

FAMILY PATHWAYS CONNECTIONS



Family Pathways Staff Newsletter

APRIL 2021

Connecting with Leadership:

Have you thanked a volunteer lately?

April is National Volunteer Month! Volunteers are an essential resource for all of our programs and services at Family Pathways and we couldn't accomplish our Mission without them. I believe one of our greatest strengths is our volunteers and the diverse opportunities we offer for people to 'give back'. Just think, we have people that donate resources such as clothes, food, money and also those that donate their time, energy, and talent by volunteering in all of our program areas (food access, domestic violence services, aging services, thrift stores, and administration). April is also a great time to think about our own volunteerism and finding ways we want to give back. For me, I'm looking to donate blood this month to reach my "One Gallon" donation designation! Some might think this designation is gross but I find it rewarding; giving back comes in all shapes, colors, and sizes so find what works best for you. I'm very grateful and would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers organization-wide and encourage you to recognize them as well when you get the chance.

Tony B.

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- Connecting with Leadership
- Mission Moments
- Connecting with Staff
- Staff Spotlight
- Connecting with Volunteers
- Connecting with Community
- Thrift Store Updates
- Connecting with Yourself
- Open Positions

Mission Moment

A few weeks ago, a woman named Heather came into the Family Pathways Food Shelf in Cambridge. She had made her way to Minnesota from Iowa, where she had been living under a bridge. Our volunteers gave her food, resources, and a cart that had been donated. Heather came back a few days later to tell us that the cart was helping with an old injury - now beginning to feel better - and that she had found a place to stay. She was so excited for these first positive changes in her life and for the hand up that Family Pathways donations had given her.

Staff Spotlight:

Denise Larusen celebrates 20 years with Family Pathways

Congratulations to Denise Larusen, who is celebrating 20 years with Family Pathways! Denise is a valued member of the Hinckley Thrift Store team.

"Denise is a dedicated Family Pathways employee. She is a great asset to our team," Hinckley Thrift Store Manager Nicole Johnson said. "She's always early to work and truly cares about 'her store.' She is very detailed and organized out on the sales floor, always improving the way items are set up and displayed."

Denise is the store's main hard goods pricer, and her knowledge of antiques makes her the go-to expert for the store.

In her free time, Denise enjoys gardening and crafting. She has even made a few items that Family Pathways has used for displays in the store. She made masks for all of Hinckley store staff when the pandemic first started. She also enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Connecting with Staff Updates and Information

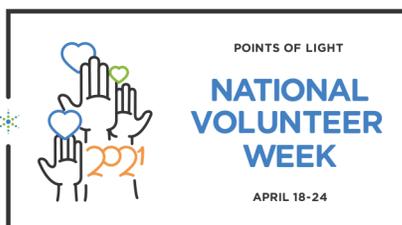
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Work Anniversaries: Congratulations to Ryan Aschenbach, Elizabeth Gleason (10 years!), Kimberley Goodmanson, Enita Jeske, Chris Lenzen, Lori Quist, Shawnda Schelinder, and Wendy Willert on their April work anniversaries!

Connecting with Volunteers:

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"National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to shine a light on the people that have volunteered with Family Pathways and helped out our programs." said Brooke Zank, Volunteer Manager. "Many people still came out and helped us during these challenging times and have a positive long-term impact on the communities they serve. We will be doing recognition throughout the month with online posts and sharing their stories the week of the campaign."



Connecting with Community

- **Save the Date** for May 20! The annual Family Pathways Barn Bash fundraising event will be held virtually from 7-8pm. More details to come!
- **Commit to Kids Giving Day** will be September 14th. Beginning in mid-August, we will be highlighting the impact that Family Pathways has on local kids and encouraging our community to support us in this work!
- **Family Pathways in the News** - If you haven't already, take a moment to read this article from the Mille Lacs Messenger about the great work we are doing in the community. https://www.messagemedia.co/millelacs/free/providing-sustenance-in-a-time-of-need---family-pathways/article_d612391e-9358-11eb-a9d3-6707950fa7fa.html
- **Did you know?** USDA Housing Programs give families and individuals the opportunity to buy, build, repair, or own safe and affordable homes located in rural America. Visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/single-family-housing-programs> to learn more about resources available for rural homes!



Family Pathways Thrift Stores Updates 5 on 35 Progressive Sale

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In an effort to fully staff our Thrift Stores, we have begun to offer two financial incentive programs - a referral bonus and a hiring/sign-on bonus. We're currently utilizing these incentives to fill fulltime sales positions at Forest Lake and Wyoming. Any Family Pathways staff member, regardless of department, can earn a \$300 referral bonus. Refer a friend, volunteer, customer, donor or anyone else you think will make a great fit to our team. We're also offering a \$600 hiring bonus for new fulltime sales associates at Forest Lake and Wyoming. Qualified candidates will receive \$300 after the first month of employment and an additional \$300 paid upon six months of employment. These incentives have already helped us fully staff several stores.

March Sales and Donation Ask

March was a remarkable month thanks to our Thrift Store team! We experienced the second-highest sales month this fiscal year! Our total sales for the month was more than \$33,493 above our budget goal! Our average sale for the month of March was \$14.58

February and March Donation Ask focused on our Food Shelves. Once again, our customers were generous! We reached our goal and ended that campaign at \$22,557.

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- Aging Care Associate - Chisago City, MN
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For the full article from the Mayo Clinic, visit www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/helping-people-changing-lives-the-6-health-benefits-of-volunteering

Do you have a mission moment, photo, announcement, wellness tip, staff person or volunteer you want to celebrate? Email jenniferb@familypathways.org to have it included in the next Connections Newsletter!



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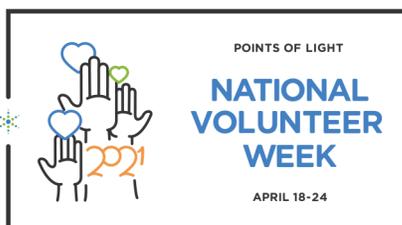
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