

Record Number of Pathways Clients Earn College Degrees in 2019

More than half planning to attend graduate school.

For the Pathways to Independence clients who came together in late June to celebrate their graduation from college, the occasion was an opportunity to take stock of their personal achievements, but the event also marked a significant milestone for the organization itself - the 2019 graduating class of 13 young women represents the largest since Pathways' founding in 1991. Impressively, more than half of this year's Pathways graduates plan to further their education and pursue advanced degrees.

Pathway's Executive Director Goretty Ramos, who emceed this year's ceremony, beamed as she reflected on each graduate's accomplishments.

"Despite their difficult pasts, these young women dared to dream," Ramos told the audience. "It's been a humbling experience to witness their individual transformations. Now they're facing a new journey, going into the world to make a positive impact."

**THE DEPARTURE OF THIS
YEAR'S GRADUATES
WILL OPEN UP A
RECORD NUMBER OF
SLOTS FOR THE GIRLS
ON PATHWAYS'
GROWING WAITING LIST**

Then, one by one, Ramos introduced the graduates and they shared their stories. They talked about how they initially came to Pathways and the myriad of challenges they've had to overcome to obtain a

degree. The women's circumstances vary, but for many the struggles included bouts of homelessness, addiction, incarceration, as well as physical and sexual abuse. By the time they were accepted into Pathways, most of the women had little hope and even less self-esteem.

**"Pathways believed in us,
even when we didn't believe
in ourselves."**

Stephanie M., 2019 Pathways graduate

"I will be forever indebted to this program," said Christie P. "All I ever really wanted to do was help people, but first I had to help myself."



2019

THIS YEAR'S PATHWAYS GRADUATES ARE:



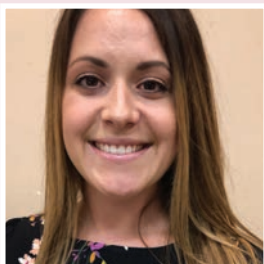
ALEXANDRIA S.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology



CHAELY S.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology



CHELSEA N.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Science in Human Services



CHRISTIE P.

CSU Dominguez Hills, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

"I have pride in who I am today because Pathways helped me foster a sense of worthiness," said Roxanne D. "Before I felt like an invisible void with an aimless existence. Pathways has given me a second chance at actually having a life that is worth living."

Those sentiments were echoed by virtually all this year's graduates and they voiced their gratitude for Pathways' unflinching support, both emotional and material. Several graduates noted the mattress Pathways furnished them when they first entered the program was the first bed they'd ever had of their own. Another, who dropped out of high school and lost custody of her children due to addiction, said the dental work Pathways provided to restore her drug-ravaged smile helped give her the confidence not only to tackle college, but also to seek a reunion with her kids. But whether their immediate futures include graduate school, pursuing a career, or starting a family, collectively the women expressed a desire to give back and help others like themselves who've faced adversity.

Asked about the reasons behind 2019's record-large graduating class, Executive Director Ramos modestly demurred, saying much of it is due to timing and coincidence. But she acknowledged it's also a testament to the impressive results Pathways continues to achieve as it approaches its third decade.

"We're going to miss the dynamic women who were part of this year's graduating class," Ramos said. "Their journeys with Pathways helped make their lives better and they helped us make history. They'll be much missed."

But Ramos pointed out there's a silver lining. The departure of this year's graduates will open up a record number of slots for the girls on Pathways' growing waiting list – the future graduating class of 2023.

Where are they now?

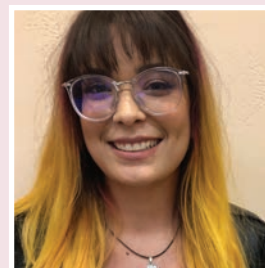
We truly appreciate the wonderful group of clients with whom we have been privileged to work with the past 28 years. They have worked hard, confronted their pasts, transformed their lives and become women of purpose. We are proud of all of our clients, their accomplishments and their desire and ability to pay it all forward. Read about one of our graduates and where she is now...

Angelica kept her promise to Pathways to “pay it forward.” Upon completion of her BS in International Business and Marketing from CSULB in 2005, Angelica began serving a nine-year term on our Board of Directors. She held many volunteer roles with Pathways to Independence serving as a mentor, mentor coordinator and the Pathways Complex Manager for many years. In addition, she eagerly enlisted in Friends of Pathways, applying her enthusiasm and expertise to benefit the organization that enabled her to achieve the self-sufficiency that characterizes her life today. She is proud to be involved with the organization that helped mold her into the



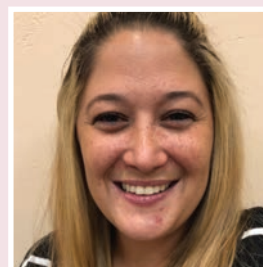
woman that she is today. Angelica grew up in an alcoholic home and with the resources that Pathways provided, she worked hard to overcome the feelings of insecurity and “not being enough” that plagued her since childhood. “I would not be the confident, successful, happy woman that I am today had it not been for Pathways to Independence. This organization changed my life”. She continues to work through her struggles like everyone. When times are tough, she believes in working hard, staying positive and persevering through the adversity. Her motto in life is: Miracles are my normal. Things are always working out for me.

Currently, Angelica is a busy wife and mother who also maintains a demanding job outside the home. She is a pharmaceutical sales representative with a leading pharmaceutical company. She’s an inspiration.



CHRISTINA C.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Science in Biology



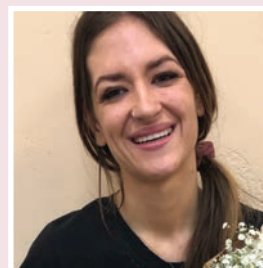
DANIELLE T.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Arts in Human Communications



KOLBY F.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Science in Human Services



LAUREN S.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Science in Earth Science

FRIENDS OF PATHWAYS
23RD ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Fiesta
5 October 2019 IN THE PARK

Dust off your sombreros and join Friends of Pathways for our 23rd Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, October 5th. This year we celebrate colorful and vibrant old Mexico with a “Fiesta in the Park”!

If you can't make it, we would still love your support of this worthwhile cause.

There are many ways to help out:

SPONSOR OUR EVENT

Starting at \$500, includes event tickets & recognition
contact Lisa Mais at

lisa.mais@pathwaystoindependence.org

ATTEND THE EVENT

purchase tickets at
pathwaystoindependence.org

DONATE FUN STUFF

to feature in our Silent or Live Auction -
contact Maribel Mullery at mullery417@gmail.com

PURCHASE OPPORTUNITY TICKETS

3 for \$25; 12 for \$100. Contact Misha Heller at mishahellermd@gmail.com

Winners need not be present to win!

GRAND PRIZE

Dream Vacation!
\$3,000 toward a vacation destination of your choosing

2ND PRIZE

\$1,000 CASH

3RD PRIZE

\$500 Gift Certificate to Terranea Resort.

If you would like to donate send a check made out to Friends of Pathways and mail to P.O. Box 43, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

We hope to see you at Fiesta in the Park and are grateful for your continued support of Pathways to Independence

SPONSORSHIP FORM



DIAMOND \$20,000

Benefits include:

- 20 GUESTS FOR PRE-EVENT VIP FIESTA ELEGANTE
- 20 TICKETS TO EVENT WITH VIP CHECK IN
- TWO PREMIER TABLES OF 10
- FULL PAGE COLOR AD ON FRONT OR BACK COVER IN EVENT PROGRAM (5.5"W X 8.5"H) and more!

RUBY \$10,000

Benefits include:

- 10 GUESTS FOR PRE-EVENT VIP FIESTA ELEGANTE
- 10 TICKETS TO EVENT WITH VIP CHECK-IN
- 1 PREMIER TABLE OF 10
- FULL PAGE COLOR AD IN EVENT PROGRAM (5.5"W X 8.5"H) and more!

PLATINUM \$7,500

Benefits include:

- 10 GUESTS FOR PRE-EVENT VIP FIESTA ELEGANTE
- 10 TICKETS TO EVENT WITH VIP CHECK-IN
- FULL PAGE AD IN EVENT PROGRAM (5.5"W X 8.5"H) and more!

GOLD \$5,000

Benefits include:

- 8 GUESTS FOR PRE-EVENT VIP FIESTA ELEGANTE
- 8 TICKETS TO EVENT WITH VIP CHECK-IN
- 3/4 PAGE AD IN EVENT PROGRAM (5.5"W X 6.3"H) and more!

SILVER \$2,500

Benefits include:

- 6 TICKETS TO EVENT
- 1/2 PAGE AD IN EVENT PROGRAM (5.5"W X 4.25"H)
- RECOGNITION ON WEBSITE, IN PROGRAM & SIGNAGE AT EVENT and more!

BRONZE \$1,000

Benefits include:

- 4 TICKETS TO EVENT
- BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD IN PROGRAM (2.75" X 4.25")

COPPER \$500

Benefits include:

- 2 TICKETS TO EVENT
- RECOGNITION IN PROGRAM AND SIGNAGE AT EVENT

CORPORATE, BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL: *(Please Print)*

Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Day): _____ E-mail: _____

Nature of Business _____ Sorry, I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ _____

DEADLINE: All checks and graphics must be received by September 13th in order to be recognized in the program.

Thank you for your support!!

Please mail this form and a check to:

Friends of Pathways

Attention: Lisa Mais

P.O. Box 43, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

lisa.mais@pathwaystoindependence.org

For More Info About Program Ad:

Lindsay Mais | 562.260.7052

lindsaymais@gmail.com

Federal Tax Id # 33-0148082

How would you like your name or business name to be displayed on signage at the event?

Options on submitting info/graphics for program:

I've mailed a hard copy of the graphics to be scanned to Lindsay Mais, P.O. BOX 43, LOS ALAMITOS CA 90720

I've emailed the graphics to lindsaymais@gmail.com Any graphics sent _____ should be in .jpg format and will be sized according to donation amount.

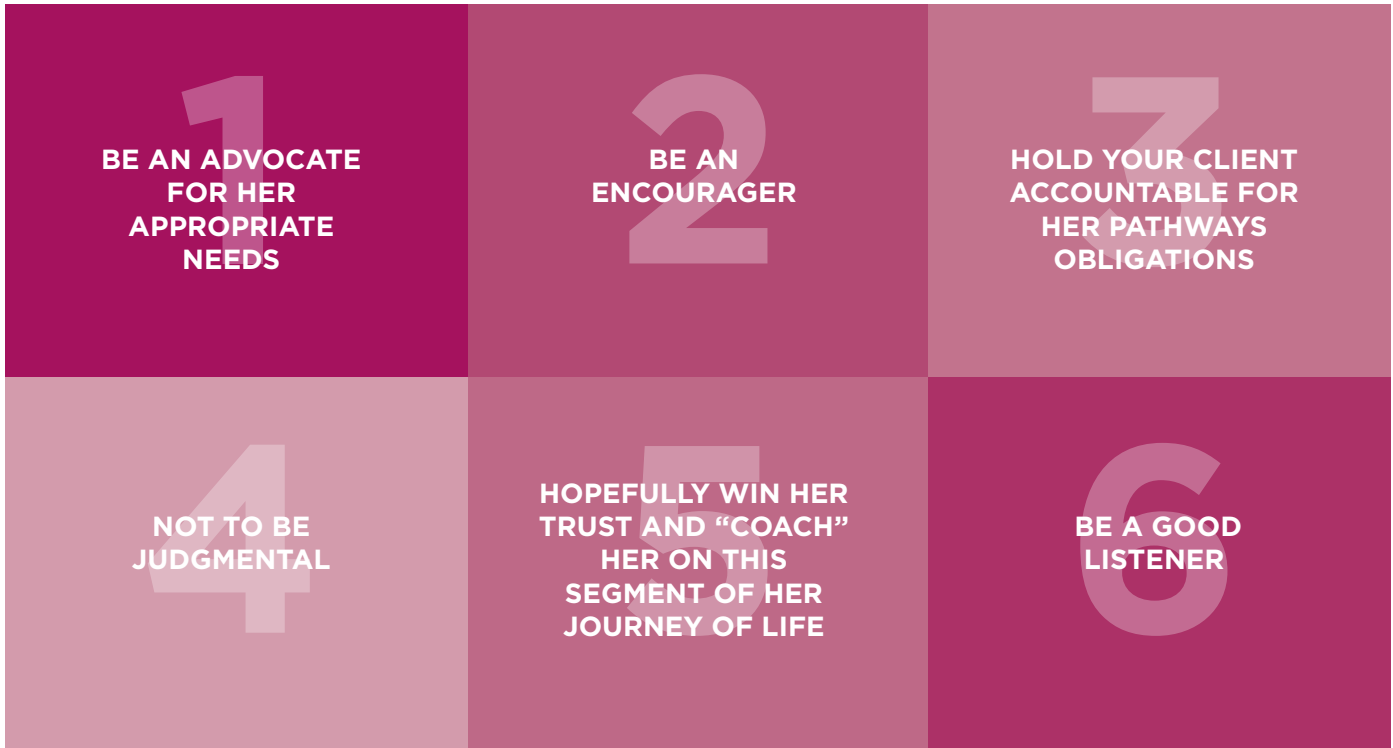
Please use the below information to create an ad for me.

Mentors Needed

With the graduation this past June of 13 clients there is now room for 13 more new clients!

If you think you would be interested in being a mentor please contact Goretty Ramos at Goretty.Ramos@pathwaystoindependence.org

A few characteristics of a good mentor:



The minimal time commitment is a weekly conversation, hopefully a meaningful conversation, not just small talk. Some clients call a few times a week, others the dutiful once a week. Mentors are encouraged to have a face-to-face meeting (coffee, brunch, etc.) at least once per quarter, more if desired, just to further ensure that all is well.

Training for mentors will include the best tools and resources to support the young women through their transformative journey.

****Licensed therapists**, dentists, orthodontists and optometrists NEEDED as well. Please contact Lori San Filippo at lorirobin311@aol.com



Co-Dependency 101 Client Retreat

Our retreat this year continued to focus on Independence and the preparation for life after Pathways. Sharon Dickson LCSW and Nikki Harris LMFT (our therapist coordinators) were in charge again, however this year they asked the clients to speak up and have a voice. The clients were encouraged to

share and discuss their ideas for changes regarding retreats in the future, and their voices were heard and received. Their ideas / requests will be evaluated and decisions will be made accordingly to continue to do our best to meet their needs.



Dr. Misha Heller, *Friend of Pathways* raised \$10,000 last year in one day from the Botox party.

Heller
Dermatology & Aesthetic Surgery

Heller Dermatology & Aesthetic Surgery would like to invite all Friends of Pathways to our 2nd Annual "Botox" Party!

Only \$10 per unit!

2nd Annual "Botox" Party

Xeomin® is FDA approved and clinically proven to temporarily improve the appearance of moderate to severe frown lines for up to 3 months.

All proceeds will benefit...

Pathways
TO INDEPENDENCE™

Friday, August 30, 2019 from 9 am to 5 pm
1760 Termino Ave. #114, Long Beach, CA 90804
www.hellerderm.com (562) 498-2459



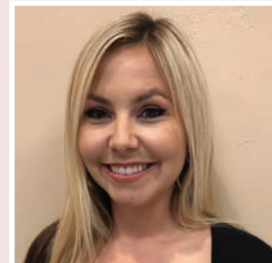
MEGHAN B.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology



ROXANNE D.

CSU Fullerton, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology



SAVANNAH C.

Golden West College, Nursing



STEPHANIE M.

CSU Long Beach, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management



VANESSA S.

CSU Long Beach, Bachelor of Science in Nursing



P.O. Box 43
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
562.493.9048
PathwaystoIndependence.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LOS ALAMITOS, CA
PERMIT NO. 143

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BOARD MEMBERS

Raymond Cervantes

Wil Drouin

Lisa Fluke

Suzy Gowin

Jerry Green

Nikki Harris, M.A., LMFT

David Hatton, PhD

Diana Hill

Elizabeth Hogrebe – *Board Chair*

Tracey Hutton

Tiffany Jacobs 

Janica Jesson 

Ron Murrey

Jeff Barke, M.D. – *Emeritus*

 Graduate



DONATE YOUR CAR

We need 13 new cars for 13 new clients.

Want to donate a serviceable car to Pathways?

Contact our volunteer Auto Coordinator,

Glen Simpson at 714 579-5256 or

glen.simpson@carsonhonda.net



Through your donations to Pathways, our clients learn independence and their futures are changed for the better. Thank you for your consideration in contributing to Pathways.

Since its inception in 1991, over 300 young women have participated in the program. Pathways is appreciative of its personal, corporate and service organization sponsors, as well as the health care providers who donate their services without charge to improve the quality of life of Pathways clients.

For more info call, 562-493-9048

Let your gifts to your loved ones also benefit Pathways to Independence!

Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases when you shop at Amazon Smile.

Simply do your shopping via smile.amazon.com

CLICK ON:

Your Account

CHOOSE:

Change Charity

TYPE IN:

Pathways to Independence

SELECT:

The choice that includes Los Alamitos, 1994

*Thank you so much
for your support!*