



# PATHWAYS POST

SUMMER 2013

## Annual Picnic Cooks Up Sweet Memories



Over plates brimming with fresh grilled barbeque and homemade desserts, more than 325 Pathways staff and clients mingled at our annual picnic earlier this summer on the grounds of Fort Dupont Park.

In addition to the food and camaraderie, there were plenty of games and physical activities.

Participants tossed footballs, played Ultimate Frisbee, and even gracefully leapt over twin spinning ropes in energetic rounds of Double Dutch! For those seeking a little relief from the sun, there were games of Spades and rounds of the beanbag game “corn hole” beneath the shade of the park’s stately oak trees. This successful event provided a positive social outlet and strengthened the bond between staff and clients. The annual picnic is open to all of the Pathways family—clients, staff and supporters—Won’t you join us next year?



## Take me out to the ballgame!

What says summer more than baseball? On Memorial Day weekend 30 Pathways clients and staff welcomed in the warm weather with a ballpark outing to see the Washington Nationals take on the Baltimore Orioles. Emotions ran high as the ‘Beltway Battle’ ensued, enjoyed by Veterans and patriots alike. Thanks to the Nationals’ Community Ticket Grant program, clients were able to engage in a rare treat, while enjoying the company of their fellow Washingtonians. We could not think of a more perfect way to honor our heroes, while also celebrating our clients’ recoveries, inspiring in them a sense of belonging to their community.

## Stay Connected to Pathways!

*We’re always sharing photos and stories from the front lines!*



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PathwaysDC**



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United Way  
of the National Capital Area

United Way NCA Designation Code  
9536



CFC Designation Code  
59854



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## CHRISTY'S CORNER

An update from Pathways DC's Executive Director

The essence of *family* and *community* are at the heart of everything we do here at Pathways. We strive to provide every client with a renewed sense of self-confidence and belonging through a network of resources to rebuild their lives after moving from the streets into permanent housing. But we don't do it alone. Our network extends beyond our office to our government partners, landlords and other local service providers who work hand-in-hand with our staff to provide essential support services. Our community includes the local convenience store owner who specifically stocks diabetic cookies for James to manage his diabetes without having to make the challenging walk to the grocery store fourteen blocks away. It extends to a bank downtown which set up a special after-hours appointment for Donnetta in order to work around her debilitating paranoia. We treasure these and so many more partnerships that have enabled our clients to remain in housing and be successful in their recoveries.

*And at the heart of our family is you.*

Your support gives us the framework to move our clients into apartments and to transform these bare living spaces into safe, inviting homes. The strength of these relationships and the bonds in our community continue to be a lifeline in ensuring our success in ending chronic homelessness for our most vulnerable neighbors.

*Thank you for being part of our family!*

**P.S. You did it! Thanks to you, we met our matching grant from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, raising a total of \$70,000 to benefit our neighbors in need.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

As originators of the Housing First Model, Pathways to Housing believes housing is a basic human right. Our mission is to transform the lives of people experiencing mental health challenges and homelessness by supporting self-directed recovery and community integration. We work to change mental health and housing services by: Providing immediate, low-barrier access to permanent housing, without preconditions; Setting the standard for services that support recovery and community integration; Advocating for people's right to live free from stigma and discrimination; Conducting research to find innovative solutions and best practices for those who are experiencing homelessness and psychiatric disabilities, addictions, and complex medical issues.

**Thomas is one of the dozens of Pathways clients who recently received the keys to his very own apartment.**

**Welcome home Thomas!**



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