

# FAMILY PATHWAYS CONNECTIONS



Family Pathways Staff Newsletter

JULY 2021

## Connecting with Leadership:

Summer is here!

We have been greeted with ultra-hot and sunny days as well as the relaxing of COVID-19 rules, regulations, and practices. Both have been welcomed and we are adjusting across the organization by opening up more and offering services face-to-face again. I'm very thankful for everyone's flexibility as we have moved through the pandemic, sometimes making changes with short notice and not always a lot of information. Everyone did their part and accomplished what was needed to keep important services and resources available to our neighbors in need.

Now, with summer here and the pandemic subsiding we are in a more positive environment! Let's take advantage of this by investing in self-care such as visiting a park, hitting the local waterway or just relaxing on a patio with friends and family. I recently had the opportunity to do just this at our Family Gatherings event on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share stories and ideas with Family Pathways staff, volunteers, neighbors, and supporters while listening to live music and enjoying some refreshments. I invite you to join us at one of the future Family Gatherings on July 21<sup>st</sup> in St. Croix Falls or August 18<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge to do the same.

Thank you again for your commitment to helping others, and I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July!  
*Tony B.*

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## Staff Spotlight:

### LeAndra Huisman

Not only are sales growing within the Thrift Stores, our eCommerce business has been flourishing as well! FY21 net sales was \$17,249, far surpassing the budgeted goal of \$7,750! In order to keep up, we've added an eCommerce associate to the team.

Please welcome LeAndra Huisman to Family Pathways. LeAndra works out of the Chisago City Processing Center where she will be photographing, listing and shipping eBay items, as well as identifying other eCommerce platforms to help grow our eCommerce business.

## Mission Moment

Four students have been chosen as the inaugural recipients of **the Family Pathways Scholarship**. Daedyn Pearce (Amery High School,) Tania Bell (Forest Lake Senior High,) LeSean Greer (Cambridge-Isanti High School,) and Shaylee Feske (Osceola High School) will each receive a \$2000 scholarship for the upcoming academic year. Each of these students was selected by a committee made up of Family Pathways staff and Board members. Award recipients are selected on the basis of their participation in service organizations, clubs, and other groups at school and in the community; their educational and personal goals for the future; their personal story and articulation of what makes them unique; and their financial need. As award recipients, Daedyn, Tania, LeSean, and Shaylee have been recognized as individuals who understand the impact that they have on their community and the influence that community will have on their future success. Shaylee was able to join us for the first Family Gatherings event and told us how much it meant to her that there was a scholarship that was for her. "It spoke to my experience and was specific to me. It can be easy to feel invisible in rural areas like this, an it meant so much to feel seen in this way."

## Connecting with Staff Updates and Information

New hires: Welcome to Carter Janu and Christina Gustafson Flanders (Visitation), Elizabeth Gladitsch (Wyoming Thrift Store), Marissa Rossow (Forest Lake Thrift Store), Grace Stoehr and Debara Boyle (Lindstrom Thrift Store), Kelsey Anderson (Princeton Thrift Store), Morgan Landberg (Hinckley Thrift Store), LeAndra Huisman (eCommerce), Hannah Van Dyke (North Branch Thrift Store), and Dixon Larson (Food Rescue.) We're glad you're here!

Work Anniversaries: Congratulations to Autumn Buckman, Lori Daman, Krystal Fields, Venus Griffin, Austin Larson, Allison Nadeau, Lena Nelson (5 years!), Kim Rowan, and Mayah Zebrasky on their July work anniversaries!

## Connecting with Volunteers:

The Constance Free Church helped out our Ham Lake Thrift Store this month. We always appreciate groups and individual volunteers to help us out.

Our groups help out for one day of service at all of our programs and make such a difference!



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## Connecting with Community



### Free Community Event

Leave your checkbook at home, bring a lawnchair, and enjoy an evening with your neighbors



We'll have:

- A free concert from The Skally Line
- Ice cream, snacks, and drinks
- Family Pathways food shelf tours
- Lawn games
- Help us fill 500 backpacks by Labor Day! Bring or drop off new, unused school supplies to the event

**5:30pm - 7:30pm**

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August 18 - 1575 1st Ave E, Cambridge, MN

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- **Women's Empowerment Luncheon** –Save the Date for November 6th! More info to come!

#### Open Positions: Please Share!

Aging Care Associate - Chisago City, MN  
Full-Time Sales Associate–Hinckley, MN  
Full-Time Sales Associate - North Branch, MN  
Full-Time Sales Associate, Princeton, MN  
Full-Time Sales Associate - Wyoming, MN  
Full-Time Sales Associate–Forest Lake, MN  
Operations Supervisor–Forest Lake, MN  
Food Shelf and Thrift Store Coordinator–Onamia, MN  
Part-Time Sales Associate - Forest Lake, MN  
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### Expanded Hours

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## Connecting with Yourself: Wellness

A local chef, Carline Bengtsson has launched Dine4Diners in 2020 as a way to combine her two passions: helping others and creating memorable meals. After each private, gourmet dining event, Bengtsson donates one quarter of the net proceeds to organizations that provide meals for those in need, including Family Pathways! Here is one of her recipes:

### Italian Summer Salad:

Ingredients:

Salad spring mix

Fresh sliced mozzarella

Sliced prosciutto (dry-aged & salted)

Tomato medley

Fig balsamic

Arbequina extra virgin olive oil  
Micro greens or sprouts (optional)  
Breadstick (optional)

Directions:

To each plate, add spring mix, 3 slices mozzarella, 2 slices prosciutto, 3 halved tomato medley drizzle with fig balsamic and Arbequina extra virgin olive oil. Top salad with micro greens or sprouts and add a breadstick.

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



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