

Pathways Pulse

PRESS



JANUARY 2025 EDITION

NEW YEAR GREATER PATHWAYS



As we step into the new year, we are reminded of the power of possibility, growth, and community. The beginning of 2025 marks not just a calendar shift, but an opportunity to set intentions and embrace meaningful initiatives that enrich lives and foster independence.

In this special edition, we are thrilled to kick off another 12 months of highlighting PTO's activities ranging from life skills, from financial literacy, general education, & effective communication to cooking, gardening, and more. At its heart, P.T.O. is about nurturing self-confidence and creating pathways to independence. Our newsletter and social media pages highlight the profound impact of such initiatives—not just in gaining practical skills, but in building a sense of belonging and purpose. This program celebrates the strength, resilience, and unique talents of every individual it serves.

As you explore this issue, we invite you to reflect on how we, as a community, can continue to create inclusive opportunities that help everyone thrive. Let's make 2025 a year of empowerment, compassion, and progress for all.

Here's to a new year filled with growth and boundless potential.

With gratitude,

Your Friends at Pathways to Opportunity



THE ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Winter 2025 Updates

In this special edition, we are thrilled to kick off another 12 months of highlighting PTO's activities ranging from life skills, from financial literacy, general education, & effective communication to cooking, gardening, and more. At its heart, P.T.O. is about nurturing self-confidence and creating pathways to independence. Our newsletter and social media pages highlight the profound impact of such initiatives—not just in gaining practical skills, but in building a sense of belonging and purpose. This program celebrates the strength, resilience, and unique talents of every individual it serves.

As you explore this issue, we invite you to reflect on how we, as a community, can continue to create inclusive opportunities that help everyone thrive. Let's make 2025 a year of empowerment, compassion, and progress for all.

Our new 2025 winter quarter advocacy council has been voted in! Here's to a new year filled with growth and boundless potential. We're so excited to have our new peers with us, and we're grateful for our friends at Lee County Elections. President Stephanie, Vice President Dion, Secretary Kelly, and Treasurer Stephanie are excited to start leading group activities, outings, & making a positive impact over the next three months. Please feel free to reach out using the contact button on our website if you have any questions or pointers for the Advocacy Council!

Signing out with love from:
Your 2025 Winter Advocacy Council



THE ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Winter 2025 Updates



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🏀 Game Time! 🏀

Our PTO Sports League has been practicing all month, and now it's time to put their skills to the test! Get ready for the ultimate showdown as our participants take on the admin team in an exciting basketball game.

Who will take home the bragging rights? Find us on Facebook to see some game highlights and results!



WE LOVE LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS



This month we'd like to show gratitude to Juan and the whole Lee County Elections crew! For years now they visit us like clock work to set up voting machines on site so our participants get the full experience of voting and casting their ballots for peers on official equipment! For many, this has opened up the possibility of voting in official elections by eliminating the fear and hesitation that many of our participants may experience at election time. The LCE crew is warm, welcoming and respectful and we are forever grateful for their partnership! Thank you for BEING the difference!





Our friend Maranda, the CEO of “Hair by Maranda” came in and gave the ladies some much-needed TLC! She worked her magic with haircuts, and everyone left feeling refreshed and confident. We appreciate you sharing your time and talent with us!

Contact: marandadouglas.glossgenius.com

Instructor Spotlight

MS. WEEZIE



LOUSIE AKA WEEZIE IS AN INCREDIBLY INTERACTIVE AND ENGAGING EDUCATOR WHO EXCELS AT TEACHING PARTICIPANTS ESSENTIAL SKILLS IN MATH AND MONEY MANAGEMENT. HER LESSONS ARE NOT ONLY INFORMATIVE BUT ALSO ENRICHING, AS SHE INTRODUCES FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS. WEEZIE'S LOVING AND CARING NATURE CREATES A SUPPORTIVE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT, MAKING LEARNING A TRULY ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.!



PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY



*Get to
Know Us!*

SCAN HERE





Farm Fresh Fun with STEMCAT FLORIDA!

Our Green Thumbs gardening class enjoyed an amazing hands-on experience at the StemcatFL community garden with Dr. Jessie Bryson!

For our first session we picked fresh greens and kale, fed the chickens and fish, learned about aquaponics (our word of the day!), adopted tomato plant garden beds to care for each session

We are so excited to grow alongside this wonderful partnership as the team teaches our participants not only how to harvest food and eat healthy but also how help to others with food sustainability!





As we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we asked our Pathways to Opportunity participants to share their dreams.

Dr. King believed in the power of dreams to inspire change and create a better world. Hearing our participants' aspirations reminds us that every dream is worth pursuing, and together, we can make them a reality.

Let's keep his legacy alive by fostering hope, inclusion, and equality for all.

Visit our Facebook page or [CLICK HERE](#) to WATCH OUR PARTICIPANT VIDEO.



Favorite HAT DAY



FOOTBALL JERSEY DAY



WEAR YOUR JERSEY DAY
FEBRUARY 7TH 2025

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THANK YOU FOR SUBSCRIBING! VOL: 1.25



Fairways to Opportunity

Come Brunch and Golf with Pathways to Opportunity
at the Third Annual
Pathways to Opportunity Top Golf Fundraiser!

February 16, 2025
9 am - 12 pm

**\$550 for a Bay accommodating
6 players or \$150 per person**

Cost includes golfing for three hours at Fort Myers
Top Golf facility, two beverage tickets, Brunch buffet,
and a morning of fun while supporting a great cause!

Register at:

www.eventcreate.com/e/fairways-to-opportunity2025

or scan the qr code

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5K • FUN RUN

Saturday June 7, 2025 at 7:30am

Register by May 7th for a discounted price

For more info or sign up use the link or QR code below:

PathwaysToOpportunity.com/5K

Hosted at Babcock Ranch

**42911 Lake Babcock Drive
Punta Gorda, FL US 33982**



BABCOCK RANCH



PTO X EVERBLADES HOCKEY "FUN"RAISER

HERTZ ARENA 3/29/25 7:00PM



SCAN
HERE FOR
TICKETS



IT'S BLACK-OUT NIGHT! FANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR BLACK

A PORTION OF PROCEEDS
FROM TICKETS PURCHASED
VIA OUR QR CODE GOES TO PTO!



VS





Medicaid vs Med-waiver

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

MEDICAID

Medicaid is a health insurance program primarily for low-income individuals and families. It covers essential medical services like doctor visits, hospital stays, prescriptions, and preventive care. Its primary focus is on providing access to healthcare services for medical and wellness needs

VS

MEDICAID WAIVER

A Medicaid Waiver provides additional support services not typically covered by Medicaid, particularly for individuals with disabilities or special needs. The goal of a Medicaid Waiver is to promote independence and enhance quality of life by providing in-home support, community-based services, and assistance that helps people live outside of institutional settings. Services under Medicaid Waivers can include in-home care, job coaching, transportation, and respite care for caregivers.

SUMMARY

Medicaid focuses on medical care. Medicaid Waivers focus on long-term, supportive services that help individuals thrive in their communities.

5 STEP APPLICATION GUIDE



1

DETERMINE IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES (SEE ELIGIBILITY PAGE - IN IDD NAVIGATION BOOKLET OR VISIT APD WEBSITE)



2

REVIEW THE SERVICES THAT APD COVERS FOR YOUR LOVED ONE (SEE GUIDE TO IBUDGET FLORIDA WAIVER SERVICES PAGES - IN IDD NAVIGATION BOOKLET OR VISIT APD WEBSITE)



3

OBTAIN ALL YOUR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST PAGE - IN IDD NAVIGATION BOOKLET OR VISIT APD WEBSITE)



4

CONVERT ALL YOUR PAPER DOCUMENTS INTO PDF FORMAT
• SCAN THEM SO THEY ARE NOW DIGITAL DOCUMENTS



5

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION USING EITHER OPTION:
1: VISIT THE WEBSITE TO PRINT THE APPLICATION AT:
[HTTPS://APD.MYFLORIDA.COM/CUSTOMERS/APPLICATION/](https://apd.myflorida.com/customers/application/)
2: CREATE AN ACCOUNT & APPLY ON THE PORTAL AT:
[HTTPS://APPLYNOW.APD.MYFLORIDA.COM/](https://applynow.apd.myflorida.com/)

NOTE: PLEASE UPLOAD OR SEND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST PAGE - IN IDD NAVIGATION BOOKLET OR VISIT APD WEBSITE)



1. IF YOU COMPLETE THE APPLICATION ONLINE, MAKE SURE TO HAVE ALL DOCUMENTS IN FRONT OF YOU (ALL SCANNED & TURNED INTO PDFS.
2. THE PORTAL WILL DELETE ANY UNSAVED ENTRIES AFTER 15 MINUTES OF INACTIVITY
1. MAKE SURE TO CLICK ON "SAVE & CONTINUE" AFTER EVERY QUESTION.

**NO MATTER WHAT OPTION YOU CHOOSE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST WITH YOUR APPLICATION JOURNEY.
CONTACT US AT: [JESSICAVALOS@GOODWILLSWFL.ORG](mailto:jessicaavalos@goodwillswfl.org)**

DID YOU KNOW?



**WE OFFER DISABILITY
NAVIGATION SERVICES**

**Need assistance applying for
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
(APD) services?**

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



CONTACT US

SCAN ME



WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM



239-823-1625 OR 239-995-2106



PTOADMIN@GOODWILLSWFL.ORG



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FACEBOOK.COM/PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY



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