

VISIONS AND PATHWAYS

Year-End 2022 Newsletter

Morris County Village House

Housing First is an evidence-based model for helping homeless individuals that is recognized by the federal government as being effective. Safe, stable housing creates a foundation for a formerly-homeless person to maintain steady employment, continue their education, and receive the counseling and support needed to overcome trauma. Given that 69% of homeless youth have mental health problems and 29% have substance misuse problems, overcoming trauma is a priority for Visions and Pathways' youth.

But how do youth who have aged out of foster care or other homeless young adults afford safe places to live? Visions and Pathways' newly-expanded Village House rental assistance program provides a solution based on the Housing First model.

Through Village House, Visions and Pathways pays the rent for formerly-homeless young adults to live in apartments throughout the community. Program participants pay 30% of their income toward the cost of the apartment. V&P's case managers provide participants guidance in budgeting, financial and credit counseling, and tips on how to maintain a home. Also, Village House participants may access services through our Behavioral

Health Department and Wellness program.

As a pre-teen, Venus was sexually assaulted by a family member and strangers multiple times. She was removed from her home and placed into foster care. Suffering from acute depression and other mental health challenges, Venus was a chronic runaway and all attempted foster care placements failed. Living at Visions and Pathways' Passages group home was her final placement through the Department for Children and Families before aging-out of foster care. At Passages, Venus connected with one of V&P's therapists. Her mental health and behavior began to stabilize and she obtained steady employment.

When she turned twenty-one and aged-out, she moved into one of V&P's Village House apartments in Bridgewater. Venus loved and appreciated the apartment! But the transition was difficult. She began associating with drug peddlers and individuals who were involved in other criminal activities. She risked being discharged from Village House and losing the apartment that she loved. This threat sparked a change in her behavior.

After two years in a Village House apartment, Venus connected with supportive, extended family in North Carolina and moved to their community. There, she is very

involved in a local church, has a steady job, and is living on her own.

This year, as part of our vision to help the biggest need in New Jersey, affordable housing, we applied for and received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care (CoC) for over \$50,000 to expand its Village House program to Morris County.

Previously, all the agency's Village House apartments were in Somerset County. Village House is a signature program in the agency's Outreach and Prevention Department. The agency opened an office in Morristown eight years ago as part of its expansion of its Street Smart Outreach and Prosperity in-home independent living skills programs. This is the first time Visions and Pathways will launch a housing program in Morris County.

Jennifer Amaya, Director of Outreach and Prevention whose primary office is in Morristown, notes "There is a tremendous need for this program in Morris County. From our experience in Somerset County, we know that Village House is extremely effective." She continued, "The greatest challenge has been identifying apartments that meet federal guidelines that fit the program's budget."

Loving Care Homes - Women's Shelter

Perla left home to live on her own when she was seventeen. She has been estranged from her family for many years and staying with them was not an option.

Strong-willed and independent, Perla enjoyed living alone. But with just a high school education, surviving was always a struggle. She enrolled in college and worked multiple part-time jobs determined to make a better life for herself.

COVID hit, retail jobs dwindled, and Perla's income dropped. She could no longer pay her rent, was evicted from her apartment, and stopped attending school. Homeless and despondent, Perla contacted Visions and Pathways' Street Smart outreach program and learned about Loving Care Homes in Plainfield.

"It took a lot for me to ask for help," Perla shared. "I was used to finding a way to get by on my own. But my worker made me feel good about myself and confident that I would bounce back and being homeless was only temporary. And the house, my home, is beautiful," she continued.

When V&P began running this five-bed shelter for homeless women three years ago, Loving Care Homes was V&P's first residential program outside of Somerset County. After fifty years of helping youth, it was also the agency's first home for young adults who are at least eighteen years old. The expansion has been successful.

While living at Loving Care Homes, Perla was able to obtain her bachelor's degree from Kean University. Perla has obtained a full-



(continued on page 2)

LCH Success story

(continued from page 1)

time position that is better paying than her part-time jobs combined and, bought a car after working for years at part-time minimum wage jobs. She is looking for an apartment and anticipates leaving the shelter very soon.

Perla's story epitomizes Loving Care Homes' life changing impact. Although they are still young, the women at the shelter are typically older than the youth in Visions and Pathways' group homes in Bridgewater. Most have experienced multiple bouts with homelessness and have lost connections with family and do not have a reliable support system. Most of the women are LGBTQ+ and not accepted by their families. Over a quarter were human trafficking victims as children.

Loving Care Homes' small home-like environment is conducive to healing. The women can access counseling through Visions and Pathways' Behavioral Health Department, engage in wellness activities such as trips to the theatre and faith-based observances, and participate in the Skittlez mentoring group for LGBTQ+ individuals or the Jewells group for young women.

Faith-based organizations have been a longstanding and consistent community partner for V&P, and they are essential to the program's success. Lion's Gate donated food, Temple Emanu-El- donated supplies for welcome baskets and made a financial contribution, and Community Baptist Church of Somerset painted the interior. Individuals have also been very generous. One long-time Visions and Pathways' volunteer donated a coffee table and outdoor picnic table. "Support from volunteers and donors make a tremendous difference," stated David Walker, Visions and Pathways' Executive Director. "Although it doesn't cover all the costs, government support for our group homes for youth receive far greater than the Loving Care Homes women's shelter. We are very proud of the program. It's smaller than most shelters and we have been able to create a dignified homelike environment," He continued. "Because public funding is scarce, our success depends on monetary and in-kind donations from individuals and local community organizations."



Giving Thanks concert raises \$3,670

"Giving Thanks," a live concert and interfaith multicultural celebration of music and dance in June 18 at Drew University Concert Hall in Madison, New Jersey raised \$3,670 for Visions and Pathways. This was the first "live" Giving Thanks concert since COVID forced the popular musical event into being virtual for the past few years. It is a special community celebration because our dedicated V&P staff came up with the idea for it and also run it.

Brad Lowery was the emcee of the Visions and Pathways Giving Thanks Concert,

Brad worked with acts such as Chris Rock, DL Hughley, Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld, Ralphie May, Bill Bellamy, Sinbad, Lavelle Crawford, Dennis Miller and Tommy Davidson.

He participated in HBO, Comedy Central, NBC, A & E and HBO's Def Comedy Jam,

and BET's Comicview.

Among the groups performing were from St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Church, Bhaarat Nritya Academy, Founder Rekha Srinivasan, Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, One Church from Somerville, the Evangel Chapel Worship Team from Bridgewater. Individual performers included Robert "Buddy" Williams III, Elizabeth Alfaro, and Terrell Lane.

"We are delighted to partner with faith-based organizations, cultural groups and individuals from diverse cultures to celebrate life and to inspire unity," said David Walker, Visions and Pathways CEO and Executive Director.

The Giving Thanks concert will return in June 2023. We are looking for sponsors and artists who want to give back to the community through the Giving Thanks Concert. Contact Adriana Gonzalez for more information agonzalez@visionsandpathways.org



SIXTEEN STUDENTS ages 7 and up of the Bhaarat Nritya Academy, Bridgewater, performed at the third Annual Giving Thanks Music Festival at Drew University in Madison with a medley of Indian Classical, Folk and devotional Dances lead by founder Rekha Srinivasan



TO HONOR THE MEMORY of his daughter Kristina Walker, the Walker family and friends created the Magic Money Kristina Walker Empowerment Scholarship. from left Carlotta Spence, Mentor, Tikesha James, Magic Money Recipient, David Walker, III Visions and Pathways CEO/Executive Director and his son David Walker, IV.



ST. THOMAS SYRO MALABAR Catholic Church Choir

50th Anniversary Spark!

Gala raises \$129,309 for Visions and Pathways



Spark! Gala at Bridgewater Marriott attracted 200 guests and raised \$129,309 for V&P programs.

With finding outside funding so critical today, we are proud to report that our annual Spark! Gala in October at the Bridgewater Marriott raised \$129,309, the highest in the organization's history.

David Walker, V&P's CEO and Executive Director began the celebration by thanking the many individuals and local companies which supported Visions and Pathways' event.

Funds raised by our Gala will support our programs, including outreach and prevention services which combat the opioid epidemic and help human trafficking victims. Funds raised will also help temporary housing, arts and recreation, counseling, life skills training, scholarships, and more. Since 1970, over 11,500 youth have benefited from the organization's work.

The gala is Visions and Pathways' largest event. This year's gala honored Morristown Medical Center with the Corporate Partner Award, Nikkia Miller-Blakes, a former president of the Visions and Pathways Board of Trustees with the Dedicated Volunteer Award, and Marisol Mattia, with the first Student Community Service Volunteer Award.

- Nikkia Miller-Blakes is currently Johnson & Johnson's CIO/Vice President Hospital Medical Devices North America and DePuy Synthes Technology. Her untiring passion, commitment and mentoring to our youth continues to fuel a pipeline of talented and diverse future leaders.

- Morristown Medical Center is one of seven award-winning hospitals managed by Atlantic Health with a long-standing tradition of providing exceptional patient outcomes

and experiences. Morristown Medical Center provides financial support to our Behavioral Health Pathways to Community Counseling (PCC) program to provide youth with in-community counseling.

- Marisol, currently a senior at Bridgewater/Raritan High School, created and executed a plan to renovate one of our residences' living rooms including fundraising, purchasing the needed items, and then renovating the room herself. She plans to major in advertising and visual communications.

"The gala is our biggest event of the year, where everyone comes together in support of our organization, and we recognize the

company and individuals who are so critical to our success," said Walker. "This year's 50th Anniversary Spark! Gala was a very uplifting evening".

News 12 New Jersey anchor, Eric Landskroner, acted as master of ceremonies, and Board Member Lewis Gorden led the evening's live auction.

Sponsors for the gala included Atlantic Health, Benadon Consulting, Walkers & Associates, Alera, Coffee Box, Investors Bank a division of Citizens Bank, Bausch Lomb, Provident Bank, Lincoln Tech, Antonio Martinez, Seamless Title Agency and Shane Lacy.



Photo Courtesy of Stefanie Photography

MATTIA FAMILY - Marisol Mattia received the student community service award.



Photo Courtesy of Stefanie Photography

SHARING JOY COMMITTEE: From left to right: Jennifer Amaya, Director of Outreach and Prevention with Sharing Joy Committee members Jan Sudnik, Joanne Machalaba and Karen Yutsus 344 tickets were sold. The drawing was on November 1st, Bonnie Hodge won the raffle and donated her winnings back to the Joy Mathiowdis Scholarship Fund.



Photo Courtesy of Stefanie Photography

NIKKIA MILLER-BLAKES received the Dedicated Volunteer Award. From left to right Emily Benadon, Nikkia Miller-Blakes, and Eric Landskroner from News 12.

V&P's Scholarships and Supporting Education

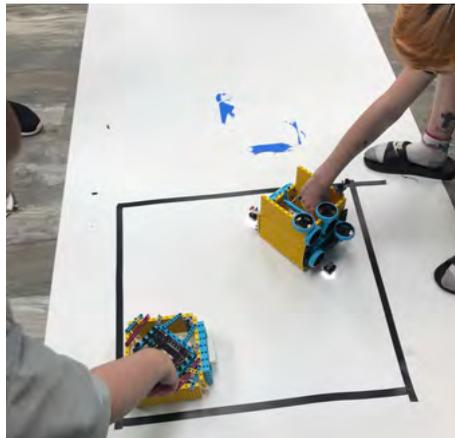
Learn more about us . . .

According to research conducted through the University of Chicago, the lack of a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma is the number one correlate for elevated risk of youth homelessness. Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED have a 346% higher risk for homelessness as adults than their peers who completed high school. Through our education support and scholarship programs, Visions and Pathways works to increase the likelihood that our youth complete high school and continue onto postsecondary education.

Our youth experience many obstacles. Performing well academically and completing school is an especially great challenge. Most of our youth are aging-out of the child welfare system and have experienced multiple failed placements with foster parents or unsuccessful attempts to return to their parents. Although we offer safety, stability, and support, living in a Visions and Pathways' group homes is another disruption in their lives. Many of our youth come from urban environments. At Visions and Pathways, they are living in a suburban town, enrolling in a new school, and adapting to a different culture.

Being ostracized and bullied are common experiences. This includes being bullied by hometown peers if they attempt to excel academically and ostracized by peers in their new school. Plus, our youth typically come from low-income communities, which mean they suffer from unequal access to resources. Visions and Pathways helps level the playing field.

Our support starts with the Transitional Learning Center or TLC. TLC works to ensure that our youth's educational needs



ROBOTICS CLASS

are met by providing in-house instruction; coordinating with a youth residing in a Visions and Pathways residential program's current school; and collaborating with the new school district that a youth will transfer into due to an extended stay in a Visions and Pathways residence.

The new Arman Roy Technology Center helps close the digital divide and ensure that our youth can readily access the latest technology. Located at the agency's Brahma House facility, the center contains computers, 3-D printers, and a smart board. Volunteers have taught classes in robotics and tutored youth who needed help with their classes.

As our clients age out of government programs or move into our residential programs for 18-24 year olds, we offer a signature scholarship program. This robust scholarship program helps support the agency's youth as they pursue postsecondary education. This year, the agency distributed sixteen awards totaling over \$16,000 through five different scholarships funds. The Warren and AT&T funds supports youth who demonstrate a commitment to community services, Sharing Joy rewards students who have a track record of civic engagement especially advocacy for LGBTQ+ concerns, the Ruth Meissner Memorial Scholarship and Visions scholarships fund support youth who are pursuing postsecondary education in-general. This year was the first for the Magic Money Kristina Walker Empowerment Scholarship. Magic Money gives priority to domestic violence victims.

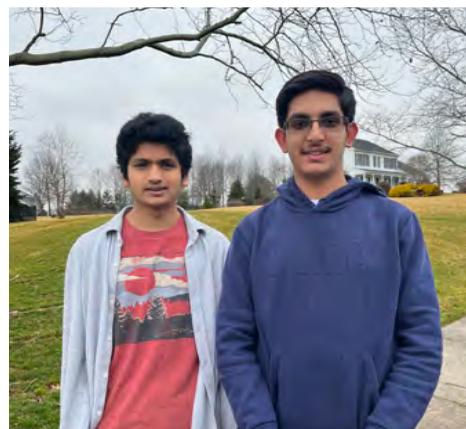
Volunteers help our youth complete the applications for the agency's scholarships. Completing Visions and Pathways' application helps our youth practice writing personal essays for college applications and outside scholarships.

Visions and Pathways provides abused, neglected, homeless, and missing youth with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services that help them to become self-sufficient. Since 1970, we have provided over 11,500 youth with safe shelter, food, clothing, and support services. Our program for vulnerable youth includes

- Brahma House residential crisis intervention program;
- Passages, My Place and Whitney House residential transitional-living programs;
- Prosperity independent-living skills education program;
- StreetSmart street and community outreach program;
- Transitional Learning Center for in-house education instruction;
- Bridge House and Village House, supportive-housing for aged-out youth, a Wellness Program (former Arts and Recreation Program), and the Transitions aftercare Program. The Loving Care Homes residence for homeless women.
- Scholarship: General, Meissner Memorial Fund, Warren, Sharing Joy and Magic Money.
- The Arman Roy Technology Center (ART Center) at Brahma.
- Pathways to Community Counseling (PCC) is an analytical, focused, goal oriented and needs based clinical intervention that addresses emotional and behavioral challenges.

In addition, V & P has an affiliation agreement with Newark's International Youth Organization (IYO), IYO has served Newark's highest need youth for almost 50 years.

For more information, visit VisionsAndPathways.org or contact Executive Director David Walker, Esq., MSW at dwalker@visionsandpathways.org.



KRISHIV PATEL and **PAARTH JAIN** created Tech4Teens. They are both sophomores attending Hunterdon Central Regional High School. They provided technology and STEM education for Visions and Pathways's residents.

Engage with Us

- 👍 Like our page on Facebook
- 📷 @visionsandpathways
- 📺 Like our page on Facebook
- 🐦 Follow us on Twitter
@VisionsandPathwaysNJ
@StreetSmart_NJ
- 🛒 Add us on Amazon Smile

Make A Lasting Impact:

Current transformational gifts can be made with appreciated securities, real estate or IRA rollovers. Future planned gifts can include adding Visions and Pathways to a will, trust, or life insurance policy. We have opportunities to honor these gifts with naming opportunities. If you are interested in making a truly lasting gift, please contact Visions and Pathways Director of Finance Indumati Patel at ipatel@visionsandpathways.org. If you include Visions and Pathways in your plans, please use our legal name and Federal Tax ID.

Board of Trustees

Emily Benadon - *President*
 Laurie Pellegrino - *Vice President*
 Laquan Miller - *Treasurer*
 David James Blue
 Robert Carmona
 Christina Diaz-Hughes
 Lewis Gorden
 Shahri Griffin
 John Lanahan
 Kate Meade

Advisory Council

David Buckman - *Co-chair*
 Lewis Gorden - *Co-chair*
 Laurie Pellegrino - *Board Liaison*
 Philip Cohen
 Diana Dorsey
 Samieh Franklin
 Nyla Ham
 Gabriella Harris
 Linda Hill
 Bonnie Hodge
 Carolina Kellstein
 Zonie LeSane
 Antonio Martinez
 Juanita Painsan
 Jill Scott
 Angel Vargas
 Lisa Warren
 Jai West

David Walker
CEO/Executive Director

List of donors 2022 * As of November 29, 2022

THANK YOU to the companies, foundations, and service organizations that have made monetary contributions from January 2022 to date* to support Visions and Pathways and the homeless and runaway youth we serve:

Affinity Foundation
 Affinity Federal Credit Union
 African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 Alera
 Ameriprise Financial
 Anonymous
 Atlantic Health System
 Bausch Health
 Bell Service Concierge
 Belle Meade Co-Op
 Brown & Brown Inc
 Bristol Myers Squibb
 Chiang and Jones Family Dentistry
 The Coffee Box
 Commercial Furniture Resource, Inc.
 Connolly and Co, PC.
 Curtis McGraw Foundation
 Union County
 D&L Company
 Dave's Suburban Disposal Service
 Dombal-Vogel Foundation
 The Egan Group
 EJ Benadon Consulting LLC
 Federal Home Loan Bank of New York
 Fidelity Charitable
 First Energy Foundation
 Flanagan Construction
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Greater Horizons
 Hightower Holding LLC
 Hillsborough Home & Wine Marketplace
 Hillsborough Imaging Associates, LLC
 Hillsborough Irrigation and Landscaping
 Hirsch Family
 Hodge Family
 Holy Trinity Church
 Hunterdon Health
 Hyde and Watson
 IBM
 Imperial Copy Products, Inc.
 Insmed
 International Youth Organization
 Investors Bank
 Investors Foundation Inc.
 Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 J. Williams & Company
 Johnson and Johnson
 Jolyn Foundation
 Junior League of Morristown
 Kellstein Family
 Latch Key Pets, LLC
 Loew and Patel Orthodontics
 Magyar Bank
 Mailboxes
 Meissner Family
 Merick Foundation
 Miller-Blakes Family
 Morris Arts
 Morris County
 Mutual of America
 New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company
 Nisivoccia, LLP
 Oasis-NJATT
 Paycom
 Pellegrino Family
 Petrock's Bar and Grille
 Princeton Wealth Advisors
 Provident Bank
 Redstone American Grill
 Rite Aid Foundation KidCents
 Robert A. Bonavito
 Ronald McDonald House of Charities
 Salesforce
 Schneider-Zenna & Gaffney LLC
 Seamless Title Agency Inc.
 Shoprite Wakefern
 Somerset County
 Middlesex County
 The Celia Lipton and Victor W. Farris Foundation Inc.
 Tyler Foundation
 United Way
 Verbrugge Family
 Walkers & Associates
 Wegmans
 Williams Marston, LLC
 Zeus Industrial Products, Inc.

2022 Volunteer Groups

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
 Nu Xi Omega chapter
 Amazon
 The Arman Roy Foundation
 Bridgewater Raritan High
 School Key Club
 Cosmetology For A Cause
 Empower
 Ethicon
 Evangel Chapel

Hillsborough High School
 Insmed
 Janssen Cares
 Johnson & Johnson
 L'Oreal
 Morristown Medical Center
 Reckitt
 Ridge High School
 Rutgers University
 Zarephath

VISIONS AND PATHWAYS

IMPACT KIDS | GET INVOLVED!

"We help kids" find a **vision** and a **path** by giving safe housing, food and support services to at-risk and homeless NJ kids, ages 13+. **And we need your help!**

HOW?

Mentor Kids ● Our residents benefit from life skills, financial literacy, public speaking, cooking, conflict resolution, trades and other professional & life skills

Volunteer ● Paint a room, plant a garden, build benches, and attend events

Connect with us ●    

Operational Services ● Share your skills updating or managing our website, create or support a fundraiser, research/write grant requests, draft a brochure or write a blog. We've never found a professional skill that didn't help our kids!

Financial Support ● Financial donations, donations of a car or home, fund a scholarship or legacy /endowment, start a birthday Facebook or GoFundMe fundraiser, do a Memorial donation in lieu of sending flowers, and select Visions & Pathways on Smile.Amazon.com

Become an e-helper ● No time to volunteer and still want to help? Become an e-Helper by giving us your email address and a few times a year, we'll email you when a homeless teenager asks a special request not covered by our budget... Can I go to the prom, join the basketball team, can I get dress shoes for my job? Fulfilling these requests help youth living at Visions and Pathways get the same opportunities as their peers who live at home. E-helpers who can contribute let us know they're either sending a check or donating instantly online. There's no obligation to respond to each request, but every little bit helps. Email Adriana at agonzalez@visionsandpathways.org if you're interested in e-Helping.

You can involve your company too!

Ask us about volunteer days, mentoring, event sponsorship & "Adopt a Charity"!

Join us at Visionsandpathways.org, streetSMARToutreach.org or at our Bridgewater and Morristown locations

SUCCESS STORIES

Kyra

Kyra was referred to Visions and Pathways in March 2022 for assistance with job readiness, academics and identifying positive community activities. During her first meeting, Kyra was quiet and unsure of what exactly her goals were. Since being a part of the Prosperity Life Skills Program she has become more comfortable and confident, and has thought about her future. Kyra recently was on house arrest and was granted by a judge to get off resulting in her now being on probation. Kyra has been successful in being compliant with the nature of her probation status. She attended summer school to catch up on some credits and is ready to start the new school year with a positive mindset and



she has been thinking about transferring to an alternative charter school to help her master the skills crucial for success in post-secondary education, career, and community leadership. Amongst all, Kyra's biggest accomplishment is getting a job at Qdoba.

Chase

Chase came to Visions and Pathways Prosperity department needing assistance with finding a job and a place to live. When Chase first started with V&P his family was getting evicted from his home and didn't know where he could go. Fortunately, Chase extended family gave him a place to land. Chase job search is tough given that he has a physical disability that makes working difficult. Recently Chase got a job at The Arc of Union County in an after-school program for adults with mental disabilities. Chase knows that having disability gives him a unique prospective on the job. Chase is excited about helping those in need.

When There is Nowhere Else To Turn . . . 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, or use one of the payments to follow.

YE22



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

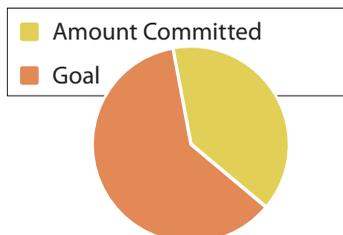


SUMMER INTERNS & Cynthia Ramsey, Visions and Pathways Program Manager photo at the end of a successful summer. From left are: Nahlah from Somerset, Rithika from Bridgewater, Luisana from Bridgewater, Cynthia Ramsey, Program Manager, Steve from Plainfield, **Aamar** from Hillsborough and Ohm from Bridgewater.

Visions & Pathways staff was thrilled to be involved in the SYEP program. "Our Summer Youth employees were very focused and willing to help us," commented Program Manager Cynthia M. Ramsey. "They were positive and organized and helped with outreach. They helped increase awareness of V&P in our local communities."

Bridge House Project

Join Visions and Pathways as we embark on the Bridge House Project to raise \$2.5 million to complete construction on our ten-unit affordable housing home. Bridge House is another step in the continuum of services available to give homeless youth the skills they need to succeed.



Your donation will help us open doors to young adults providing them with safe and affordable housing.

Consider being a donor in 2023!

To learn more, please contact Visions and Pathways CEO/Executive Director David Walker at dwalker@visionsandpathways.org

Here is the Year-End 2022 issue of your Visions and Pathways newsletter.

Thank you for investing in the future of our youth!

<<Sequence Number Opt. Endorsement Line>>
<<Full Name>>
<<Company>>
<<Alternate 1 Address>>
<<Delivery Address>>
<<City St ZIP+4>>
<<Country>>

Employee of the Year: Brianna Petrone, LCSW, Assistant Director of Behavioral Health



Brianna Petrone

Brianna Petrone completed her MSW internship with Visions and Pathways from June 2016-May 2017. She returned to Visions and Pathways as a LCSW therapist in February 2020 and was promoted to Assistant Director of Behavioral Health in November, 2021.

She provides weekly therapy to youth in all residential programs as well as

counsels PCC (Pathways to Community Counseling) clients in the community. Brianna willingly goes above and beyond her clinical responsibilities by ensuring the

youths' education and vocational needs are secured. Brianna's positive approach is infectious and she is supportive of all youth and staff at Visions and Pathways.

Annual 5K Run and Walk Duke Island Park

Runners and walkers celebrated a quarter-century of athleticism, fun, great food, and the opportunity to support an organization that makes a difference in the lives of youth.

The event raised \$31,000 for Visions and Pathways, a new record high.

A big thanks goes to the Run/Walk Committee and its hard-working co-chairs, Joanne Machalaba, Veona Martin and Fran Smith. A special thanks go to the Silent Auction Committee, which consists of Board President Emily Benadon, Mairead Chong, Lindsay Bevan, Bonnie Hodge, and Karen Yutsus.

Sponsors include Benadon Consulting, Robert A. Bonavito, Brown and Brown Insurance, Dave's Suburban Disposal Service, Egan Wealth Advisors, Nisivoccia LLP, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance, Paycom, and Zeus.

Community partners are: Affinity FCU, Mailbox Business Center, ShopRite, Amwell Pharmacy, and the UPS Store.



VEONA MARTIN, Co-Chair and JOANNE MACHALABA, Co-Chair