

*74 Year Anniversary Edition*

*Pathways  
Pulse Press*

*Years*

*July 2025*

# WHAT'S INSIDE?

## WELCOME YOUR SUMMER 2025 ADVOCACY COUNCIL



Its a hot summer this year and your 2025 Summer Advocacy Council coming in HOT! We are available to assist you! Feel free to visit us if you require any assistance. We hope everyone had a pleasant month!



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# **HAPPY 11-YEAR ANNIVERSARY TO** **PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY!**



**FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, PTO HAS BEEN EMPOWERING ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO GROW, THRIVE, AND LIVE MORE INDEPENDENTLY. THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATED 11 YEARS OF INCLUSION, IMPACT, AND COMMUNITY! ❤️ OUR PARTICIPANTS PROUDLY HOLD THE OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING PTO'S IMPACT - A SYMBOL OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME AND THE LIVES WE'VE TOUCHED ALONG THE WAY! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THIS JOURNEY. HERE'S TO MANY MORE YEARS ON THE PATHWAY TO MANY POSSIBILITIES!!**

*Anniversary*



# PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

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Dear Community Partners,

I'm excited to share some recent updates from our Disability Navigation Program that will make it easier than ever to connect individuals and families with the support they need. For those of you who were recently added, our Disability Navigation program assists families connect to resources and guide them through the application process for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Medicaid Waiver (also known as iBudget or Home and Community Based Services - HCBS). In Lee County (other counties coming soon), we also help navigate families through the Guardian Advocacy process.

We've just received a new shipment of Disability Navigation packets! If you'd like some for your office, please don't hesitate to reach out—I'd be happy to drop them off. We've also refreshed our outreach materials and now have updated flyers available for distribution.

To make referrals more convenient, we've introduced a Google Form that allows you to submit referrals directly to me and my team. The QR code for the form is printed on the flyer, making it easy to scan and complete. You're more than welcome to submit on behalf of someone you support—this helps us ensure quick and meaningful follow-up. While you can continue to email me directly, we have also created a designated email for disability navigation that will go to my entire team - [disabilitynavigation@goodwillswfl.org](mailto:disabilitynavigation@goodwillswfl.org).

Referral Link: <https://forms.gle/jqcHVHDQfwkhrbNP7>

In addition, we're currently developing a series of short videos designed to help families better understand the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and the Medicaid Waiver (iBudget). We're also finalizing updates to make our materials available in multiple languages, helping us reach and support even more individuals in our community.

If you have any questions or would like to request flyers or packets, I'm always happy to connect. Please also note that I've been experiencing some issues with my office phone line—so for now, the best way to reach me is via email or my work cell at (239) 281-3676.

Thank you for being such an important part of our referral network & for all that you do to support individuals with disabilities and their families.

Please feel free to share with anyone on your teams!



# Instructor GROWTH Highlights

Page 1 of 2

**Q What is one example of growth you have noticed in your participants in the past year?**

A men's club participant struggled to talk & needed prompts during our circle time 2 quarters ago. He required prompts to verbalize even a single word. Now, he shares stories about his weekend AND his verbal interactions through the day have doubled!



Thomas

A specific participant did not communicate at all but has since grown so much & come a long way! She is very active, attentive & helpful, always assisting her instructor & peers!



Louise aka Weezie

The Photography class has developed a sharp eye for creativity & capturing meaningful images! Their work speaks volumes without saying a word!



Cassandra

The growth I have noticed & truly enjoy watching is the love & understanding they have for each other. PTO is their Home away from Home!

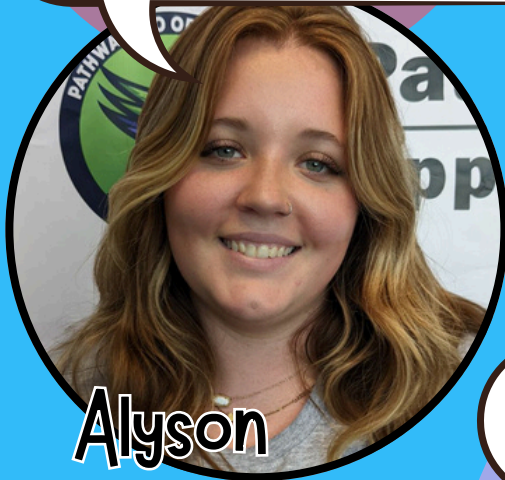


Christina

# Instructor GROWTH Highlights

Page 2 of 2

Many of the participants have shown great manners at program but also out in the community!



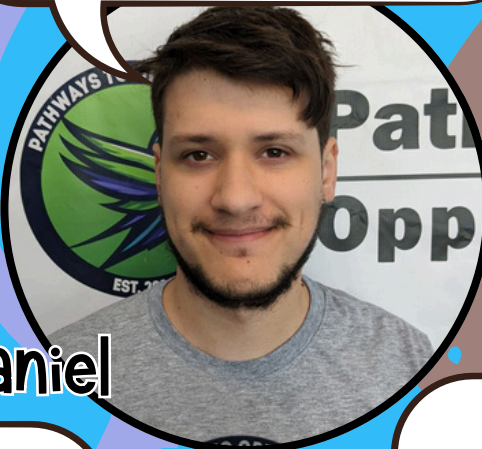
Alyson

Some participants were very shy but now they talk much more. They are much better at new skills like drawing or building with Legos, things they've never done before!



Janelle

I have noticed a growth in togetherness. The participants are more than ready to jump up to help each other and even staff members!

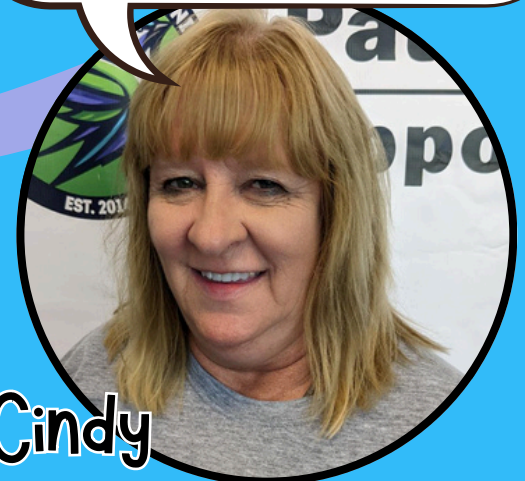
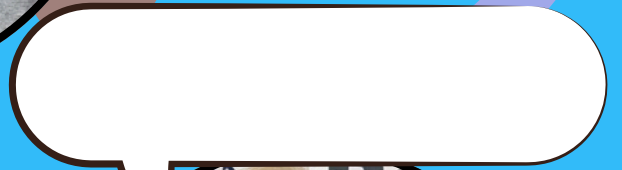


Daniel

My class is so much more social in the way they interact and in how they all look out for each other



Justine

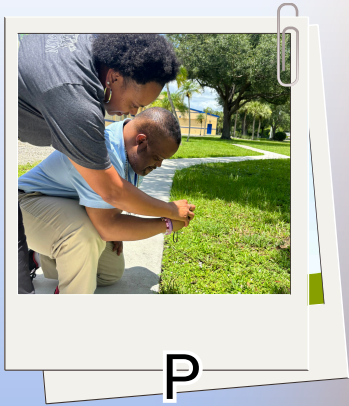


Cindy

# Classroom SPOTLIGHTS

IF YOU WONDERED WHAT CLASSES WE OFFER AT PATHWAYS, THIS LITTLE JOURNEY THROUGH CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS IS JUST FOR YOU! WITH OVER 50 CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM, THE CHOICES ARE LIMITLESS! CONTACT US TO SPONSOR AN ACTIVITY FOR ANY OF THESE CLASSES IN COUNTS OF 10. ALSO FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US TO SCHEDULE A TOUR AND/OR ASK HOW YOU CAN "ADOPT A CLASS"!

# PTO PICTURE PERFECT



P

# SOCIAL CLUB



# PATHWAYS PENCILLERS



# GREEN THUMBS



# MATHLETES



# MEN'S/WOMEN'S CLUB



# S.T.E.M. SPARKS



# PATHWAYS CASTERS



# ADVOCACY COUNCIL








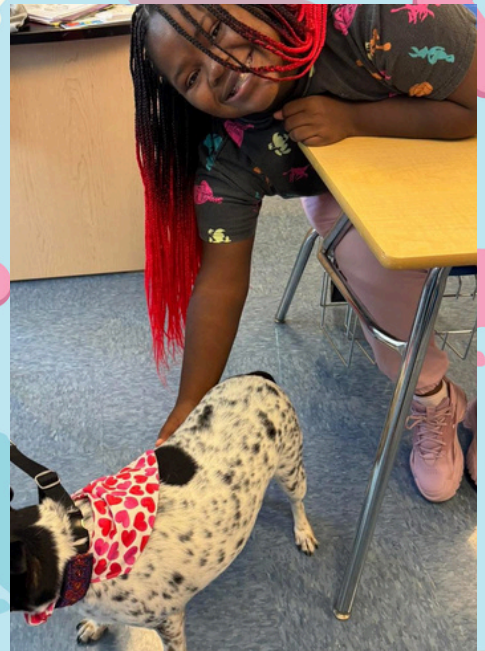
**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
**OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**



 **A big THANK YOU to Harry Chapin Food Bank for joining us and teaching our participants about healthy eating and nutrition!**  **Your visit sparked great conversations and empowered everyone to make mindful choices. We are so grateful for your partnership and commitment to wellness in our community!** 



**🐾 We always have some paws-itively amazing visitors! Thank you to our Pet Therapy friends for always bringing smiles, comfort, and lots of tail wags to Pathways to Opportunity. 🐶💕 Sometimes, the best kind of therapy has four legs and a furry hug!**



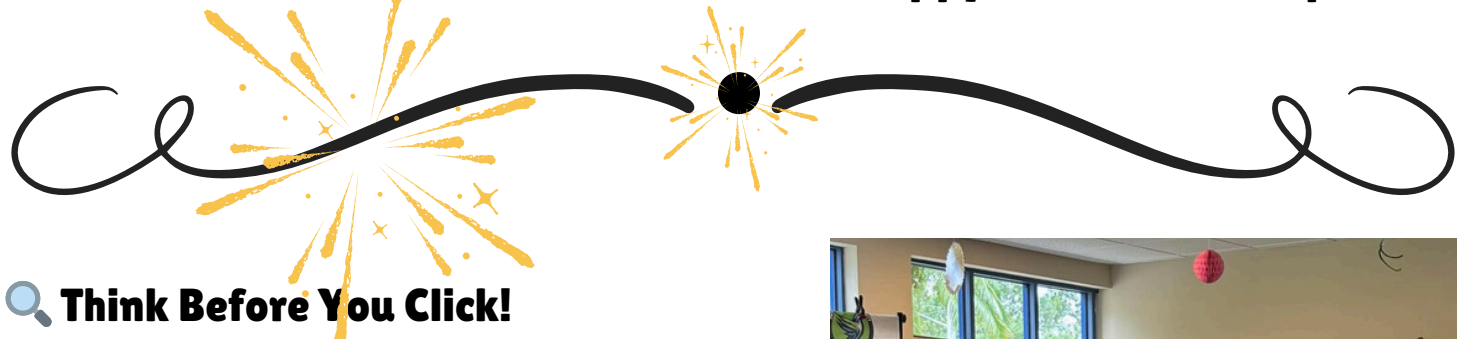
# THE *Women's* CLUB



# July

**Thank you, Therap! We were proud to host the Therap User Group right here in Fort Myers! It was a great day of learning, best practices, & connecting with other organizations who use Therap to support individuals with disabilities.**

**Interested in learning more about Therap can support your program? Reach out—we're happy to share our experience!**



## **🔍 Think Before You Click!**

**Our participants took part in a Scam Prevention Training focused on spotting social media scams and catfishing. From fake friend requests to too-good-to-be-true messages, they learned how to protect themselves online and make safer choices. 🖥️🚫❤️🔥**

**Learning how to recognize red flags helps build confidence and independence in today's digital world!**



# Celebrating DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

🇺🇸 July is Disability Pride Month! 🌟

In every smile, in every stride,  
We see our participants beam with pride.  
With strength and courage, they rise each day,  
Breaking barriers, leading the way.

Unique, empowered, bold, and true—  
We're so proud of all that you do!  
You show the world what it means to shine,  
And remind us all—your power is divine. 💪❤️

# MOVIE TIME



**MOVIE MAGIC! OUR PARTICIPANTS TOOK WEEKLY TRIPS TO THE MOVIES ALL SUMMER —AND IT WAS MORE THAN JUST FUN, IT WAS FULL OF LEARNING!**

**OUTINGS LIKE THIS HELP BUILD REAL-WORLD LIFE SKILLS SUCH AS:**

- **MONEY MANAGEMENT (BUYING TICKETS & SNACKS)**
- **TIME MANAGEMENT (ARRIVING ON TIME FOR THE SHOW)**
- **SOCIAL INTERACTION (TALKING WITH PEERS, STAFF, AND THE PUBLIC)**
- **COMMUNITY SAFETY (NAVIGATING PUBLIC SPACES RESPECTFULLY AND SAFELY)**
- **DECISION MAKING (CHOOSING A MOVIE, SNACK, OR SEAT)**
- **PATIENCE & FLEXIBILITY (WAITING IN LINES, ADJUSTING TO SENSORY ENVIRONMENTS)**
- **FOLLOWING ROUTINES (ADHERING TO SCHEDULES, THEATER RULES)**

**EVERY OUTING IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH—AND WE’RE PROUD OF HOW MUCH OUR PARTICIPANTS CONTINUE TO SHINE!**

# KINDNESS



Our PTO participants gave back in a big way today! 🎉💙 They helped decorate for a special birthday party at Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc., and we cannot wait for the kiddo to see the surprise! A huge thank you to Junior League of Fort Myers for this incredible opportunity, and to ACT for allowing us to be a part of the birthday kiddos special day. Giving back not only spreads joy, it helps our participants feel connected to something bigger. Being part of a community that uplifts others is powerful, and today, they got to be that light.



Our incredible Men's and Women's Clubs came together to celebrate friendship by learning about kindness and what it means to each of them. They took time to express themselves creatively, sharing personal reflections and artwork that show how kindness can look different for everyone—but always makes a big impact. Friendship grows stronger with empathy, understanding, care so today, we celebrated that & more. 💛



# SCAN HERE

TO VIEW OUR  
AMAZON WISHLIST

Help us create engaging, hands-on learning experiences for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Every item you purchase will go directly into our classrooms and support skill-building, creativity and independence.



LEARN MORE AT

[WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM](http://WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM)

Thank You For Making A Difference!



# DISABILITY NAVIGATION IS HERE TO HELP!

PLEASE SCAN TO  
COMPLETE OUR  
REFERRAL FORM AND A  
NAVIGATOR WILL  
REACH OUT TO  
SCHEDULE YOUR ONE  
ON ONE SESSION!



Need assistance navigating the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Medicaid Waiver iBudget, Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) application process?

Need assistance connecting to local providers or transitioning into adulthood with your loved one with IDD?

**CONTACT US**



239-281-3676



disabilitynavigation@goodwillswfl.org

**PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS**

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**2025**  
**SUMMER**  
**SCIENCE**  
**SHOWCASE**



**STEM SPARKS**

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**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2025**  
**FRIENDS' VOTING 11AM - 12PM**



YOU ARE INVITED TO

# VICE & VOGUE

*Resort Wear*



SATURDAY **23** 5:00 PM

AUGUST

@ SIDNEY BERNE DAVIS ART CENTER  
2301 FIRST STREET, FORT MYERS 33901



VICE &  
Vogue





# Things To Bring

## To Pathways to Opportunity

Remember we do not supply these items



LUNCH



SNACKS



PAPER PLATES OR  
SILVERWARE



REUSABLE CUP OR



WORK OUT CLOTHES



SPARE CLOTHES

# **DID YOU KNOW?**



## **WE OFFER DISABILITY NAVIGATION SERVICES**

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

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

SCAN ME



# CONTACT US



[WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM](http://WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM)



239-823-1625 OR 239-995-2106



[PTOADMIN@GOODWILLSWFL.ORG](mailto:PTOADMIN@GOODWILLSWFL.ORG)



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