

# VISIONS AND PATHWAYS

## Spring 2019 Newsletter

### Preventing drug misuse: youth discuss legal marijuana impact

Indications are that adult recreational use of marijuana will be legal in New Jersey. But what does this mean for our youth?

Visions and Pathways (V&P) is co-sponsoring workshops called “Now You Know” throughout the state to acquaint youth with what will happen if and when adult use of marijuana becomes legal. The first workshop session was hosted earlier this year by the law firm of Norris McLaughlin, P.A. of Bridgewater. PG Health, based in Cherry Hill, a consulting firm for the use of medical marijuana, was V&P’s primary partner.

“Our goal is to prevent drug misuse by educating our youth,” said Visions and Pathways CEO David Walker. “There is a lot of interest in the possible legalization. It is a provocative topic. But if legalization occurs, it is important for youth to learn how the new laws impact them and know that underage use is still unlawful.

“Bottom-line, we want to keep our kids drug free, and we don’t want our kids in juvenile detention or jail.”

The youth attended three 20-minute sessions, which were held at the law firm offices. Faye Coleman, PG Health’s CEO, and a group of highly qualified panelists spoke first to the youth to clarify what legalizing marijuana means to those under 21. Many, Coleman noted, believe wrongly that legalization will permit anyone to purchase marijuana for recreational use.

“It’s legal, but it’s not legal for you,” she told the youth. “If you break the law, it will change the trajectory of your lives.”

Young people have curiosity, Coleman went on, and without education that curiosity could lead them down a path they don’t want. “Is it worth your life? Your freedom? Your future financial freedom?” she asked.

There can be health risks and other problems associated with marijuana use, she said. But the other side of the marijuana legalization issue is that it will most certainly create a new industry in New Jersey and an opportunity for young people to prepare for these new careers while they are in college.

“Information is power,” Coleman said, which was the reason PG Health is partnering with Visions and Pathways to offer the workshops. “Our youth must be well informed,” she emphasized.

Other panelists and facilitators included Keya C. Denner, the former lead of Norris McLaughlin’s cannabis unit; Adrina Walker; Ron Morris, a teacher in the Philadelphia

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FIRST OF important workshops Visions and Pathways will hold throughout the state to talk to youth about what happens when marijuana becomes legal took place recently at the Norris McLaughlin law firm in Bridgewater. Faye Coleman of PG Health (at microphone), Visions and Pathways’ partner in the workshops, addressed participants. Others who spoke (from left to right) were Visions and Pathways CEO David Walker, attorney Keya Denner, and Adrina Walker.

### Spark! Gala to be held June 6



Visions and Pathways’ annual Spark! Gala will be Thursday, June 6 at the Bridgewater Marriott, beginning at 6 p.m.

Honorees include Bausch Health Companies Inc. in Bridgewater and Claire Calandra, a former member of the Visions and Pathways Board of Trustees who is now serving on the Advisory Council.

Bausch Health is a global company whose mission is to improve people’s lives through its health care products, primarily in the therapeutic areas of eye health, gastroenterology and dermatology.

Funds raised by the gala support the agency’s programs, including outreach and prevention services (which combat the opioid epidemic and help human trafficking victims), temporary housing, arts and recreation, counseling, life skills training, scholarships, and more. Since

1970, over 9,500 youth have benefited from the organization’s work.

The gala is Visions and Pathways’ largest event. Last year’s gala raised more than \$70,000, the highest amount ever raised, and organizers are hoping to do even better this year.



**Dennis Miller**

“The gala is our biggest event of the year, where everyone comes together in support of our organization, and we recognize the companies and individuals who are so critical to our success,” said Visions and

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YOUTH BROKE into small groups at the workshop to hear from speakers like Ron Morris (at board right). Morris is a Philadelphia schoolteacher who works with young people to prevent drug misuse.

## Save the date: June 6 Gala

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Pathways CEO and Executive Director David Walker. “It is a very uplifting evening, and I hope all those who supported us in the past will attend as well as those who are just getting involved in the important work we do.”

The theme for the evening is “A Hopeful Future for Youth.” Chair of the gala is Pamela Walker, a volunteer from Meridian Health. Principal speaker is Dennis Miller, an author, motivational speaker, leadership coach, and CEO who has helped hundreds of nonprofit organizations find a roadmap forward past obstacles that seemed insurmountable.

What most people don’t know about Miller is that his childhood was defined by emotional and physical abuse, difficulty in school, and mental health issues. He reached out to a helping hand when he recognized one – an agency much like Visions and Pathways.

News 12 New Jersey anchor Della Crews has agreed to act as master of ceremonies. The evening will include a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner, and an awards ceremony. Learn more at [Sparkgala.org](http://Sparkgala.org). Tickets are \$150 per person and can be obtained by emailing Development Associate Adriana Gonzalez at [agonzalez@visionsandpathways.org](mailto:agonzalez@visionsandpathways.org).

Bausch Health is the gala’s platinum sponsor. Silver sponsors for the gala include AT&T and Nisivoccia, LLP.

## ‘Now You Know’ informs youth about marijuana

(continued from page 1)

School System who works with young people to prevent drug misuse; Dasheeda Dawson of Brooklyn, New York, who runs MJM Strategy, a consulting firm for marijuana businesses; Leo Bridgewater, an Iraq war veteran with PTSD

and President of the NJ Chapter of Minorities for Medical Marijuana; and Cherron Perry Thomas, Director of Social Impact for the Diasporic Alliance for Cannabis (DACO), a marijuana education organization.

## Visions and Pathways initiates new youth entrepreneurship project

Can you improve youth’s academic performance by teaching them the basics of business and the value of hard work and perseverance?

Visions and Pathways believes you can, and it has put into place a new program called the Prosperity Entrepreneurship Project (PEP) that works with young people 12 to 17 from Somerset, Middlesex, and Union Counties who want to start a business.

Some day, one of these teens could be the Jeff Bezos of the next generation..

The foundations they get from PEP will help youth learn what it takes to be successful and begin to “adopt a winning attitude,” said David Walker, CEO and Executive Director of Visions and Pathways.

Those who enroll will attend special workshops, have regular attendance at school, maintain good grades, complete PEP assignments, and be available for weekly home visits. Each participant will develop a business plan, and the best plans will receive cash awards.

The exciting new program is a collaborative effort involving Visions and Pathways staff, local businesses such as the Affinity Federal Credit Union, the Somerset County Business Partnership, SCORE, and the Upper Rung Center of Somerset, New Jersey, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing education, job skills, and the development of micro-businesses by low income minority entrepreneurs.

PEP is made possible through a grant from the New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI), a division of the New Jersey Department of State that works to eliminate all barriers to funding, create greater access for partnership, and enhance the programs of faith and community based organizations.

Services to at-risk youth are one of the Office’s top

priorities, and its grants focus on helping non-profits like Visions and Pathways, which works exclusively with youth, to reduce their dependency on government funding while generating revenue in new and exciting ways.

“We are grateful for the OFBI’s support,” said Walker. “We look forward to working with Upper Rung and our other collaborative partners to implement this exciting program.”

According to Walker, PEP is an extension of Visions and Pathways’ existing Prosperity program, a home visitation project that assists youth by providing education in independent living skills, career counseling, and preparation for employment. Mentoring and one-on-one support that are hallmarks of the Prosperity program will be replicated in the PEP program, he explained.

“Teaching our youth entrepreneurship allows them to develop valuable skills in supply and demand, financial responsibility, the importance of relationships, and how to moderate risks,” noted Juanita Painson, CEO and executive director of the Upper Rung Center.

“Youth entrepreneurship has been proven to boost academic performance, school attendance, interpersonal skills, job readiness, problem solving skills, and decision-making abilities,” Painson added. She said youth can implement entrepreneurship as an alternative to traditional employment, which can lead eventually to a primary career during and after college.

Walker and the Visions and Pathways staff can’t wait to see what business ideas the PEP enrollees come up with. New foods? Concepts in technology? Fashion? Beauty? Online retail?

There are no limits what PEP might produce.



ENTREPRENEURS speak regularly to Visions and Pathways youth, such as those at a recent workshop: (left to right) Michael Kaufman, owner of Cox Printers in Linden, Kevin McAllister, who has a deejay business called Total Entertainment, and Rachel Seidner, who owns City Playbook in Randolph, a concierge service for professional athletes. A new initiative called the Prosperity Entrepreneurship Project (PEP) has just begun at Visions and Pathways following the award of a grant from the state.



## How to be a good citizen

# Visions and Pathways' new Philanthropy program for youth to reach the needy

What if you took a group of Visions and Pathways youth and placed them on the giving side of giving rather than the receiving side of giving?

A compelling new program the organization will offer is teaching teens to have empathy for others perhaps even more needy.

Along the way they are finding out new things about their personal values and how good it makes one feel to be philanthropic.

Main Street Philanthropy is the name of the unique program that will launch later this year. The teens enrolled will receive an invaluable education in citizenship, giving, and community awareness, which Visions and Pathways Executive Director and CEO David Walker believes is not being done anywhere in the country with a disaffected youth population.

The Main Street Philanthropy course was developed by teachers and wealth advisors nationally and brought to New Jersey by Yale Levey, who runs Next Generation Wealth Planning, LLC in Manalapan, New Jersey.

Levey explains that philanthropy is "socio-economic agnostic." In other words, people who have serious wealth can become philanthropic, and so can those who do not have much. "Nobody has a monopoly on how to help other people," he stressed.

"Main Street Philanthropy is a curriculum that's all about instilling and ingraining a passion for philanthropy as a lifestyle," said Levey, who acts as "ambassador" for the program. He first helps the youth drill down how they would like to help the world, then breaks them down into like-minded teams for the rest of the program, giving the teenagers a glimpse into group collaboration. "Shared giving experiences bring people together," Levey noted.

At the initial orientation workshop, Levey told the youth, "I am going to take you through an



**TO GIVE BACK** is the aim of the new Main Street Philanthropy program to begin later this year for Visions and Pathways youth. One of the program's creators, financial planner Yale Levey, ran an orientation session recently, handing out program literature to Bianca S.

experience that will help you to be able to help other people."

One member of the workshop, Bianca S., was among the few who knew about philanthropy. "It's like giving away money to help people," she volunteered.

"Exactly," said Levey, who explained to the youth that the word "philanthropy" is not only about money but about love for people. "It's about loving people," he said. "You can be a philanthropist if you open the door for someone." Can one person make a difference?

Levey asked if the youth believed one person can make a difference in the world. All raised

their hands.

"I believe this program will change the world from the bottom up," he told the group. "It's about giving you the power to change not only your world but other people's worlds from the bottom up. Any one of us can have a great impact on others."

With Levey's guidance, the teams will be investigating charities that correspond to their passions and invite representatives from those charities to come speak to them. Later, the youth will hold small fundraisers and in the end donate grants to the organizations they most admire.

Along the way, Levey is teaching critical skills such as how to do research, how to give a talk, and how to analyze a charity's tax returns. Youth get a real world learning experience in math, social sciences, group study and collaboration, and basic life skills.

The experience adds up to grooming a philanthropy-minded teenager with improved financial literacy, written and oral communication skills, and, in the end, a more elevated self-image.

Levey and Walker met through a Main Street Philanthropy program at Franklin Township High School when Walker came to talk to teens there about Visions and Pathways.

Levey said he had been thinking through how best to deploy a philanthropy program for an inner-city high school but started thinking about a parallel route when he re-connected with Walker and Jennifer Amaya, Visions and Pathways' Director for Outreach and Prevention.

Ultimately that dialogue brought Main Street Philanthropy to Visions and Pathways. "We are so pleased to bring the Main Street Philanthropy program to our youth," said Amaya. "We see this as a way to get our youth involved in philanthropy and to get them to understand what philanthropy is and how it is seen in their daily life."

## Victory Subaru keeps on giving through Share the Love

Through the Share the Love Event, a national campaign by Subaru, the generosity of clients, and the hard work of its employees, Victory Subaru in Somerset, New Jersey continued support for Visions and Pathways.

Over the last 11 years, through the Share the Love event, Subaru of America has donated more than \$140 million to national and local charities.

Brandon and Mimi Baker, who own the dealership, believe in community. "There's an African proverb that I believe shines light on the importance of supporting local programs like Visions and Pathways," said Mimi Baker. "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Togetherness, she explained, is a hallmark of the Share the Love event, which provides a means for Victory's clients and employees to give back to the community – especially



populations that are in need. Beside the work involved in Share the Love, Victory Subaru also has an in-house mentoring program that has a broad impact. The dealership not only supports

Visions and Pathways but other charities as well, ranging from animal shelters to pediatric cancer

When she first met with the Visions and Pathways team three years ago, Baker said she was impressed with the sincerity and dedication of the staff. "And after visiting one of the housing units, I was completely blown away by the respect, ambition, and hope the residents displayed," she noted.

"Victory Subaru is proud to support Visions and Pathways," said Baker. "Without question, they provide the much needed support and resources to lead displaced children and young adults on the path to envisioning their future and helping their dreams become a reality.

"The tremendous gift of hope and security that Visions and Pathways offers not only helps our local community grow and prosper but encourages the entire well being of the world around us as well."

## Pinot's Palette fundraiser



FUNDRAISER at Pinot's Palette in Somerville in March (photo left) brought out many "arty" supporters of Visions and Pathways' scholarship program, who had a terrific time creating paintings. At the easel (photo above) is William Goodwin, chair of Visions and Pathways' Scholarship Committee, which planned the evening, and his daughter, Erika Convery.

## Success Stories

### Hakeem

Hakeem was 14 years old. He could not understand why his mother drank all the time and would leave him home to take care of his two younger brothers and sister. She would leave them in the house without food or heat in the winter. He would go through garbage cans to find food so they would not go through the day without a meal. Sometimes he would beg for money on the street.

His mother would bring home men from bars. Hakeem would take money out of their pockets when they fell asleep to buy food for him and his siblings. One of the neighbors saw Hakeem looking through the garbage and called a child protection agency. All of the kids were removed their mother's home. His mother moved away and never returned.

Hakeem and his siblings were placed in different foster homes. He did not get along with some of the kids in the different foster homes and experience multiple placements. But he would always have monthly visits with his siblings.

Hakeem was placed in our group home when he was 17 and stayed until he was 21. He worked hard and graduated from high school with good grades. Then, he completed a trade school for air conditioning and heater repair.

After he left our program and got an apartment, Hakeem petitioned Family Court for his siblings to move in with him. He won his case!! His brothers and sisters graduated from high school and are attending college. He always wanted to have his siblings live with him. He volunteers his time as a mentor with Visions and Pathways and gives back to his community. He knows the more you give, people will know how much you care and will also give back in many ways to help each other.

### Adam

Adam came from a tough childhood. There was lots of physical and emotional abuse in the home growing up. He graduated high school but didn't feel he was emotionally able to embark on his continued education journey quite yet. Several things contributed to this decision, one being his lack of stable, safe housing and another being the start of his journey transitioning to

being male.

Adam was not accepted by his family since they only knew him as a female, but he knew he needed to live his truth. He has been working full time to make ends meet, but where he was staying was not turning into a safe environment. More money was being demanded to stay there, and he wasn't even staying in his own room -- he was sleeping on the sofa.

Adam called Street Smart for assistance. Outreach was able to have him interview for an Independent Living Program that would allow him to work, save money and start to embark on his college education plan. While in the program, he is also able to work on himself through therapy with the Behavioral Health Department. He was accepted into the program and was finally able to feel safe and secure.

### Kelly

Kelly is enrolled in our Prosperity Independent Living Skills home visitation program. At 18 years old, Kelly had spent most of her life in foster care. She experienced multiple failed placements and did not have a support system. While in her last foster home she became pregnant and was not able to stay. Fortunately, Kelly was able to enroll temporarily in a Mommy and Me program.

While she was in the Mommy and Me program that she came into contact with Prosperity. She felt overwhelmed and alone. But she wanted a better life for her child than she had experienced. Kelly was able to obtain a housing voucher and secure an apartment for herself and child. She is motivated to give her daughter Promise a good life.

Kelly is not the same person we first met. She knows that she has to take initiative and she is taking charge of her life.

Kelly has already completed most of her short-term goals. One goal was to obtain her driver's license. She failed the first time she took the written test to get her learner's permit. She was frustrated. However, Kelly didn't quit. She continued to study, re-took the test and passed. Next, she was determined to obtain a driver's license. After taking numerous driving classes and failing, she finally passed her road test!

Kelly's educational goal was to attend a Certified

Home Health Aide class. It took many months to find an appropriate course. However, she persevered, found a program that was the right fit, and completed her certification. She has already completed her physical and necessary documents to begin employment with Bayada. Soon she will be scheduled for a skills test (which she is confident that she will pass), begin her orientation, and become fully employed. She was also offered employment at Century 21 to work as a Loss Prevention Associate.

Kelly is progressing along the path to becoming independent. She looks forward to be able to support herself and her daughter.

### Linda

Linda's mom died when she was nine. After her mother's death, she lived with her father and brothers. She was physically and sexually abused by her father and brothers since the age of 12. One morning, her teacher saw the marks on her face and arms. She sent Linda to talk to the school social worker. The social worker contacted the Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP).

Linda was placed in a foster home. But, she did not get along with her foster parents. After several failed placements, Linda moved into our group home when she was 16.

She was emotionally broken and did not trust anyone when she came to Visions and Pathways. We offered therapy, arts and recreational activities and group mentoring to help address the trauma from her abuse. We also helped her reconnect with her maternal family members.

She was thankful to finally have adults in her life whom she could trust. With time, she grew strong and improved her sense of self-worth. Linda is presently living with a maternal aunt in Franklin, continues to see her therapist, attends Raritan Valley Community College and is working toward a degree in Criminal Justice.

Linda wants to be a voice for youth who are not able to speak for themselves. She returns to Visions and Pathways as a peer mentor to speak to our residents about her life. Her message is: "It is not where you come from but where you are going."



## Know more about us . . .

Visions and Pathways provides abused, neglected, homeless, and runaway youth with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services that guide them in becoming self-sufficient.

The agency runs 11 programs for vulnerable youth: Brahma House residential crisis intervention program; Passages, My Place and Whitney House residential

transitional-living programs; Prosperity independent-living skills education program; Street Smart street outreach program; Transitional Learning Center for in-house education instruction; Bridge House and Village House, supportive-housing for aged-out youth, an Arts and Recreation Program, and the Transitions Aftercare Program.

Since 1970, over 9,500 youth have come to seek shelter, food, clothing, and support services.

For more information, visit [visionsandpathways.org](http://visionsandpathways.org) or contact Executive Director David Walker, Esq. MSW at [dwalker@visionsandpathways.org](mailto:dwalker@visionsandpathways.org).

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*CEO/Executive Director*

## Advisory Council has two new co-chairs

The appointment of two new co-chairs, Grant Gallagher and Lewis Gorden, has reinvigorated the Visions and Pathways Advisory Council.

Both men have long histories of involvement with Visions and Pathways and a strong commitment to helping youth.

The interests of both men lie in empowering two of Visions and Pathways' newest initiatives -- the partnership with the International Youth Organization in Newark and the Bridge House capital project.

Gallagher, a Flanders resident, is manager of external affairs and financial education for the Affinity Federal Credit Union in Basking Ridge, New Jersey's largest credit union. He is responsible for strategic planning, execution, and volunteer management of the Credit Union's financial educational and wellness programs as well as being responsible for all political and legislative advocacy.

Since 2012 he has been working with Visions and Pathways to bring a financial literacy program to our youth. Once a month Visions and Pathways teens go to the Affinity Federal Credit Union headquarters to learn about household budgets, credit cards, savings accounts, car payments, and other financial skills. "It's one of our most treasured programs," Gallagher noted.

Gallagher not only manages the literacy program but has been one of the Affinity instructors for nearly 50 sessions over the last seven years.

He was asked to join the Advisory Council two

years ago after the success of the financial literacy program and involvement in other Visions and Pathways initiatives, such as the Run and Walk for Our Children's Future. "I am looking forward to serving as co-chair and putting our creativity to work," he noted.

Gorden, who lives in Somerset, is a retired human services professional who now is an entertainment promoter. For 40 years he has had a keen interest in helping youth and came into contact with Visions and Pathways a few years ago through his involvement with a social service agency for youth in Plainfield.

He started volunteering for Visions and Pathways' effort to bring in professionals to talk to young people about entrepreneurship. "I felt that I could share some of my experiences," said Gorden, "and introduce the kids to associates of mine who also have a track record of helping young people."

Last year Gorden added fundraising to his volunteer activities. He produced a comedy show at a club in Dunellen that not only raised money for Visions and Pathways but created new public support for its mission. He was so effective that Visions and Pathways asked him to sit on the Advisory Council and now become its co-leader.

"I take this position very seriously," noted Gorden. "My outlook is to stay current and relevant. There is just so much information out there available to young people to help them know right from wrong and which direction to take."



Photography by Elizabeth Martin

RECENT COMEDY NIGHT at Roxy & Dukes in Dunellen raised money for Visions and Pathways and attracted many supporters of the organization. "Laughing is a Way to Live" was the theme of the evening, which was produced by Lewis Gorden (center), co-chair of the Visions and Pathways Advisory Council. Officials from Visions and Pathways attending the event were CEO David Walker (left) and Steven Neblett, Independent Living Skills Counselor.

## Wish List

Because the need is great, Visions and Pathways maintains a Wish List, where items go to the different programs we run, resident and non-resident. The Randolph Kiwanis Club has been a regular contributor, and so has the JCC in Bridgewater. Other organizations and companies have also held collections, and we are always grateful when additional groups get involved. All donations may be dropped off at Visions and Pathways, 49 Brahma Avenue, Bridgewater, New Jersey or the Street Smart office at 175 Washington Street in Morristown. To start a collection program of your own get in touch with Jennifer Amaya at jamaya@visionsandpathways.org.

### Clothing for Youth (*must be new*)

Men's and women's slippers  
Men's and women's flip flops  
Sweatpants and sweatshirts,  
plain black or gray (Sizes M, L, XL)  
White athletic socks (ankle length)  
White or colored T-shirts, no pockets  
(XL, XXL, Tall)  
Women's underwear (sizes M, L)

### Personal Care

Bars of bath soap

Hair brushes  
Hair gel  
Shampoo and conditioner  
Toothpaste and toothbrushes

### Gift certificates

(for birthdays and clothing needs)  
Stores at Bridgewater Mall such as Hot Topic, Champs, Aeropostale, and House of Hoops by Foot Locker, and freestanding stores like Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, Best Buy, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Target, and local restaurants, hair salons and nail salons.

### For the Household (must be new)

Bakeware  
(cookie sheets, cake pans, muffin tins, etc.)  
Bath towels and wash cloths  
Cooking utensils  
(plastic spatulas and spoons)  
Kitchen towels  
Pillows  
Potholders  
Sponges with scrubbers  
Toilet paper  
Tupperware-type food storage sets  
Twin-size sheets and pillowcases  
Water (cases or bottles)

### For Recreation

Art supplies  
Batteries (AAA, AAA for games, electronics)  
Headphones/ear buds  
Chess games  
Movie theater passes  
Journals  
Sketch books  
3D puzzles  
Yoga

### For School

Highlighters/white board markers  
Notebooks  
Pens/markers  
Reference CD-ROMs  
(Dictionary, Thesaurus, Atlas, Encyclopedia)  
Scientific graphing calculators  
(for high school math classes)

### Sponsor Something Special

\* Donate tickets or money for a group outing (adventure, aquarium, museum, movie, bowling, theme park, laser tag, Broadway show, sporting event).  
\* Donate funds for creating special school memories (school yearbooks, class rings).

## Run and Walk raises \$23,000

Runners and walkers plus their families and friends came together at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater, New Jersey in November for Visions and Pathways' 20th Run and Walk For Our Youth's Future. The amount raised by the event was \$23,000.

There was a traditional 5K run and a 2-mile walk around the park. The event supports Visions and Pathways' arts and recreation program.

The emcee was Bill Spadea, host of "Chasing News," which is on Channel 9 at 11 p.m. and later on Fox 5 News. Spadea is also the morning drive-time host on Radio Station 101.5.

Several area businesses provided volunteers for

the event. A team from Shake Shack in Bridgewater grilled hotdogs, and David Tucker with E.A. Boniakowski Insurance in Green Brook provided Rita's Ice Cream.

While the adults were running, Visions and Pathways volunteers hosted children with sack races and bean bag toss games. The games for kids were organized by a team of teenage volunteers led by Rohit Agrawal from Bridgewater-Raritan High School.

Sponsors included Zeus, Dave's Suburban Disposal Service, Phillips Van-Heusen Corp., High Tower Holding, NJM Insurance, and Strength Condition.

## You can make impact: include a gift in your will or trust

Interested in helping homeless teens, both now and in the years ahead? A simple, flexible and versatile way to ensure Visions and Pathways can continue our work for years to come is a gift in your will or living trust. Your gift also entitles your estate to an unlimited federal estate tax charitable deduction.

Some of the legacy investments you can make also include:

\* **Retirement Plans** – Designate Visions and Pathways to receive part or all of what remains of your retirement plan after your death. Such transfers can be a tax-efficient way of making a gift. For example, heirs may receive as little as 30

percent of a retirement plan from a large estate after estate and income tax, while Visions and Pathways would receive 100 percent of it.

\* **Insurance policies** – Designate Visions and Pathways Home Endowment Fund to receive all or part of a life insurance policy. Ask your insurance company for a beneficiary designation form. We also welcome donations of stock and other securities. To learn more, please contact Visions and Pathways Director of Finance Indumati Patel at 908-526-6605 or ipatel@visionsandpathways.org.

If you include us in your plans, please use our legal name and Federal Tax ID.

## Under 2019 tax laws, charitable contributors may consider bunching

With the standard deduction now at \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly, some New Jersey taxpayers who previously elected to itemize their deductions looked to the standard deduction for their 2018 tax filing.

However, this meant individuals who did not itemize received no tax benefit from their charitable gifts to organizations like Visions and Pathways.

One innovative strategy to achieve tax savings involves "bunching" deductions for charitable contributions, medical expenses, and state and local taxes into a single tax year to maximize savings in that year. Bunching is extremely useful in a year contributors have significant one-time income events such as capital gains from a sale of an asset, significant bonus compensation, or payout from a deferred compensation plan.

Taxpayers who bunch itemized deductions can always go back to the standard deduction in subsequent years.

# When There's No One Else To Turn To... We Give Homeless Youth A Home and Hopeful Future

Yes! I/We want to help youth at Visions and Pathways

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our gift is  in honor of or  in memory of:

Please send a notification (without amount ) to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Your tax-deductible donation provides operation funds for food, clothing, shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, basic education and independent-living skill education.*

You can put your money to work immediately by making a secure gift online at [www.visionsandpathways.org](http://www.visionsandpathways.org), or use one of the payments to follow.

Here's my heartfelt gift of :  \$20.  \$25.  \$50.  
 \$75.  \$100.  \$250.  other \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, payable to Visions and Pathways  
 One-time or  Monthly gift charged to my credit card  
 VISA\*  MASTERCARD\*  AMEX\*

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Matching Gift form enclosed.

*\* A gift of \$250 or more entitles you to a brick in our Walk of Wishes, a garden walkway at Visions and Pathways, as a permanent symbol of your generous support.*

What name or message would you like on your brick?  
 Up to 3 lines with a total of 15 letters and spaces on each line


SP19



## Stronger Together is first event for Visions and Pathways-IYO partnership

The first joint event of the new partnership between Visions and Pathways and Newark's International Youth Organization (IYO) was scheduled to take place April 27 at the Westwood, a banquet hall in Garwood.

The theme of the brunch was "Stronger



Craig Drinkard



Marilyn Davis

Together," and all proceeds support programs for youth operated by both agencies

Keynote speaker was Will Simpson, senior strategist with Equal Justice USA's Police/Community Trauma Program in Newark.

Honorees were business, religious, and community leaders who have empowered disadvantaged youth and their families.

They include Marilyn D. Davis, New Jersey Area Director for Government Affairs for national cable operator Altice USA, Craig Drinkard, Deputy Director of the Victoria Foundation, who is an alumnus of IYO, and Dominic Prophete, CEO of Wynona House, a child advocacy center in Newark. Also

honored were Pastor Bernard Savage of New Eden Baptist Church in Newark and Angel Vargas, head of the Essex County Latino-American Chamber of Commerce.



Angel Vargas



Dominic Prophete



Pastor Bernard Savage



**SCHOLARSHIP WORTH \$2,400** from Cherish International went this year to Visions and Pathways' Chancelevia Mengara (center) to complete the medical assistant program with ACE Healthcare Training Institute, with locations in Dover and Union, New Jersey. From left are Anuradha Angara, president of Cherish International, and Jennifer Amaya, Visions and Pathways' Director of Outreach and Prevention.



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Here is the Spring 2019  
issue of your  
Visions and Pathways  
newsletter.

*Thank you  
for investing in the  
future of our youth!*

## Donors change lives forever

THANK YOU to the companies, foundations, and service organizations that have made generous monetary contributions from January 2019 to date\* to support Visions and Pathways and the homeless and runaway youth the agency serves.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
Affinity Federal Credit Union Foundation  
Apple Food Service  
Arc Foundation, Inc.  
AT&T  
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Bausch Health  
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Subaru  
Tyler Foundation

\*As of April 15, 2019