

FAMILY PATHWAYS CONNECTIONS



Family Pathways Staff Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

Connecting with Leadership:

Happy Holidays!

With the holidays around us and as we move towards the end of 2021, I want to thank you for all of the extraordinary efforts and service you continue to provide along-side our neighbors every day with positivity, respect, and care. The last two years have added many societal challenges (COVID, racial equity, civil unrest, etc.) to our work, which affected us personally and professionally. I have seen us successfully respond with energy, creativity, and empathy; these three strengths will carry us in 2022!

Thank you for fulfilling our vision of 'Everyone voice. Every possibility. Every day.' I hope for you this holiday season to rest, reflect, and reenergize.

Warmest wishes for safe and healthy holidays,

Tony B.

Staff Spotlight:

Sonia Palmer is the Director of Advancement for Family Pathways. She works tirelessly with donors and the community to raise awareness and funds for Family Pathways programs and services. Before coming to Family Pathways, Sonia spent 25 years working in the areas of fundraising, communications, program development, and volunteer recruitment/retention. Currently living in Lindstrom, Sonia enjoys adventuring with her family, kayaking, road trips, bird watching, movies, camping, and playing games. Sonia says that her favorite thing about working at Family Pathways is "As a fundraiser, I get to connect people who want to make a difference with a cause they care about. Our organization is very fortunate to have a broad range of all kinds of people who have a shared commitment to helping their neighbors. That's a great feeling."

New hires: Welcome to Ashley Tuomie (Community Advocate), Kryston Haag-Ludwig (Shelter Advocate), Renee Nendick, Tayah Schumann (Hinckley Thrift Store), Delena Hillman-Opsahl (Lindstrom Thrift Store), Kristina Qualls, Vicki Wallace, Harmony Strain (Pine City Thrift Store), Lori Thell (Wyoming Thrift Store), and Kenneth Meyer (Food and Rescue Driver.) We're glad you're here!

Work Anniversaries: Congratulations to Kira Erickson, Maggie Fure, Livie Huhta, Heather Johnson, Cassanra Klein, Joleen Olson, Gabrielle Quigley, Christina Steiner, Debra Vaughan, and Kathy Wills on their November work anniversaries!

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

Mission Moment

A member of the American Legion in Hinckley reached out to us to ask if we would be interested in displaying some war memorabilia in the front window of the Hinckley thrift store to commemorate our veterans in the local area. The store team was excited to participate, and the legion provided an assortment of items for the store to display for the next month or so. These items are not for sale. Allowing space for the legion to display these items has given our organization another opportunity to partner with the local community to show support for our veterans.

Connecting with Staff Updates and Information

Connecting with Volunteers:

Ron Duke, Myron Larson and Russ Stene have been volunteering at the Cambridge Food Shelf for years. They help every Tuesday morning unloading the truck. They go above and beyond for our clients and are always so helpful!

Following Openings: Thrift Stores and Food Shelves are looking for volunteers to help with the busy holiday season approaching. Aging Services is looking for help in Taylor Falls and Pine City in homemaking. If you know of anyone interested, pass on the message. New volunteers can fill out an application online at www.familypathways.org.



Connecting with Community

- Last month, **Jayne Mund** (Aging Services) was recognized by the North 65 Chamber of Commerce as one of the Employee of the Year nominees! Nominated for her hard work, dedication, and going above and beyond for our clients, we want to congratulate Jayne on this great recognition!
- Family Pathways raised **\$159,000 in November!** That puts us nicely on our way to meeting our end of year campaign goal of \$250,000 by the end of December! Thank you to everyone who gave and encouraged others to donate for Give to the Max day, If you have friends or family looking to make a year-end contribution, they can go to FamilyPathways.org/donate anytime this month!



Connecting with Yourself: Wellness

Helping troubled co-workers

- Try to help your co-worker preserve workplace relationships and their reputation at work. This can include helping them avoid unnecessary conflict or acting out when they're not well.
- Encourage your co-worker to take their work breaks to go for a walk or out for fresh air. These changes in focus and physical movement can ultimately help them increase their concentration at work.
- Help your co-worker focus on one small step forward at a time. Trying to "fix" everything at once can be overwhelming.
- If your co-worker is overwhelmed with work, encourage them to write down all of their tasks. If this seems overwhelming to them, consider offering to help complete the list. Encourage them to take the list to their manager to help them prioritize the most important tasks.
- Help your co-worker focus on solutions rather than problems. If they're worried or upset about something or someone, ask what they would like to do about the situation. If they're unsure, offer some ideas, but make sure they choose their own path forward.

Open Positions: Please Share!

Domestic Violence Shelter Advocate –Cambridge
Food Shelf Coordinator–Cambridge
Full-Time Assistant Manager - Forest Lake
Full-Time Community Advocate-Cambridge
Full-time Community Advocate-Carlton
Full-Time Community Advocate-Mora
Full-Time Sales Associate- Hinckley
Part-Time Sales Associate - North Branch
Part-Time Sales Associate - Wyoming
Part-time Sales Associate Hinckley
Part-Time Sales Associate- Cambridge
Part-Time Sales Associate- Princeton
Part-Time Sales Associate-Pine City
Part-Time Sales Processing and Recycling Center Associate-Chisago City
Part-Time Visitation Monitors - Isanti, Chisago, & Kanabec Counties

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!



Please Join Us For

Family Pathways Dementia Friends

A virtual educational session

This one hour class is for anyone who knows someone living with dementia

- Learn the difference between dementia and normal aging
- Learn 5 Key messages
- Learn how to better communicate with someone diagnosed with a dementia

December 14
5:30pm-6:30pm

To Register or for more information:

Contact Collette at
collette@familypathways.org



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