

# PATHWAYS PULSE PRESS

## Pathways to Opportunity

March 2024 Newsletter



### Note from Admin Staff

We are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to showcase all the incredible new developments on the horizon for PTO! We trust that you will relish in a summary of the events and achievements from the month of March.

### Note from Advocacy Council

We are available to assist you! Feel free to visit us if you require any assistance. We hope everyone had a pleasant month!

LET'S CELEBRATE

MARCH



Micah

Robert

Keith

Dwight

Joshua

Wade

Diedre

Nadan

Stephanie

Connor

Kevin P.



# PET THERAPY



We had a bit of a ruff day, but thanks to our furry friends from Pet Therapy, the day got a whole lot brighter! Their unconditional love worked wonders, providing the comfort and joy we all needed.





We're so grateful to Beesley's Paw Prints for visiting our program and introducing us to a new furry friend! Their visit brought smiles, joy, and lots of tail wags to our day.





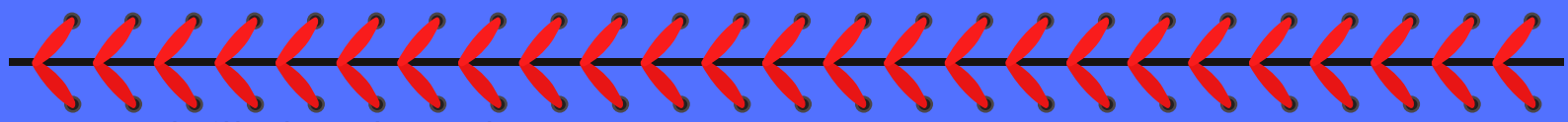
# PATHWAYS REC

Our Pathways Rec crew took over the Harold Avenue Recreation Center for an energizing workout session! From stretches to adaptive volleyball, we pushed our limits and cheered each other on every step of the way.

Big thanks to the Harold Avenue Recreation Center for hosting us and helping make today's session so empowering. Together, we're building strength, confidence, and community.

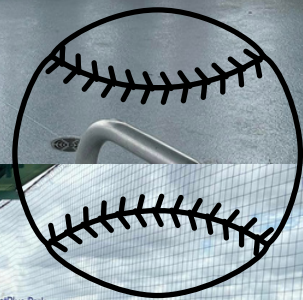




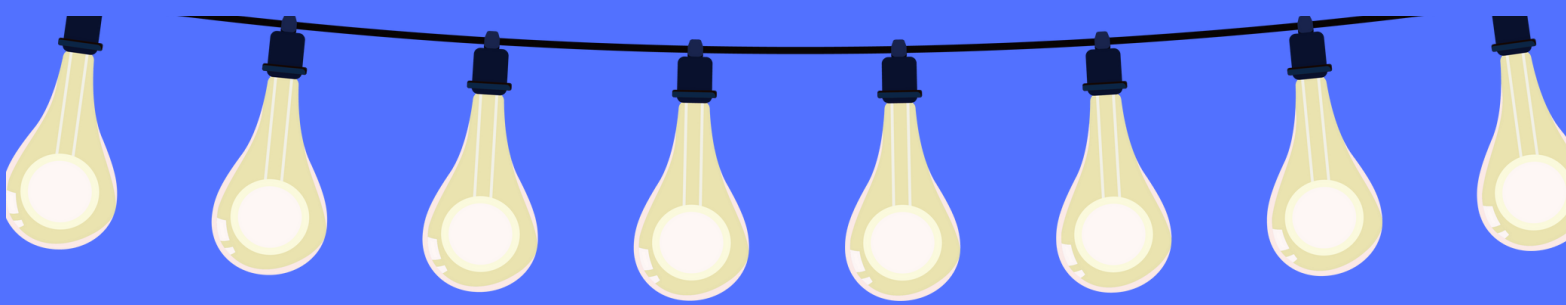


We're thrilled to share that our participants had the incredible opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of JetBlue Park, the spring training home of the Boston Red Sox! It was an unforgettable experience where we got to learn all about the ins and outs of the Red Sox's organization

# JET BLUE PARK







**We are thrilled to celebrate an incredibly successful quarter with our amazing men's and women's clubs! Today's banquet was not just a gathering; it was a celebration of dedication, hard work, and community.**

**From the laughter that filled the room to the delicious meal that delighted our taste buds, every moment was a testament to what we can achieve together. The food was nothing short of spectacular, a perfect complement to the vibrant spirits of everyone present. To all our participants, thank you for your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. Here's to many more successes and delicious meals shared together!**



# end of quarter banquet





# Developmental Disabilities Awareness

March 2024



#DDAM2024

This month, we stand together to celebrate Developmental Disability Awareness Month. It's a time to shine a light on the incredible abilities, talents, and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities in our communities.

At Pathways to Opportunity, we believe in the power of inclusion, diversity, and recognizing the potential in everyone. This month, and every month, we're committed to breaking down barriers, fostering understanding, and creating a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Let's use this time to educate, advocate, and celebrate the achievements of those with developmental disabilities. By choosing to include and support one another, we build a stronger, more compassionate community.



# WOMEN'S CLUB




We had the pleasure of welcoming Chantel to our Women's Club for an empowering session in honor of Women's History Month. Her kindness truly set the tone for an afternoon filled with open conversations, shared aspirations, and the courage to face challenges head-on.

Our ladies learned the invaluable lesson of supporting one another, fostering a sense of unity and bonding that only grows stronger with each shared experience. It's moments like these that highlight the strength and resilience found within our community.

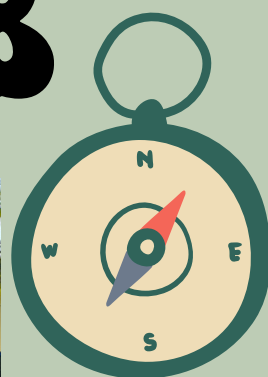
A special shoutout to Chantel for bringing unique snacks that added an extra layer of joy to our gathering. Your generosity and spirit have earned you a place in the Pathways to Opportunity family.

Thank you for inspiring us and for reminding us of the power of kindness and community. Here's to more uplifting sessions and the beautiful journey of empowerment together!





# WOMEN'S CLUB

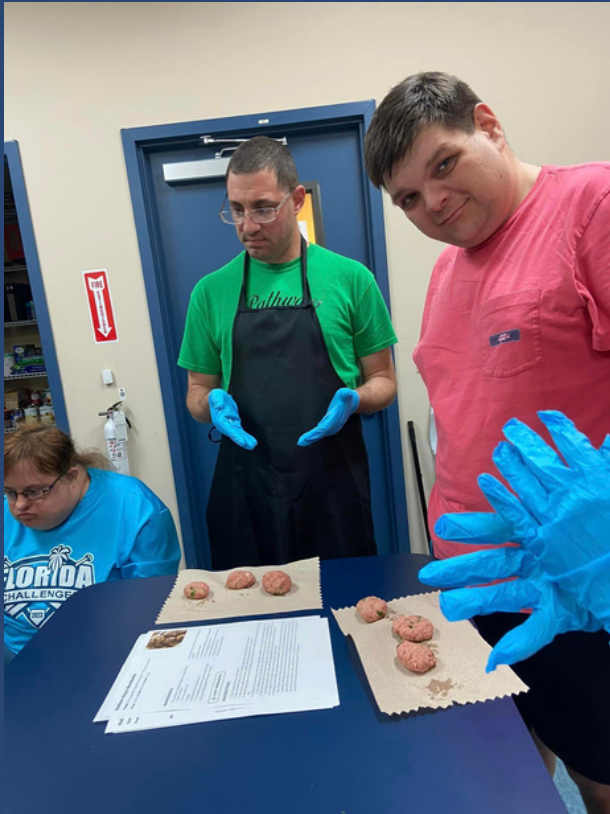


Weaving the threads of comradery and empowerment, our Women's Club recently concluded a captivating Ladies Survival Training Seminar guided by the luminous Becky from Best Buddies. A tapestry of newfound wisdom and courage unfurled as we embraced novel challenges and expanded our horizons, nurturing not just self-assurance but also fortitude and self-reliance. Gratitude fills the air like a fragrant incense as we extend heartfelt thanks to Becky for illuminating our path with such a jubilant and enlightening seminar. The echoes of laughter, the treasures of knowledge, and the bonds forged today embody the essence of our vibrant community.

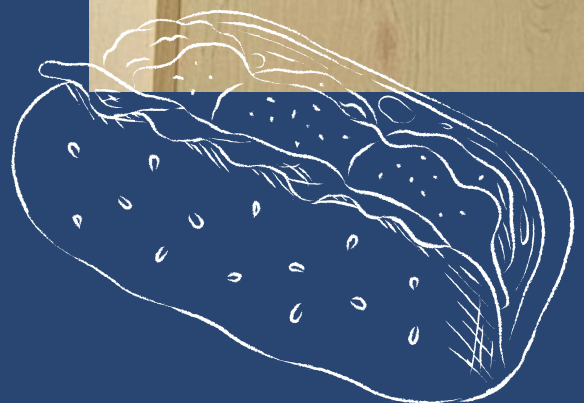
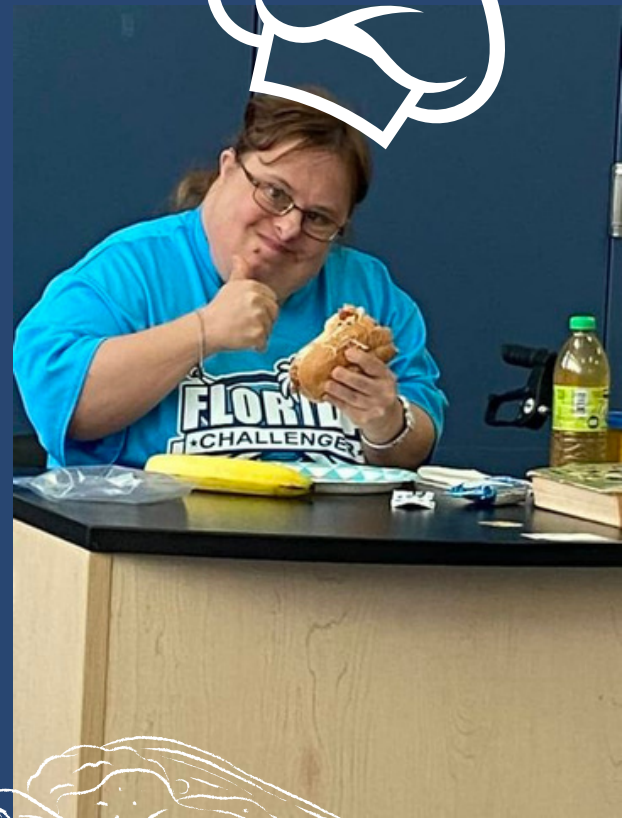
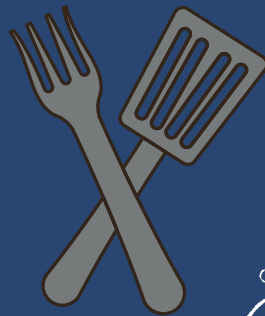
Here's to a myriad of uncharted adventures and the splendid odyssey of empowerment and evolution that awaits us.



# PATHWAYS CHEFS



Classmates teamed up for a delicious adventure crafting meatball subs! From picking menu items to rolling meatballs and choosing toppings, we nailed it! Kitchen cleanup was a group effort too. Teamwork makes the dream work!



**We had the honor of hosting the South Florida Red Cross for an insightful presentation.**

**A special shoutout to Kim for leading today's session. Your passion and knowledge truly lit up the room, and it was wonderful to see you again. Your presence made the event even more special!**

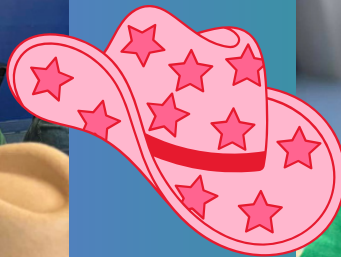




# WOMENS CLUB HAT BAR EVENT



We just had an unforgettable Hat Bar experience with the Felton Hat Co., and we couldn't be more grateful! Our Women's Club had a blast customizing their own hats, adding a touch of personal flair to each unique piece.





# *A Warm Thank You to Doris!*

We had the privilege of welcoming Doris as a guest speaker for our Pathways Tech class. Her insights, expertise, and passion for technology were truly inspiring to us all. Doris, you've not only shared valuable knowledge with our participants but also motivated them to explore new horizons in the tech world.

We're thrilled to officially welcome you to the Pathways to Opportunity family! Thank you for making a difference in our community and for being a part of our journey towards empowerment through education.

Here's to more learning, growing, and innovating together!







We're still riding the high from a fantastic day of dancing and joy at The Ranch! Dive into our photos to see the smiles, moves, and moments that made it unforgettable.







**A HUGE THANK  
YOU TO THE  
KEISER  
OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY  
ASSISTANT  
PROGRAM FOR  
STOPPING BY!**

**We had an incredible time!**

**The interactive presentations and hands-on demonstrations were not only educational but also a lot of fun. It's sessions like these that inspire us and broaden our understanding of the vital role occupational therapy assistants play in healthcare. We're grateful for this opportunity to connect and learn. Let's continue to grow and explore together!**





# IRISH DANCERS AT PTO



What an incredible day we had at Pathways to Opportunity, filled with the captivating rhythms and extraordinary talent of Irish dancers! Their performance brought us all a piece of Ireland's vibrant culture and tradition, right to our doorstep.





We're thrilled to share that Home Depot has generously donated to our Rays to Grow garden, bringing our vision of a thriving community space one step closer to reality! Our dedicated gardening club, The Green Thumbs, had the fantastic opportunity to pick up the donated items, setting the stage for a blooming season ahead.

## RAYS TO GROW GARDEN





# PATHWAYS CHEFS

Gathered for a delightful 1:10 luncheon! Participants took charge, setting the table and whipping up a scrumptious three-course meal. Bon appétit! Thank you to John Michaels Jewelry for making this happen!





# Rock Your Socks



Pathways to Opportunity celebrated World Down Syndrome Day in the most colorful way possible - by rocking our socks off! It was a day filled with joy, laughter, and some extra special furry friends from Pet Therapy who stopped by to join in on our amazing celebration.



# Major Milestone: Senate Bill 1758 Passes!

We're thrilled to announce that Senate Bill 1758, a groundbreaking piece of legislation aimed at enhancing care navigation services, has officially passed! Pathways to Opportunity had the incredible opportunity to have representatives present during this pivotal moment, advocating for the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Senate Bill 1758 is set change the support system for those with disabilities by:

- Mandating the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to offer care navigation services, ensuring a robust support network.
- Integrating care plans with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities, fostering better coordination in public schools.
- Introducing an online application process for APD services, improving access and efficiency while maintaining traditional methods.
- Developing a comprehensive transition waiver for clients moving into adulthood, addressing a critical gap in support.
- Reducing the crisis response time from 45 days to 15, making a significant difference in timely assistance.
- Lowering the definition of an aging caregiver from 70 to 60, acknowledging the changing needs of our community.

This legislation represents a monumental step forward in creating a more inclusive, supportive environment for individuals with disabilities and their families. We're honored to have been a part of this process and are excited about the positive impacts this bill will have on our community.

A huge thank you to Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and everyone involved in making Senate Bill 1758 a reality. Together, we're building a brighter future!







# Promising Pathways CONFERENCE

**FREE  
ENTRY**

\*limited seats

Promising Pathways 2024 is excited to announce Tony Hernandez Pumarejo as the lead speaker in our new Lecture Series. Tony is an autistic self-advocate, motivational and professional speaker, author, writer, life coach, consultant, tv personality and international ambassador for Autism.

Plan to attend this fresh approach to our highly anticipated event! We look forward to seeing you!

Saturday, April 13, 2024

At 10 AM - 1 PM

EDWARDS HALL 112,  
FGCU Campus

Register Now



For More Information

[www.eventcreate.com/e/promisingpathways2024](http://www.eventcreate.com/e/promisingpathways2024)



**ORDER  
NOW**



**WE ARE SELLING CUSTOM  
PATHWAYS TO  
OPPORTUNITY PURAVIDA  
BRACELETS FOR \$10.**





Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day







Pathways to Opportunity celebrates



# World Down Syndrome Day







at the

# BEST BUDDIES FRIENDSHIP WALK

**Hey Buddy! You are invited  
to join our PTO Admin team for  
the Best Buddies Friendship Walk!**

**The Walk is taking place on Saturday  
April 27th at Estero Community Park  
from 9am until 12pm.**

**If you'd like to walk with us just  
reply "Interested, Buddy!" to Jessica  
Tursi & details will be provided.**







# Register Today!

**SATURDAY APRIL 27th, 2024**

**ESTERO COMMUNITY PARK**

**9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.**

**Estero, FL**

**Join Our Team!**



**[BESTBUDDIESFRIENDSHIPWALK.ORG/SOUTHWESTFLORIDA](https://bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/southwestflorida)**





*Don't Forget...*

# **Disability Does NOT mean Inability**





☐ Participant
 ☐ Admin
 ☐ Goodwill
 ☐ Parent/Guardian
 ☐ Public
 ☐ Other



# T-SHIRT

## Order Form

### PROGRAM USE ONLY:

Order Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Order Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Closing Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Promise Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### DELIVERY METHOD:

Pick up ☐ Drop off ☐ Shipping (+\$5) ☐

Shipping date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping Method: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracking number: \_\_\_\_\_

### CUSTOMER DETAILS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_



#### St Patty's Day x PTO shirt

Text: "Empowering Lives One Green Step at a Time"

Price: \$25

Choose size(s): MED LG XL



#### PTO Slogan tie dye shirt

Text: "Skills that Shine, Lives that Thrive"

Price: \$35

Colors: Tie Dye or any solid color

Choose size(s):

Adults: SM MD LG 1X 2X 3X



#### Disability Awareness x PTO shirt

Text: "Don't DIS my ABILITIES"

Price: \$30

Choose size(s):

Adults: SM MD LG 1X 2X

Youth: YS YM YL



#### The Ranch x PTO shirt

Text: "Stepping into Opportunity"

Price: \$25

Choose size(s):

Adults: SM MD LG 1X 2X



#### I Love PTO logo shirt

All colors available

Price: \$25

Choose size(s):

Adults: SM MD LG 1X 2X



#### PTO 2024 Logo shirt

All colors available

Price: \$25

Choose size(s):

Adults: SM MD LG 1X 2X

### SPECIAL DETAILS/OTHER:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash ☐ Check ☐ Card ☐

Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_



# Happy BIRTHDAY

## PTO COMMUNITY GIVE BACK FOR APRIL

**BIRTHDAY CAKE BOX:** PTO is going to drop these off to locations that will make sure no child goes without their birthday being celebrated!

Here's what we put inside birthday cake boxes:

1. 9×13 disposable aluminum foil pan – We like to get the ones with the lids with it because we can package it all up neatly
2. A box of cake mix (any flavor)
3. A can of frosting (any flavor)
4. 1 can of sprite or other lemon lime soda (store brand will work) in case the recipient doesn't have eggs or oil
5. A whisk
6. Birthday candles
7. Of course, you can add more things if you like. We've added things like birthday tablecloths from the dollar store, streamers, birthday plates, ballons etc.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL PAULINE AT 239-271-6881



**RENAISSANCE CENTER CLUB &  
PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY**  
PRESENT

# ***PICKLEBALL***

## **CLINIC**



• **THURSDAY, 11 APRIL** •

**THIS CLINIC WILL BE TAILORED FOR  
PARTICIPANTS OF PATHWAYS TO  
OPPORTUNITY, PROVIDING AN INCLUSIVE AND  
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO PICK UP A NEW  
SKILL, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND HAVE A BALL  
OF A TIME**

28121 PALMIRA BLVD, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

• **Let's pickle,  
play, and have  
a blast  
together!** •

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PATHWAYS TO  
OPPORTUNITY:  
[PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM](http://PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM)**







# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



**NATIONAL  
CEREBRAL  
PALSY**

**AWARENESS MONTH**

**MARCH**



**We Are  
More Alike  
Than We  
Are  
Different.**



Let's strive to  
remove barriers and  
create an inclusive  
society for all!

**Developmental Disabilities  
Awareness Month  
2024**





