

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE PATHWAY SCHOOL:

As a school for children who require additional supports, we teach the importance of resilience. This past school year, we have all had to practice this skill ourselves! With little data to lead us, The Pathway School charted its own course. We researched best practices (there really weren't any) and tried to keep up with ever changing 'guidance' from the Centers for Disease Control and the state Department of Education. In the end, we settled on a balance of personal choice and personal responsibility.

I am proud that we offered (families and staff members) the option, to remain virtual or to return to campus. Fully one-third of our students remained virtual the entire school year.

I am proud that were able to offer families the option to have their children return to inperson learning. There were bumps along the way, but eventually we were able to fully reopen the school for those who chose in-person learning.

Like most educators, we have been concerned about the impact the pandemic has had on our students, especially the issue of learning loss. For the 2020-21 school year, nearly ninety percent of all Pathway students (virtual and in-person learners) had learning assessments that showed no learning loss. Most educators predicted learning loss ratio much higher in special education students than we have experienced at The Pathway School!

We took the lessons we learned this past school year in crafting a reopening plan that returned all students and staff to five-day-per-week in-person learning. We conducted monthly assessments to gauge the level of learning progress for each of our students and addressed all issues that were uncovered in these monthly assessments.

Our community survived 2020-21. It wasn't easy, but we did it together.

I am proud of what our school community endured and overcame during the last school year. Thank you for your continued support of The Pathway School. Together, we do make a difference.

David J. Schultheis

President and CEO



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT | DANIELLE'S STORY A PATHWAY TO TRANSFORM & GROW

Before I started attending The Pathway School, I struggled academically, emotionally, had a hard time making friends, and was very misunderstood. In 2001, I transferred to Pathway and I was immediately accepted by the students there, made friends easily, and I felt understood by the staff. My team of teachers, therapists, and other faculty members worked together to design a customized program and after a little while, I started making slow, but steady progress. Through the hard work of the staff at Pathway, I learned

how to regulate my emotions, proper social skills, and how to make and keep friends. They refused to give up on me and always had another solution for any problems I faced until we found something that worked.

At Pathway, I especially loved the horticulture program and started to possibly consider it as a career. It was always enjoyable and calming for me. The careers program, and on and off campus jobs, helped prepare me with interview and employment skills and by the time I graduated in 2007, I was completely transformed. Upon graduation, I started a part time job as a horticulture and pet

therapy assistant at a local nursing home. I then decided I wanted to pursue a career in horticulture and I started attending college part time at Montgomery County Community College. After transferring to Temple University's Ambler Campus I received an Associates degree in horticulture.

After graduating in 2012 with my associates degree, I did a year long internship in greenhouse production at Longwood Gardens, where I learned a lot more. Then I started my own garden business doing garden design, installation and maintenance and my business has grown a lot over the last 5 years. I also have a few employees working for me, now! In addition to starting my own business, I have also served as President of Abington AKTION Club where I am still an active member and I am in a few other social clubs. Now I continue to actively get together with friends and am hoping to get married, buy a house and have children sometime soon.

Danielle Charlton'07

A LEGACY THAT LASTS

LEGACY GIFTS, ALSO KNOWN AS PLANNED GIFTS, CAN INCLUDE GIFTS MADE THROUGH INDIVIDUALS' WILLS OR ESTATE PLANS.

Edward Sickles III, known to his friends, family, and colleagues as "Ed", was a Pathway student during his youth. While at Pathway, Ed successfully navigated his own learning challenges enabling him to eventually become a teacher himself. As a teacher, Ed worked with other students who had special needs and disabilities in the Hatboro-Horsham and Philadelphia school districts. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, ARC Alliance, and was involved in serving the community in other ways as well. Many students considered him not just their teacher but a mentor and a friend. Ed always had a special place in his heart for Pathway, the school that inspired him to work with others helping them address their own challenges. It was for that reason that Ed provided for Pathway in his estate plans. He knew that one way he could give back to the school that helped him so much was by leaving a planned gift to Pathway. Ed passed in 2013, but his memory and his legacy live on helping Pathway students today and well into the future. We are grateful to Ed and to all who provide for Pathway in their wills and estate plans through a planned gift.

To learn more about how a planned gift can help Pathway students, contact Jory Barrad at (610) 277-0660.

OUR DONORS

THE PATHWAY SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF ITS 2020-2021 CONTRIBUTORS. BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT, WE ARE ABLE TO UPHOLD OUR MISSION TO BUILD ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND LIFE SKILLS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND PROMOTE THEIR SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE AFTER PATHWAY.

This listing includes donors who made contributions to The Pathway School between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

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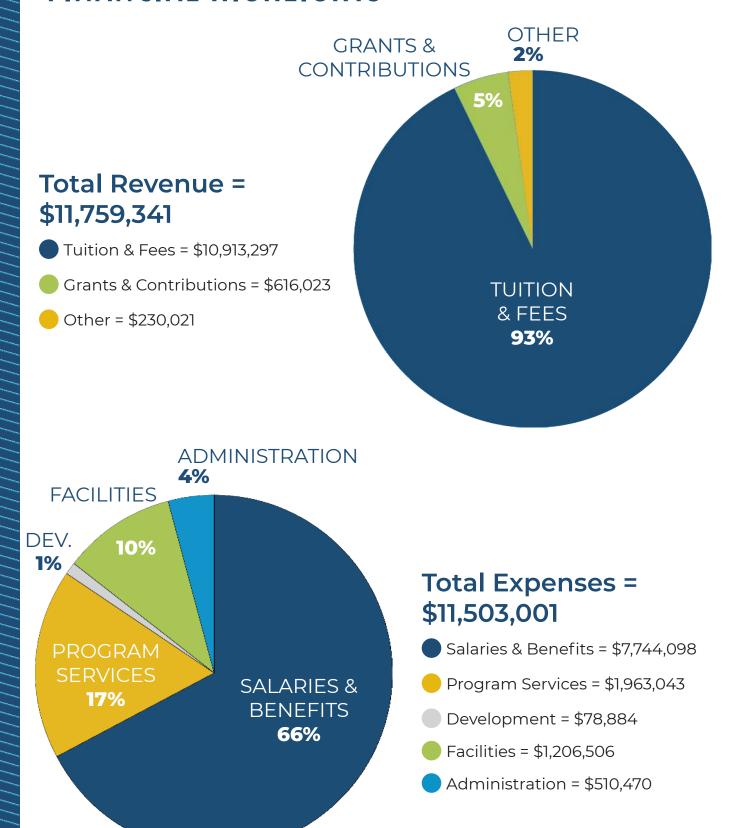
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- The Pathway School Campaign | Unleashing Potential through Innovation Our multi-year campaign to raise \$2.5 million benefitting Pathway students today and well into the future.
- The Pathway School Annual Fund Our annual fund that allows your gift to be used where it is most needed.

For more information, additional ways to support Pathway, or assistance with your contributions, please contact: Jory Barrad, Director of Development and Communications: (610) 277-0660, ext. 258, or jbarrad@pathwayschool.org.



