

Newsletter

spring 2011

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PATHWAY HOSTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

On April 8, 2011, The Pathway School hosted its 50th Anniversary Gala at Rivercrest Golf Club and Preserve in Phoenixville, PA. Parents, alumni, staff, board members and friends gathered to commemorate Pathway's rich history of educating young people while enjoying good food and entertainment, an extensive silent auction and great Pathway memories!

Also honored at the event was Frank Powers, President of Dudnyk, a full-service advertising agency located in Horsham, Pa. Powers was introduced to Pathway

in the spring 2010 and developed an instant affinity for the School.

Powers and his design team at Dudnyk created Pathway's new puzzle piece and tagline that now appears on our web site and promotional materials, including this newsletter!

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Frank Powers and his design team pose for a group shot as the festivities comes to a close for the evening.



It's not about forcing a fit

It's about finding a place

PATHWAY HOSTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

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Proceeds from the Gala totaled \$10,000 and will support the 2010-2011 Pathway Fund (formerly the Annual Fund).

On behalf of the entire Pathway community, thank you to all that made this event a huge success!



Several Pathway alumni parents, pictured above, celebrated this milestone event in Pathway's history.



Phillip Olejkowski and his wife Jeannie reunited with other Pathway alumni including Ernest Williams, Bill Bleiman and Cindy Tomko.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that the 2010-2011 school year is coming to a close. And what a year it has been! We have celebrated Pathway's 50th Anniversary all year beginning in July with a birthday party and a 50-foot cake. Our Gala on April 8 celebrated Pathway's legacy and the *Celebration of Learning* on May 23 focused on student achievement and unveiled the beautiful Mural that spans the length of our gymnasium. In a few short weeks, we will honor the Class of 2011 at our 50th Commencement Ceremony as 18 students graduate from The Pathway School and receive their Diploma or Certificate of Completion.

While we continue to



celebrate this milestone year, there is still work to be done. We need to raise much-needed money for student programs and services. If you have not already done so, please consider giving a gift, in any amount, to the 2010-2011 Pathway Fund which closes on June 30. You can even designate

a specific program that you wish to benefit from your gift. Also, please note the information enclosed on the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). This is a great way for local businesses to support our school and receive a significant tax credit.

On behalf of Pathway's Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of our School. Enjoy your summer!

David Maola, Esq.

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A DAY OF FUN AND HARD WORK!

On April 14, over 50 volunteers from local Home Depot stores, Philadelphia Cares and Ken's Krew invested a full-day to beautify Pathway's 14-acre campus. The large and enthusiastic group, which included several Pathway alumni, painted the exterior of classroom buildings, landscaped flower beds and cleaned and organized the greenhouse. The highlight of the event was the installation of a deer fence and gravel path leading to the greenhouse.



Pathway Alum Terry Mele paints an exterior wall of the George Washington building. Mele is now a member of Ken's Krew, an organization that offers vocational training and opportunities to young adults.



Home Depot and Ken's Krew volunteers prepare to dig a new walkway that leads to the greenhouse.

These improvements will help to re-energize Pathway's horticulture program for both students and staff with the planting of vegetables and herbs scheduled for this growing season. In addition to the Home Depot expertise and physical labor, the flowers, mulch, lumber and other various materials were generously donated by Home Depot!

THE PATHWAY SCHOOL GOES GREEN:

The Pathway School is embracing the "green movement" by reducing the amount of printed documents it sends out to Pathway parents and supporters. This means that we are planning on utilizing the web and having our newsletter available to all on our website and via e-mail.

We need your help! If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please send your name and e-mail to Amy Smith: Asmith@pathwayschool.org



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL SPEECH CONTEST

On April 12, 2011, 18 students participated in Pathway’s annual Speech Contest. Geoff Daniels won first place after writing and delivering a speech entitled “My Story,” a biographical piece detailing his struggles in school and how attending Pathway has helped him overcome many challenges. Below is an excerpt.

My self-confidence slowly declined until I went to Pathway. The people here welcomed me with open arms even though I was still afraid to come out of my shell. During my first year here, I was mean, jealous and apathetic. But, during the next few years, I slowly began to open up and I made new friends along the way.

Fast forward to me now: talking to you all, a changed man. It was a long road, full of pain, sorrow and heartbreak. But through all of that, I held on to one hope: that someone is watching over me and smiling down on me no matter what I do. If you’ve been down the same road that I have, I’m here to tell you that there is hope. You might feel like you’ve fallen 1,000 times but I say get up 1,001 times. I grew from a scared caterpillar hiding in the cocoon of my own low self-confidence and I stand in front of you all today, a butterfly.



Geoff Daniels

ALUMNI NOTES

We are always interested in what our alumni have been up to since leaving Pathway!

Please keep us informed of your accomplishments and personal milestones by writing to us at :

The Pathway School Newsletter

162 Egypt Road
Norristown, PA 19403

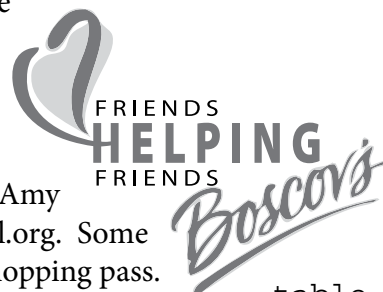


or e-mail: asmith@pathwayschool.org

(Remember to include your name, address, e-mail, telephone number and class year.)

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

The Pathway School and Boscov’s Department Store are partnering for a very special fundraising event called *Friends Helping Friends* on October 4, 2011. Parents, staff, students and friends of Pathway can purchase a shopping pass for \$5. On October 4, shoppers can visit any Boscov’s Department Store with their special shopping pass and receive 25% off their entire purchase! It’s that easy! And the best part is, The Pathway School gets to keep the entire \$5! It’s a win-win situation! If you’re interested in purchasing a Boscov’s Shopping Pass, please contact Amy Smith: asmith@pathwayschool.org. Some restrictions do apply for the shopping pass.



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50th ANNIVERSARY MURAL PROJECT

Thanks to funding from The Pathway Parent’s Association, we were able to commission a mural to commemorate Pathway’s 50th Anniversary. Local Artist Mary Noel Ellis Hall, created a composite sketch which evolved from discussions between Pathway staff and students and painting began in October.



Student Council President Jordan Quarles paints a colorful peace sign, an iconic symbol from the 1970’s.



Pathway student Jason Petrillo paints a panel piece for the 50th Anniversary mural that is now displayed in the gymnasium.

Throughout the remainder of the school year, students, staff, family and friends continued painting panels which depicted various Pathway and world events over the past 50 years. The beautiful mural was installed in May and spans the entire length of the gymnasium. Pathway President David Maola dedicated the mural at the Celebration of Learning event on May 23rd.

PATHWAY DEDICATES LIBRARY TO DR. EDWARD SCHILLINGER

Dr. Edward Schillinger, or Dr. Ed as he is affectionately known, is part of the fabric of The Pathway School’s rich history. During his 29 years of service, Dr. Ed provided psychological services to hundreds of Pathway’s special needs students and their families while also serving as a consultant and role model for the teachers, counselors and professional staff he worked with on a daily basis. Sadly, Dr. Ed passed away in 2008 after a lengthy illness.

On May 23, 2011, Pathway dedicated a newly refurbished library in Schillinger’s honor. The Schillinger Library is located in Butera Hall and will serve as a place of reflection, research and professional growth for all that use it. The inviting space, accented by Dr. Ed’s personal “big, comfy chair” will also be the first stop for all potential news students and their families as they begin their journey at Pathway.



HOW CAN I HELP?

The Pathway Fund (formally known as The Annual Fund) is the School's most important yearly fundraising program designed to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of a student's education.

You can choose to designate your gift to five areas including: Functional Skills, Related Services, Career Education, Instructional Materials and Transition Services or simply give an unrestricted gift.

Checks can be made out to:
The Pathway School
162 Egypt Road
Norristown, PA 19403

If you would prefer to pay via credit card, please call 610-277-0660, Ext. 212.

In 2001, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program to encourage local businesses to make contributions to benefit low-income students in exchange for substantial tax credits. The Pathway School has recently become a recognized scholarship organization. If your business is subject to one of the following taxes, it is eligible to participate in this program: Corporate Net Income Tax, Capital Stock Franchise Tax, Bank & Trust Company Shares Tax, Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax, Insurance Premiums Tax, Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax, Personal Income Tax of S corporation shareholders or partners in general or limited partnership.

If you are interested in helping your company qualify for this program, please contact Louise Robertson at 610-277-0660, ext. 212 for more information.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 8: Emotional Support Track and Field Day

June 9: Therapeutic Academic Program Track & Field Day

June 10th: End of the Year Awards Ceremony

June 13: Positive Behavior Support Day of Fun

June 14th: Graduation: 5:30pm, Westover Country Club

June 15th: Last Day of School - early dismissal at 1pm

July 6th: ESY Program Begins

August 16th: ESY Program Ends

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PATHWAY'S ANNUAL EMPLOYER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Pathway School's annual Employer Appreciation Luncheon was held on Wednesday, May 18. The following local businesses were honored for partnering with Pathway students by giving them real-life work experiences in the community!

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|---|--|
| All 4 Paws Rescue | John Evans |
| Allura Salon | Linton's Managed Services |
| Boscov's | Longhorn Steakhouse |
| Chick-Fil-A | Lower Providence Library |
| Christine's Family Restaurant | Marshall Street School |
| Fairview Christian Academy | The Norristown Ministries Hospitality Center |
| Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene | Shannondell |
| Homewood Suites | Souderton Mennonite Home |
| IKEA | Sun & Earth, Inc. |



The Pathway School's 2012 Golf Outing!

May 15, 2012
RiverCrest Golf Club and Preserve
Phoenixville, PA

The mission of The Pathway School is to build academic, social and life skills in students with special needs to promote their success and independence after Pathway.

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The Pathway Newsletter is Edited by Amy Smith, Communications & Marketing Specialist - Asmith@pathwayschool.org

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www.pathwayschool.org
610-277-0660
Norristown, PA 19403
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