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Fall 2011 Newsletter



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Pathways ramps up Day Center curriculum

Daytime guests offered more classes to improve their lives

By Karen Griner

Pathways' Day Center provides a place for homeless women to go during the day to receive a warm meal and new clothes, take a hot shower, do laundry, and participate in life-skill classes. This summer, Pathways began offering additional classes to help its Day Center guests improve their job prospects, financial skills, and health.

Pathways has offered evening classes for both the Employment Readiness and Fiscally Fit programs for years. Because over 1,500 women visit the Day Center every year, the agency decided to offer the courses during the day as well in the hopes of reaching an even broader audience of homeless women.

The Employment Readiness Program focuses on skills that will help women obtain and keep a job such as resume writing, interviewing, and working with others. Once a woman completes these classes, she works one-on-one with staff to develop individualized employment goals.

Pathways' Fiscally Fit program takes an in-depth look at money management. The curriculum discusses how to manage savings, benefits and living expenses.

"These times call for another level of basic living skills, more investment in the fundamentals necessary to survive and thrive in the market place," said Executive Director Maria Dickens. "We're committed to availing our programs to not only the guests who attend in the evening but for



Graduates of a recent Employment Readiness class pose with Program Director Dawn Mitchell (second from left) to show off their certificates of completion.

those who are regular visitors in our Day Center. We want to maximize our time with them, and this is sure way to enhance their experience with us."

Pathways also offered Zumba classes over the summer, which were taught by Executive Board member Nena Moorer.

"This is my way of giving back," Nena said. "It has just been uplifting to see the smiles on the ladies' faces."

To learn more about the Day Center, visit Pathways' blog at pathwayshome.blogspot.com

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Pathways Fall 2011 Newsletter



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Maria's Corner

Sowing the seeds of hope

We are in the early days of Autumn, a time of the year in which we get a break from the summer's scorching heat and begin to experience an array of gorgeous colors along the landscapes and feel fresh morning breezes. These are indeed welcome changes from the summer! This is also celebrated as harvest time, a time to gather what's been planted and nursed over a span of time. So it is at Pathways. Seeds of care, patience, encouragement and support are sown into the lives of every woman and child we serve. There are even times when partner agencies have also planted these seeds into lives that come through our doors. Our hope is that whatever seed has been planted, it continues to grow until there is a harvest of strength, self-assurance and accomplishment. Such a harvest takes tremendous effort, and we cannot do this great work alone. We need many loving hands and hearts to plant the necessary seed to yield a bounty of transformed lives. Will that be you?

Maria Dickens, Executive Director



Volunteer Spotlight: Pathways Kid Helpers

*Volunteers serve as mentors
for homeless youth*

By Janis Evans

Pathways Kid Helpers is a group of volunteers ranging from seniors in high school to young professionals who go out to Pathways' Family Shelters and interact with the agency's youngest guests.

There are two main priorities of the P-Kid Helpers, as they are affectionately called: Education and Fun.

The P-Kid Helpers are responsible for creating a fun and educational environment. They provide tutoring in all academic core subjects as well as plan fun activities such as board games or crafts. The P-Kid Helpers are unique because of their diversity in age and gender and in how they

share in Pathways' mission of combating homelessness and enriching the lives of women and children through hospitality, housing and hope.

Typically, the P-Kid Helpers are at each location for one hour daily during the work week.

However, on Saturdays, a large group of volunteers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Circle K organization interacts with the children. This group provides additional learning opportunities. For instance, In September, they sponsored a trip for the women and children to the Southern Flight Museum.

During this field trip the guests were able to tour the Southern Flight Museum, make crafts, and

participate in activities related to aviation.

P-Kid Helpers are indeed special to Pathways' mission because they assist the agency in taking care of its youngest guests.

Shooting Clays Takes Aim at Homelessness

Annual fundraiser raises \$30,000 for homeless women and children



"It's a unique way for people to have some fun while still giving back in their own way and supporting a cause that continues to be an issue," said Greg King, Vice President of Marketing for Iberia Bank and chair of the event. "To the extent that we can chip away at homelessness and solve the issue, it makes the community a better place."

IberiaBank and National Cement were Major Sponsors of the event. Their teams went head-to-head with teams sponsored by Alabama Power, Altec, BBVA Compass, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, CMH Architects, Energen, Gray Construction, J.H. Berry & Gilbert, Kenworth of Birmingham, Kirkpatrick Concrete, One Stop Environmental, and Rives Construction Company.

Food and beverages were provided by Dunn Investment Company, CEMEX and Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Other sponsors were EBSCO, Warren Averett Kimbrough & Marino, Brasfield & Gorrie, Massey Hauling Company, Regions and Vulcan Materials.

Fifteen four-person teams gathered at Selwood Farm in Alpine the morning of August 26 for Pathways' 13th annual Sporting Clays event.

Sporting Clays is a sport where participants shoot at flying targets, known as clay pigeons or clay targets, with a shotgun. Points are awarded for every target hit, and each team and individual compete for the highest score.

Adopt a Pathways Woman or Family this Holiday Season

As the holidays come upon us, we are reminded of our favorite holiday foods, time with family, and overall good cheer. This year, please join Pathways in our annual Adopt-A-Family project, which aims to provide homeless women and children these same comforts. By participating in the Adopt-A-Family program, you would be able to provide a child with a set of new clothes or that special toy he or she has been dreaming of all year. You could be giving a mother the



comfort of knowing her children will have a happy holiday season. Or you could be giving a homeless single woman household items she needs as she prepares to move to her own apartment.

If you are interested in adopting a family, contact Janis Evans, Volunteer Coordinator and Development Assistant, at 205.322.6854 or janis@pathwayshome.org.

Get Involved! Volunteer Opportunities

At Pathways there are many ways to volunteer, and volunteers are always needed throughout the day. Find a way to get involved!

Prepare Lunch

Volunteers are needed daily to prepare and/or serve lunch at our Day Center, which serves over 40 women per day. Volunteers can bring a cooked meal or serve something already prepared.

Dental Services

The homeless women at Pathways are in need of dental services. We are currently seeking dentists to provide pro bono dental services for our guests.

Call Pathways at 205.322.6854 if you are interested in volunteering.

Sponsor a Newsletter!

Pathways is looking for sponsors to underwrite the cost of publishing our quarterly newsletter. By becoming a sponsor, you would allow us to use the money we would spend on printing costs to feed hungry children, provide job training for unemployed mothers, or provide basic services to women living on the streets. Your business would be recognized in the newsletter as well as on Pathways' website. For more information, contact Development Director Karen Griner at 205.322.6854 or karen.griner@pathwayshome.org.