my brain and keeps those skills fresh.



"Volunteering gives me a chance to give back to the community."



Raymond, Jacob and Jeanette Polzin volunteer at the North Branch Thrift Store. The Polzin family help with a variety of tasks in the store. They are always positive and helpful for our customers.



Ellen Trowbridge from Forest Lake Food Shelf contributed to over 500 hours since the start of the pandemic. She said she is fortunate to be able to help at this time.



Ken Anderson from the Pine Community Food Shelf volunteered over 1,000 hours in 2020. At the start of the pandemic he shows up each week ready to help!

Volunteer Updates

Volunteer Match Programs

Many companies do a volunteer hour gift match program and give back to non-profits if you complete service hours. Double-check to see if your employer offers this program.

Thank You to our volunteers who recently did a gift match for our area food shelves.

- Wendi Bloomquist from 3M
- Craig Stockel from New York Life Insurance Company, Lindstrom MN

Know Someone Interested in Volunteering?

If you know of someone who would like to volunteer, send them to our website

www.familypathways.org/volunteer/ to learn more about some of the volunteer opportunities that are available. They may contact Brooke at brookez@familypathways.org or 651-674-8040.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently looking for volunteers in the following programs:

- Thrift Stores
- Food Shelves
- Aging Services
- Service Events
- Remote-Cards of Kindness

Volunteer Safety

This year we will be introducing new safety tips for all programs and being mindful of safe behaviors. There will be more to come in the next newsletter around this topic.

Tell Your Story

Do you want to be featured in our newsletter or have a volunteer story? We'd love to hear! Please send your story to Brookez@familypathways.org. You can also mail us a copy to our office. Thank you!

SAVE the DATE!

2021 Volunteer
Appreciation Week
April 18-24

Volunteers come from all walks of life, backgrounds, service groups, businesses, youth groups, and educational systems. Some are brought to our agency through the court system to complete community service hours. We strive to provide everyone with an opportunity to contribute.



E-Mail Addresses Wanted -- We'd like to keep in touch. Please make sure your email is on file at your location with your location manager. Your privacy is valued, and your e-mail address shall be used for internal purposes only.