

FAMILY PATHWAYS CONNECTIONS

Family Pathways Staff Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

Connecting with Leadership:

Spring is in the air!

Springtime brings more daylight, rising temperatures, animals waking up, plants and trees starting bud. Our environment starts a new beginning in the Spring each year and is a good reminder for us to recharge ourselves. So as Spring makes its way into our communities, take time to make your way back into the community by being outside with a walk, bike ride, yard work, or just sitting in the sun. We care a lot about the mission and vision of Family Pathways, which is important, but we must take care of the people behind the mission too. Community connection and engagement is healthy in many ways and is a way for you to invest in selfcare. Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for standing alongside every person, in every community, in every season.

Tony B.

In This Issue:

- 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

To every single staff person and volunteer—Thank you for your work in the past year and every day. The 2020 Impact Report (aka Annual Report) is now available on our website at FamilyPathways.org/about-us/financials. Take a moment to check it out and see just a few of the ways you and your work made a difference in our community over the last year!

Staff Spotlight:

Brooke Zanke is Volunteer manager for Family Pathways and has played an integral role in ensuring Family Pathways’ ability to serve our clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. With many of Family Pathways long-term volunteers turning away for fear of their health, Brooke took it upon herself to check in with them and offer ways that they could support our organization remotely. She used the time to recognize them, spotlighting new volunteers each month and telling their stories. Brooke developed and issued Family Pathways very first Reflections Quarterly Volunteer Newsletter and made sure that all volunteers were able to receive copies highlighting them and their successes. When COVID-19 seemed as though it was tearing apart our community in irreparable ways, Brooke said, “I remind myself every day that I am going to try to be the light for someone... I want to be the calm within the storm for each person I talk to.” Brooke’s level-headedness and commitment to ensuring that our staff, volunteers, and clients needs has made a lasting difference at Family Pathways and in our community. Brooke has been nominated for the MAVA Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership During COVID-19 and has been asked to join MAVA’s Greater MN Diversity Equity and Inclusion cohort. Congratulations and thank you to Brooke!



Connecting with Staff Updates and Information

New hires: Welcome to Ariel Keller (Forest Lake Thrift Store), Alexandria Pearson (Ham Lake Thrift Store), and Cassidy Vogel (Ham Lake Thrift Store.) We’re glad you’re here!

Work Anniversaries: Congratulations to Bradley Cavallin, Juliana Chapeau, Angie Detert, Kim Houle, Amanda Kurz, Denise Laursen (20 years!), Elissa Metz, Rhonda Nelson, Richard Oldenburg, Jessica Peloquin, Candice Polchow, Marissa Rist-England, and Hannah Solomon on their March work anniversaries!

Connecting with Volunteers:



- Joan and Roger Bostrom help with our Doorstep Delivery Program in the Cambridge area. Joan started volunteering in 2016, and recently her husband wanted to join. "We love volunteering for Family Pathways because it is nice meeting the seniors and hearing about their stories. We know we are making a positive impact on their lives and on the community. We knew volunteering was something that we needed to do, and the clients needed our help. They are a joy and love helping out!"
- If you know anyone that is interested in helping with Doorstep Delivery we are looking for support in the Cambridge area.

- Save the Date:** April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week

Connecting with Community

- Don't forget that all this month through April 11 is the annual **March FoodShare** campaign! Each year we partner with MN Hunger Solutions in this statewide campaign to restock the food shelves. We are asking our donors and partners to donate food, funds, and non-food items to our nine food shelves. There is also information on how to host your own Food and Fund drive (in person and virtual) on our website. This year, local businesses are matching donations up to \$2500 each week! This campaign runs from **March 1-April 11. Help spread the word!**



- 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!
- Did you know?** Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is a temporary food benefit available to Minnesota families with children who would have received free or reduced-price meals if schools were open. There will not be an application for 2020-2021 school year benefits. To receive P-EBT, each child must be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals and enrolled in a school

with a qualifying school learning model. Eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals will be determined based on enrollment in SNAP, the Minnesota Family Investment Program, Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or a Community Eligibility School, or an approved Application for Educational Benefits at the child's school. If you are not receiving benefits through any of these programs, but think you might be eligible for P-EBT food benefits, please apply by completing the Application for Educational Benefits available from your child's school. If you have already been denied for these benefits and your circumstances have changed, you may be newly eligible and are welcome to reapply.

Family Pathways Thrift Stores Updates

- We are now offering FT sales associate positions with a \$600.00 hiring bonus (\$300.00 upon one month from your start date and the remaining \$300.00 to be paid upon six months of your continued employment.)
Hiring Bonus Locations:
Forest Lake
North Branch
Wyoming
Lindstrom
St. Croix Falls

Open Positions:

Food Shelf/Thrift Store Assistant–Onamia, MN
Full-Time Sales Associate - Forest Lake, MN
Full-Time Sales Associate - Lindstrom, MN
Full-Time Sales Associate - North Branch, MN
Full-Time Sales Associate - St Croix Falls, WI
Full-Time Sales Associate - Wyoming, MN
Part-Time Sales Associate - Forest Lake, MN
Part-Time Sales Associate - Lindstrom, MN
Part-Time Sales Associate - North Branch, MN
Part-Time Sales Associate - Wyoming, MN
Part-Time Sales Associate - Hinckley, MN
Part-Time Sales Associate - Pine City, MN
Shelter Advocate - Cambridge, MN
Aging Care Associate - Chisago County and an
Aging Care Associate (Door Step Delivery) -
Isanti, MN

Connecting with Yourself: Wellness Tips



For full article, visit
Adultmentalhealth.org/
5-things-you-should-know-about-stress

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!



@familypathwaysnb



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