Person Centered Services of Western NY and Children’s Health Homes of Upstate New York

By Dr. Edward J. Lukomski, President and CEO

Pathways, Inc. is one of the founding members of the two above referenced organizations.

Person Centered Services of Western NY (PCSWNY) is a Care Coordination Organization (CCO) that is developing a model of managed care designed around the unique needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. This model will have specific benefits including, but not limited to:

- Providing Care Coordination and planning that is family-and-individual driven and which is responsive to the unique needs of each individual
- Using a “Life Plan” for individual service planning
- Adopting individual-specific and nationally recognized measures to monitor quality and outcome
- Tracking clinical and functional outcomes using standardized, validated assessment tools

This model is scheduled to be implemented in 2018 which will ultimately transform the delivery of services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

The second organization, Children’s Health Homes of Upstate NY (CHHUNY) is currently operational.

What is a Health Home?

A Health Home is a care management service model whereby all of an individual’s caregivers communicate with one another so that all of a patient’s needs are addressed in a comprehensive manner. This is done primarily through a care manager who oversees and provides access to all of the services an individual needs to assure that they receive everything necessary to stay healthy, out of the emergency room and out of the hospital. Health records are shared among providers so that services are not duplicated or neglected. Health Home services are provided through a network of organizations – providers, health plans and community-based organizations. When all the services are considered collectively they become a virtual “Health Home.”

Who is Eligible to be in a Children’s Health Home?

Children from birth through age 21 enrolled in Medicaid and have one or more of the following:
1. At least two chronic conditions, or
2. Serious Emotional Disturbance, or
3. HIV/AIDS, or
4. Complex Trauma

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At Kids’ Adventure Club when the calendar page turns to March, we know it’s time to bake. Why are we baking? We’re baking to meet the needs of many tiny blessings. The Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) is an alliance of 170 hospitals dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the treatment of infants and children. According to their website, since 1983, CMN has raised more than $5 billion for 170 children’s hospitals across the United States and Canada. Their mission, to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible, impacts local children in our communities. Donations stay local to fund critical treatments and healthcare services, pediatric medical equipment, and charitable care.

Kids’ Adventure Club is pleased to continue in its history of being compassionate, serving the community and meeting the needs of others. So, we held a bake sale with the delicious goodies we baked the week prior to the CMN radiothon and we raised an impressive $968.30. All monies raised from our sale will stay locally. Additionally, activity specialist, Stefanie Doud and our youth sewed 35 quilts to be donated to the Arnot Ogden Neonatal unit. The children got to help use the sewing machine to complete the quilts, which is a unique experience for most of them in our fast-paced lives. They also got to experience the joy of community service by making something for other children in need.

Kids’ Adventure Club at the CMN radiothon

Again this year, youth participated in the radiothon that was held at WINK 106 on March 9th. Hopefully by taking part in such a great community service opportunity as CMN, our youth learn at an early age that there are others in our world that really do need our help. It takes the focus off our own needs and places it on the needs of others. This is how we grow and truly learn. “Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
In March 2017, several teenage youth in foster care attended a special training by Senior Waiver Service Providers Ashley Morey, Jennifer Simpson, and Ashley Golson. Youth experience many transitions when entering foster care. Because youth in care have to spend a great deal of time working through their transitions, prevocational and vocational skills fall to the wayside, which leaves teens in care at a disadvantage entering the workforce. Thus, prevocational training and building self-confidence in job readiness skills is of the utmost importance.

Through this training, youth learned how to create a professional resume, ask for and complete a job application, and prepare for job interviews. Staff talked at length regarding how to remain calm before an interview, the importance of eye contact and body language, as well as importance of interview attire. Supervisors of the Bridges to Health Program provided the teens with private one-on-one mock job interviews to enhance youth skills. Each youth left the training with a resume, completed job application, a training certificate, but most importantly, increased confidence in their prevocational skills.

Waiver Staff Makes a Difference
By Heather Loud, Supervisor, OMH Waiver Program

Michele McAuliffe, OMH Waiver Skill Builder and junior at SUNY Oswego studying Human Development, could have gone anywhere warm on her recent spring break. She instead chose to go to Florence, Alabama with peers on March 13, 2017 to build a home for Habitat for Humanity over the course of five days! Michele stated, “I love doing this type of thing. It's my passion. It's very rewarding.” This isn’t Michele’s first construction experience. She previously assisted with the creation of Hope House in Tennessee, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for HIV-infected individuals through early education and social services. Fellow Skill Builder Mary Erdman, who is Michele’s mother, stated that she is “beaming with pride [about Michele].” She added, “Michele has love in her heart for everyone. She wants to be the change and make a difference in the world.”

New Opportunities through Community Habilitation
By Jamison Colegrove, QIDP, Residential Programs

Our Community Habilitation program is intended to facilitate community inclusion, integration, and relationship building and to provide training and experiences to assist individuals with life choices. Shelly is very excited to have started attending the Pathways, Inc. Community Habilitation program. Shelly attends this program one day a week and attends her vocational program the remaining days. When she attends community habilitation she enjoys volunteering at the local library re-shelving books and working on computer skills and telephone skills. Recently Shelly created her own email to maintain contact with her family and friends. She also enjoys volunteering at the local SPCA where she socializes the animals in need of adoption. Shelly enjoys this new opportunity and many people comment on her positive attitude. Shelly’s dream job is to one day be a secretary for Pathways, Inc.
A New Beginning
By Danielle Cevette, Family Counselor, Therapeutic Foster Care

Adoption day is a day that marks the start of a new beginning with a forever family. There were lots of smiles, tears of joy, and feelings of contentment in the Pathways, Inc. Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Program last fall as three of our program youth were adopted by Christina Cardona, a TFC Resource Parent.

Lilly, Faith and James were placed in the TFC program in March, 2013 with Resource Parents, John and Nancy Cardona. Immediately, the Cardona family grew close to these youth as they went above and beyond to ensure their care and support. As a result, they were the recipients of the Resource Parent of the Year award in 2015. The Cardona’s adult daughter, Christina Cardona, expressed an interest in adopting the children should that opportunity become available, and in July 2016, Lilly, Faith, and James were officially released for adoption. It is the goal of our program to ensure safety, permanency and well-being and on November, 17, 2016 our program was able to witness these youth finally be given permanency with a forever family and our program staff was ecstatic to share this moment with these beautiful and special children.
New Vans Aid Transportation at Pathways, Inc.
By Daniel Nichols, Director of Transportation, Transportation Department

In May 2015, Pathways, Inc. applied for a grant from the 2015 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Grant Program. In May 2016, we received official notice of the grant award for new vehicles to be used “for the purposes of enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities.” We met with the van company to complete and customize our order for the vehicles to ensure they would meet our needs for the people we serve. The grant funds covered much of the cost of the new vehicles, and in March of this year we took delivery of eight new vans to replace other aging vans.

Our Transportation Department works closely with the vehicle coordinator at each program site to manage the 85 vehicles in our fleet. Our fleet consists of leased and purchased vehicles ranging from cars, minivans, 12-passenger vehicles, wheelchair vans and maintenance vans.

The Transportation Department is also responsible for:
- New hire classroom training on policy and procedures
- Initial and 4-month driving assessments in the vehicles employees will be driving
- Providing assistance with scheduling and transporting vehicles to and from repair shops
- Providing assistance with scheduling and transporting vehicles between programs
- Compiling data and producing reports for grants vehicles and sending those reports to the State
- With help from staff, monitoring the condition and repair needs of each vehicle
- Providing yearly vehicle use and safety training to all programs

We provide transportation to individuals enrolled in our programs. We transport to and from residences and Day Habilitation Services, medical appointments, community events, shopping, movies, and organized group activities. We also use our vehicles to transport individuals to volunteer and provide services in our communities. The map above represents the 14-county area where we provide services and the places you might see one or more of our vehicles.

Pathways, Inc. Supports Food Bank of the Southern Tier
By Tammy J. Hallgren, Executive Vice President, Public Relations & Development

In keeping with our belief that we should be good neighbors and give back to our communities, Pathways, Inc. held a food drive in November 2016. All program sites were asked to set up a box to collect donations throughout the month and some were quite creative. When all items were finally collected at our main office in Corning, we had collected two carts full of food items. The truck from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier stopped by at the end of the month and loaded all of our donations. We’re happy to share that when all the food was weighed, we had collected a whopping 687 lbs. and $75 in cash!
No parent wants to see his or her child struggling in school. When you’re the parent of a special needs child, you have the same concerns that a parent of any other child would have - and then some. You experience the joys of parenting and you have hopes for the future of your children. And of course, just like any other child, your son or daughter deserves a quality education that sets him or her up for a successful future.

Here are some important considerations during your decision-making process:

1. **Finding the Right Classroom and School**
   Just like with any other student, it is important to take some time to find the right school for your child. Do you want your child to be included in the same classroom as other students who don’t have special needs? Or do you prefer your child learn in a smaller environment that is devoted specifically to special needs students?

   Once you’ve chosen a school and a classroom setting, it’s important to consider whether the teacher is a good fit for your child. Ideally, you’ll want to find a teacher who gets to know each of his or her students on a personal level. This applies for all parents and all children, not just those with special needs.

   Of course, it can be tricky to determine whether the teacher will be a good fit until your child is already in his or her class. If possible, ask friends, relatives, and local teachers for recommendations on who might be a good fit to teach your child.

2. **Homeschooling**
   A growing number of parents are choosing to homeschool their children. Obviously, this option may not be right for everyone. Although homeschooling has been shown to be beneficial for special needs students (and possibly even more effective than public schooling) it requires a lot of patience, determination, compassion, and also requires a household where an adult family member is able to stay home during the day with your child. If you can accommodate all of these requirements, then homeschooling might be a feasible option for you.

   If you do make the decision to homeschool, know that it can be one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child. According to homeschooling advocacy group HSLDA, several objective studies have found that special needs children actually learn better when they are taught at home by their parents. One study even found that homeschooled, special needs students were 2.5 times more engaged and were academically ahead of special needs students who attended public schools!

3. **Service Dogs**
   Working with a service dog can be another incredibly healing option for any special needs student. The dogs are able to assist many students in performing daily activities. In addition, the dogs serve as a nurturing and trustworthy companion for the child. Many children form deep bonds with their service dogs, and eventually become more calm when the service dogs are around - allowing for a more productive day at school.

   In conclusion you’ve got a lot on your plate as a parent - and that’s an understatement! With all the everyday stresses and worries, your child’s education doesn’t need to be one of them. By finding the right school and the best teacher for your special needs child, you can rest easy and focus your attention on the many gifts that come with being a parent.

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**Fassett Road IRA Gives to Local Animal Shelter**

*By Darcy Baker, Senior Shift Supervisor, Fassett Road IRA*

During the month of March, individuals we serve and staff at Fassett Road IRA worked together on giving to the local animal shelter. The residents at Fassett Road all share a love for animals and staff worked together with them to gather items for the animals throughout the month. They made a box to gather items for the animals and collected bleach, paper towels, laundry soap, collars, water and food dishes, cat and dog food and treats. Families were also included and enjoyed participating as well. At the end of the month a trip was planned to Horseheads Animal Shelter with these various donations. Everyone enjoyed the animals and providing the needed supplies. We are looking forward to giving to the animals and visiting them again very soon.

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*Individuals and staff from Fassett Road IRA at the SPCA*
The Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC) in the School Environment
By Julie Hamann and Cathy Torres, Service Coordinators, Medicaid Service Coordination

A typical Pathways, Inc. Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC) has several school age children on their caseload, starting in grades Pre K up to Super Seniors. This includes students from several different school districts, in several different counties. This also involves interfacing with different Superintendents, different Committee on Special Education (CSE) Chairs, and different teachers.

The students we support have differing levels of need and receive multiple therapies. The MSC will make contact with each student’s teacher and therapist to ensure that the student is receiving the best and least restrictive education. Our purpose in the classroom is to observe the student in the classroom setting and discuss observations with the teacher/parent. There are times that the parent may not know or understand that their child will need special transportation or certain therapies. We provide linkage and referrals to both the school district and parents with information on services that are available. For example, if a student is having significant behavioral issues in the classroom, the MSC is able to connect the student’s family to the appropriate agency for assistance. If a child is on a doctor’s order for a special diet, the MSC will advocate for the school to make the necessary changes. Or if a child is placed inappropriately in a classroom that doesn’t meet the student’s needs, we can work with the parents and the district to find a better fit.

As Medicaid Service Coordinators, our place in the school environment can be very complex, depending on the student, their family and the district.
Erwin Child & Family Center Hosts Beer & Chili, Wine & Chocolate

By Tammy J. Hallgren, Executive Vice President, Public Relations & Development

On March 3rd, our Erwin Child & Family Center (ECFC) hosted their annual Beer & Chili, Wine & Chocolate fundraiser at the commons at Corning Community College. The evening included entertainment by Blue Eyed Soul, online and silent auctions, hors d'oeuvres by Corning Catering, and 33 vendors offering tastings of beer, chili, wine, chocolate, cider and spirits. The auctions included some very special items such as a Keuka Getaway Package, Surf & Turf Dinner for 16, Golf Packages, A Weekend in Philadelphia, children's art and more. To add to the fun, we raffled off baskets containing gift certificates and numerous other goodies donated by many generous local businesses. Guests also enjoyed the talents of Brian and Alisa from Magic 92.7/97.7, who served as our emcees for the evening.

The event was a real success and proceeds are going toward construction of a playground pavilion to be used for shade, picnics, outdoor concerts and more. We offer our sincere thanks to our event sponsors, local businesses and individual donors, and community members who came out to support this event. We would also like to thank Corning Incorporated - Science and Technology for their continued support; Corning Community College; Corning Area Young Professionals; Corning Catering; Blue Eyed Soul; Magic FM; the Pathways cashiers; Board and committee members; staff; parents and other volunteers; and all those who worked hard to make this event such a success. Your support is truly appreciated and we couldn't do it without you.
Thank You to our Supporters

We offer special thanks to the following sponsors, vendors and donors who supported our Beer & Chili, Wine & Chocolate fundraiser to benefit our Erwin Child & Family Center.

**Premier**
- Corning Incorporated - Science & Technology

**Gold**
- Corning Enterprises

**Corning Incorporated**
- Global Supply Management

**Corning Incorporated**
- Corporate Real Estate

**Silver**
- Corning Incorporated - MTE

**Bronze**
- The Hilliard Corporation

**Friend**
- Three Rivers Development Corp.

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Thank You to our Donors!

By Tammy J. Hallgren, Executive Vice President,
Public Relations and Development

The staff at Pathways, Inc. would like to express sincere gratitude to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations which help to provide program enhancements and opportunities for those we serve:

- Ms. Cynthia Adler
- Ms. Cassandra Barrett
- Ms. Shelvy Borden
- Ms. Kathy Costa
- Ms. Nancy Dixon
- Mr. Clifford Drake
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven Dunk
- Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Fenton
- Mr. Wendell Weeks and Ms. Kim Frock
- Mr. and Mrs. William Gilkinson
- Mr. and Mrs. William Gilmore
- Mr. Larry Hall
- Mr. Todd Hill
- Ms. Kim Knowles
- Ms. Nora Perkins
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Potter
- Ms. Penelope Schoonmaker
- Ms. Masao Shimizu
- Mr. and Mrs. Karl Smith
- Mr. Conrad Stemski
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Swan
- Mr. and Mrs. James Tyler
- Drs. Michael and Karin Witt
- Ms. Naomi Zuckerman
- Corning Catering
- Corning Museum of Glass Employees
- Country Inn & Suites
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- Elmira Water Board Employees
- Emanuel Lutheran Church
- First Arena/Elmira Jackals
- Hampton Inn – Painted Post
- Hilton Garden Inn - Horseheads
- Holiday Inn Express – Horseheads
- Holiday Inn Riverview – Elmira
- Jubilee Foods
- Multi Media Services
- Rite Aid KidCents
- Sound Communications
- The Rockwell Museum
- Wineglass Marathon

Pathways, Inc. Thanks Holiday Caring Donors

By Tammy J. Hallgren, Executive Vice President,
Public Relations and Development

The staff at Pathways, Inc. would like to express sincere thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations to our 2016 Holiday Caring program. The program matches individuals and families served by Pathways, Inc. who are in need with people in the community and/or local businesses that are willing to meet those needs for the holidays. We collect information including first names, sizes, wish list items, and needs for the holiday season. This may include clothing, toys, household items, and even meal items. We then share that information with those interested in “adopting” an individual or family and providing some or all of the items on their list. All parties were adopted thanks to generosity of all those named below:

- Ms. Denise Ackley
- Ms. Kelly Bartle
- Mr. Dan Bush
- Ms. Michelle Dundas & Family
- Ms. Teresa Fethers and family
- Ms. Lynette Garner
- Ms. Yvonne Pryslopski
- Arc of Chemung
  - Ms. Kari McDonnell and Colleagues
  - Bath Electric Gas & Water Systems
    - Ms. Julie Cerra and Colleagues
- Corning Incorporated
  - Ms. Mary Ellen Cervoni and Colleagues
  - Ms. Carol Cunningham and Colleagues
  - Ms. Margie Gilbert and Colleagues
  - Ms. Diane Miller and Colleagues
  - Ms. Ashley Rosplock and Colleagues
  - Ms. Kathy McClure and Colleagues
- Pathways, Inc.
  - Various departments, staff, and families
- Steuben DSS
  - Ms. Jill Risley and Colleagues
  - Ms. Kristen VonHagn and Colleagues
  - Ms. Tammy Woodward and Colleagues
- Tioga Ranch
  - Mr. Mark Gee
All about Mail Delivery
By Tammy J. Hallgren, Executive Vice President, Public Relations and Development

The children at Erwin Child & Family Center (ECFC) recently had a lesson on mail delivery. They talked about mail carriers and how mail gets from place to place. Each class made their own mailbox that was set up in a central location in the Center for mail delivery between classrooms. The children then created pieces of mail and put them in the appropriate mailbox to send to another class. The children loved checking their classroom’s mailbox for any new mail from their friends.

Pathways, Inc. has an actual mailman (courier) named Denis that delivers internal mail each day between our offices, residences, and program sites. The children at ECFC made thank you cards that were given to Denis as part of National Thank a Mail Carrier Day which was observed on February 4th. Denis was very pleased to be recognized by the children for the job he does.

Front Door Sessions Now Offered at Pathways, Inc.
By Dee Righter, Director of Community Services

The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) offers Front Door Sessions throughout the year at various Provider Agency locations. Pathways, Inc. has now joined that team of providers and will host three sessions throughout the 2017 calendar year, the first of which occurred in April.

Front Door sessions are required by OPWDD for anyone seeking supports/services from OPWDD for the first time. In addition, there are several other requirements identified by OPWDD for who must attend a Front Door session. These include individuals who established eligibility for services but never utilized a service and for individuals aging out of high school, to name a few.

Front Door sessions were developed to give people an understanding of the purpose and role of OPWDD. The sessions also outline the process for establishing eligibility for services and the types of services available.

Individuals residing in the following counties are requested to call the Front Door at 1-855-679-3335. Those counties are: Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates. Be prepared to leave your name and number if you get a recording and someone will return your call; otherwise you will speak with a Front Door facilitator who will gather some basic information. You will be sent a calendar of Front Door sessions and be encouraged to attend one if you haven’t already done so. You will also be assigned a Front Door facilitator who will help determine eligibility for your family member, identify supports needed and develop a plan.

Pathways, Inc. will be hosting two additional Front Door sessions this year. Each will be held at our main office located at 33 Denison Parkway West in Corning, NY. The sessions are scheduled on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 and Tuesday, December 12, 2017 each from 5 to 7 pm. You only need to attend one session. If interested, please pre-register by calling 607-937-3200. More information can be found on OPWDD’s website – www.opwdd.ny.gov.

Clemens Center Supports Foster Parent Recruitment Efforts
By Danielle Cevette, Assistant Program Coordinator, Family Counselor, Therapeutic Foster Care Program

The Pathways, Inc. Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) program held their first Foster Parent recruitment event at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY during the showing of Pippin on March 29, 2017. The event was planned and organized by our intern from Alfred University, Ashely Kennedy, with help from our Recruitment/Training Specialist, Sharon Newcomer. This activity was exciting for our program as it provided TFC with an opportunity to expand recruitment efforts to the Elmira area. The event was considered a success as three prospective foster parents were identified among others who expressed an interest in further information about our TFC program. In addition, the Clemens Center has welcomed our program to host future recruitment events, which is the first of many opportunities to utilize a popular Elmira attraction. We look forward to the potential to continue to grow our TFC program within our community.
A Lesson on Superheroes
By Jennifer Stanbro, Team Leader, Structured Day Program

When I was 4 years old, I wanted to be a superhero! That didn’t pan out for me; no cool cape or an “S” on a shirt for me. Instead, I get to work with superheroes every day. I’m referring to the individuals that participate in our Structured Day Program.

I’m guessing most young people don’t really decide they want to work with people that have disabilities. I believe I did! My influence was my cousin, who was 2 years older than me. She had a rare form of epilepsy with some mild mental retardation. As a child, I didn’t really understand that she had a disability, just that she was special and did things differently. She had a very large stature and she was overweight, and sometimes people stared and made fun of her in public. This really bothered me and I believe this helped me to develop a sense of empathy and protectiveness for her and others. Her mental age didn’t develop more than an 8- or 9-year-old so her maturity didn’t match her body as we grew. I knew that couldn’t be easy.

The people I work with everyday have many different abilities and disabilities. They are successful and they struggle just like everyone does. What I find amazing is what they have overcome to be where they are today. Some have literally beat the odds when they were told they would never walk again - and they do!

I still have that protective instinct that can be difficult in this position. We are to enable the individuals to be independent, which is hard when you see a struggle you can easily fix. I’ve had to learn different approaches to help them learn for themselves. This takes patience, but the payoff is so worth it! Watching someone succeed at something they have struggled with is awesome. It’s heroic!

When I started with Pathways, Inc. 4 years ago, I had no idea how much I was going to learn. I was so excited thinking I was going to be able to teach people new skills and boy, was I wrong! These individuals are teaching me… grace, humility and patience. These are life lessons that are much more valuable than what we learn in school. I have found that I don’t need to be a hero; I’m fortunate to work with the most heroic people I know.

There is Life After a Head Injury
By Josh Rich, TBI Survivor and Friend of Pathways, Inc.

Josh Rich, a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) survivor, recently provided Pathways, Inc. with an educational presentation be developed about head injury, in particular concussion. In his presentation, Josh walks the audience through his own personal experience with concussion. It is both heart-warming and surreal. Below is an article written by Josh giving a brief overview of his experience.

My name is Josh Rich. I suffered a severe concussion in 2007 during a high school basketball game. Since then I have had my fair share of ups and downs, but it has given me a passion to bring awareness about head injuries.

After my head injury, I went away to college and received my bachelor’s degree in Communication from Mount St. Mary’s University in Maryland. After college I was blessed with an opportunity to scout in the NBA with the Washington Wizards; unfortunately I had to come home due to Post-Concussion Syndrome (PCS). I currently work as a substitute teacher and do youth sports for a school in the area. In my spare time I give private golf lessons and basketball lessons.

I have had the opportunity to speak for Pathways, Inc. and the Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, Pa, to share my story. I have learned a lot about concussions from my past experience as a patient at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). My goal is to become a speaker on the issue of concussions and how they should be handled by the workforce, coaches, teachers, and families. I hope to speak at different events and I plan to reach out to the schools in the area to educate them about this very serious issue. To be honest, I thought concussions were not a serious matter until I dealt with one myself, but now I know there is much more to it. If you have questions or possible speaking opportunities, please contact me at jgerardrich@gmail.com. I am always open to educating others. I am also writing a book and hope to host a golf tournament or gala in the future to bring awareness to the issue of concussions.
Broad New Possibilities
By George Weiss, Program Manager, Broad Street Day Habilitation

On 11/21/16 the Elmira Heights and Lake Street Day Habilitation programs consolidated under one roof at our newly-acquired Broad Street facility in Horseheads. There was a lot to accomplish before we could welcome our individuals to their new program space: renovations were done to make two new accessible bathrooms, complete with separate shower rooms; a new accessible kitchen and laundry room were designed and installed; supplies and equipment had to be packed up and moved; and program rooms needed to be configured to meet peoples’ needs.

To ensure they had more of a stake in the new building, our individuals were encouraged to make artwork to hang in the hallways. They used a technique of dipping canvases into large totes of water with different types of paint spray on the water’s surface. The results are abstract, colorful and truly striking pieces of art.

Our individuals have become regulars at several local businesses to help promote positive relationships with members of our new community. We are also forging a relationship between our program participants and the daycare program that shares our building. Our individuals went over and sang carols to the younger children at Christmas time and some of the older children from the daycare visited us and sang to our individuals as well. We hope to continue to promote, from an early age, tolerance and a normalcy with regard to individuals with disabilities throughout the entire year.

The transition overall has been very positive and our individuals appear to be excited about the new building. Here’s what some of our individuals had to say about what they like about the new Broad Street facility:

“I like to go to the gym to play basketball” – Glenn
“It’s a brand new building. I like it!” – Lisa
“Gym.” – Geronumi
“Bulletin Boards! We like playing in the gym. We’re all together.” – Melissa
“I love it!” – J.R.
“I like everything here. And basketball!” – Phyllis

All the hard work by everyone involved was definitely worth it. Each program room is roughly a 1,000 square feet, which gives everyone plenty of room to spread out and have their own space for their activities. The new building also boasts several new amenities which have enhanced the daily experience for our individuals. We now have a full-sized gymnasium, where our individuals can play basketball or enjoy the free and expressive movements of their T’ai Chi classes. The building’s “cafetorium” is a truly unique space where individuals from various program rooms get together to have lunch, socialize, and participate in cooking groups. The main focal point of this room is a large stage complete with luxurious curtains and professional lighting that is just perfect for talent shows, fashion shows, plays and anything else our staff and individuals can dream up!

Skill Development Leads to a New Job
By Roxanne Horney-Rumsey, Program Coordinator, Employment Services and Community Habilitation

Pathways, Inc. Employment Services provide opportunities for pre-employment skill development through vocational assessments, travel training, and job customization. Lee Potter has been successful in working with Pathways job coaches to apply for a job in the community—and has attained the job! Lee is no stranger to hard work. He knows the ins and outs of kitchen work like the back of his hand, which made for an easy transition to his new job as a utility worker in the Dining Services at Corning Community College. Working three full days each week, he is an important member of the dishwashing crew. Lee uses an industrial dishwashing machine to clean hundreds of dishes every time he works. He rides the public bus to get to and from work each day. Lee reports that he loves his new job and has friendly co-workers that he enjoys working with. Congratulations, Lee!
Kelley MacDonald named Employee of the Fourth Quarter
Kelley MacDonald was named outstanding employee of the fourth quarter 2016 at Pathways, Inc. Kelley is employed as a service coordinator for our Medicaid Service Coordination Department and has worked for Pathways, Inc. since May 2006. She was recognized for her tenacity and determination in advocating for those we serve. Congratulations, Kelley!

Greg Rutledge Named 2016 Employee of the Year
Gregory Rutledge was named the 2016 Employee of the Year at Pathways, Inc. He was presented with the award at the annual staff recognition dinner held at the Radisson Hotel in Corning. Greg is employed as Relief Residence Counselor and has worked for Pathways, Inc. since June 2015. He was recognized for his selfless dedication and commitment to those we serve. Congratulations, Greg!

Tasha Toole named Employee of the First Quarter
Tasha Toole was named outstanding employee of the first quarter of 2017 at Pathways, Inc. Tasha is employed as a health care integrator for our Bridges to Health program and has worked for Pathways, Inc. since February 2011. She was recognized for going above and beyond and for her flexibility and determination in advocating for those we serve. Congratulations, Tasha!

Maryellen Dance Hired as Program Director
Pathways, Inc. is pleased to announce that Maryellen Dance has been hired as Program Director for our OMH Waiver Program. Maryellen previously worked for community mental health and substance use disorder facilities. Welcome, Maryellen!

Dianne Smith Retires
With more than 16 years of service, Dianne Smith has retired from Pathways, Inc. as Program Director for our OMH Waiver Program. Congratulations, Dianne!

Milestone Anniversaries
The following employees celebrate milestone employment anniversaries in the first half of 2017.

Celebrating 5 years of service are: Vicki Hall, Taylor Henry, Gwinnette Hernandez, Jerry Klock, Jr., Sheree McGannon, Samantha Meriwether, Sarah Morseman, Kathryn Padgett, Candace Pries, Clifford Roy, III, Jennifer Ruddy, Katherine Tucker, Dolly Warren, Kristie Whitney, Mykaia Williams, and Tyler Yuelling.

Celebrating 10 years of service are: Heather Cruz, Bartholomew Hauber, Clinton Millhouse, and Melody Shuster.

Celebrating 15 years of service are: Gina Chilson, Kelly Cornell, Rachyll Frazier, Susan Gitsis, Christine Halter, Nancy Phenes, Andrea Sharp, and Andrew Smaldone.

Celebrating 20 years of service are: Aimee Comfort and Susan Kirk.

Celebrating 25 years of service are: Sheila Oakley, Brenda Tucker, and Erin Warr.

Celebrating 30 years of service is: Deirdre Righter.
Congratulations all!
Encouraging Observation Skills in Young Children
By Christine Brazil, Lead Teacher, Erwin Child & Family Center

Activities that encourage observation skills are so important. For example, our classroom recently learned all about penguins. If you had walked into our room you would have noticed a large poster with photos of 8 or 9 varieties of penguins and wondered why 3- and 4-year olds need to know the difference between Rock hoppers and Macaroni penguins. Is this really useful information? Will they need this for Pre-K and Kindergarten?

The answer is yes, it is very useful information! Why? It encourages the children to notice subtle differences between similar objects. Many of our English letters are very similar, like E/F or B/R. When students are tuned in to noticing slight differences in objects, they become more aware of differences in letters too.

Learning about differences in objects leads to new vocabulary and discussions of similarities and differences. Looking at a Chinstrap penguin and learning that it is so named because its markings look like it’s wearing a black hat with a chin strap helps children learn rational thinking. They call on prior knowledge to help understand new things. When we were talking about Chinstrap penguins, one of the students shared that his younger brother has a hat with a chin strap too! It builds confidence when the children learn new things and can correctly identify objects and share their knowledge with others. Some students still talk about the different penguins and identify them in books. They are proud to explain how Chinstrap penguins got their name and how even though Rock hopper and Macaroni penguins look a lot alike, one of them is much smaller than the other.

The subject matter of our lessons and activities is not as important as the skills students learn through them. We could be studying penguins, the weather, transportation, jungle animals, or Dr. Seuss stories. The key is to find ways through these lessons and activities to engage the students to practice their observation skills, fine and gross motor skills, language and literacy skills, science, math, and social-emotional skills.

Pathways, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. If you would like to give a tax-deductible gift to Pathways, Inc., please visit us at https://www.pathwaysforyou.org/donationform.php or you may mail your gift to the address below.

Memorial tributes are acknowledged with a letter sent according to your wishes and your name will be printed in our community newsletter as a donor unless you indicate otherwise with your gift.

Mail your gift to: Pathways, Inc.

C/O Tammy Hallgren
33 Denison Parkway West
Corning, NY 14830

Your personal information is strictly confidential and will be used exclusively for Pathways, Inc. purposes, and will not be shared with other organizations. Your contact information will be added to our database to receive our community newsletter and fundraiser invitations unless you indicate otherwise with your gift.

Thank you for your support! It is greatly appreciated.