

NEWS FROM...

Pathways/Senderos Center

A Publication of Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.

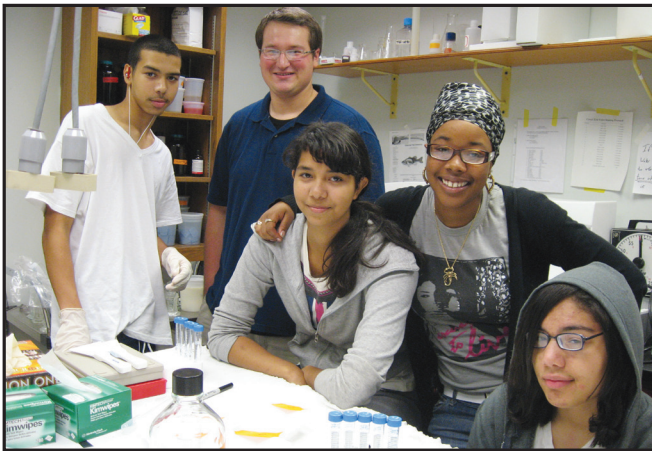


Volume 17, Number 1

Spring 2011

College Intern Turned College Mentor!

By Geoff Elterich, Community Education Coordinator/Newsletter Coordinator



The interns and their mentors. From left: Marcelino Thillet, CCSU student Randy Kudra, Ananda Thillet, CCSU student and Pathways' graduate Shaniqua King-Barrington, and Kayla Garcia.

For the past few semesters, Pathways/Senderos' students have worked as interns for the Biomolecular Science Department at Central Connecticut State University laboratories. Currently, ten students serve as interns. Starting last semester, our interns have been working with a very special mentor, Pathways' own graduate, **Shaniqua King-Barrington**. I asked Shaniqua to share her experience progressing from an intern to a mentor, and she happily obliged.

"When I attended Pathways, I was given the opportunity to intern at CCSU's Biomolecular Science Department. I began interning when I was only a junior in high school and continued as a senior. When I graduated high school, I continued my education at the University of Bridgeport. It wasn't until the spring semester of my freshman year when I decided to use the resources that I had gained as an intern at CCSU. I didn't like Bridgeport, so I called my high school coordinator, also known as "The Man", Nick Jakubowski, who gave me the courage to call the CCSU professors I worked with as an intern. I told them about my trouble and how I wanted to transfer schools. They all were extremely helpful in making sure

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A Pathways Family Tale

Eyda Calderon has been working as the Family Liaison at Pathways/Senderos for almost a year, but her relationship with the Center goes back much further. One of her sons, **Danerick**, currently attends Pathways and is a sophomore at New Britain High School. Danerick started in the program at the end of fifth grade. His older brother, **Diego**, graduated from the program in 2010 and now attends Tunxis Community College. Eyda has been highly involved with Pathways since her sons started, volunteering her time and helping to wrap gifts, serve food at events, and clean up after events.

Eyda is no stranger to volunteer work. Before Pathways, she volunteered at the Spanish Speaking Center in New Britain. She works full time as the Fiscal Administrative Officer for the State of Connecticut, where she has worked for eleven years. In fact, it was her demanding work schedule that brought Eyda to Pathways.

As a single, working mother, she needed to find a safe place to leave her kids once they were too old for day care. She did not have any family in the area to take care of them, so she did not have many options. Diego, in 7th grade at the time, was best friends with **Brandon Carrero**, a Pathways participant. Brandon invited Diego and his family to Pathways' annual holiday party, so Eyda decided to go with her sons. While there, Eyda met Brandon's mother Sandra, who informed her about the program and its benefits. Eyda and her sons were very impressed with the program after experiencing the holiday party, and they decided to join.

"As a mom, you are always concerned about your kids; who is with them, what are they doing, and everything else," Eyda said. "It's important for any parent to know that stuff, and they should be able to observe what their children do when parents are not around. Kids are

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ANOTHER SPRING!!!

By RoseAnne Bilodeau, Executive Director

In spite of what seemed like endless snow storms, signs of spring are beginning to show – there's more daylight, some birds can be heard chirping in the morning, and our youngsters are bubbling with youthful enthusiasm. It seems not to matter to them what the weather is like. They're always happy to be at Pathways/Senderos. Participants' attendance throughout the year has been exceptional, averaging 45 – 50 girls and boys per day. Their energy and spirit are truly inspirational. They work so diligently every day. They are committed to Pathways and proud to represent us.

It's great fun to watch them grow and develop. Each child is shy on his/her first day with us. I'm sure that it's probably very difficult to be a new person at the Center because all of the other kids are so close to one another, like family. However, in addition to being very close to one another, our older youngsters are also very friendly and kind, and they reach out to our new younger students, including them in discussions and activities. Slowly, the new little ones bond with one another as a group, and gradually, that group becomes part of the larger whole. Before you know it, the new little ones are totally assimilated. After a year, the new little ones lose their status of "new" when the next new group is recruited. And, the cycle repeats itself.

Again, we're busy planning for our annual Graduation Event. Six students will graduate in June. Most will go on to post-secondary education, while two will enter the labor market. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we'll celebrate our seniors' accomplishments along with the achievements of our other students at Angelo's on Main at the Rockledge Country Club in West Hartford in June. We went there for the first time last year and our youngsters absolutely loved it!!! We were seated in a beautiful room overlooking the golf course -- what a marvelous sunset there was that evening! The food was great with superior service. It was an event that will be remembered by all who attended.

We are preparing for another exciting event on March 31st, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, where we will honor and commemorate Nancy Howe and John King, Esq., our founder and first board presidents. Without these wonderful New Britain community volunteers, Pathways would not exist. These individuals have tirelessly and unselfishly given of their time and resources to our Center. Nancy was our founding board president and served in that capacity for many years. Simultaneously,

she and John also served on the Mooreland Hill School Board of Directors. Nancy recruited John for the Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc. Board of Directors where he served as president after Nancy had completed her terms. Attorney King continues to serve on our board and is the longest serving board member with over 16 years of service. This lovely event will take place at CCSU, Memorial Hall, Constitution Room. Our Master of Ceremonies will be Ray Charles, Jr. Tickets for the event are \$45 each and may be reserved by calling 860-229-2776. We hope to see you there!!!

Thank you to our wonderful donors and funders; because of your generosity, we celebrate another Spring at Pathways/Senderos!

RoseAnne Bilodeau

**Come to the best car wash in town
and show your support for
Pathways/Senderos!**

Listed below are the Car Wash dates for 2011:

May 21
June 4 (rain date June 11)
July 9 (rain date July 16)
August 6 (rain date August 13)
September 10

Cars: \$5; Trucks/Vans: \$8.

All car washes are held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

All proceeds from the car washes support recreational field trips for Pathways/Senderos' participants.

All promotional publications, including this newsletter, are produced with private funds.

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College Intern - continued from page 1

I had a successful transfer. I am now a sophomore at CCSU. I never would have imagined that I'd be a mentor in the same program in which I was once an intern, and yet this is now my second semester mentoring Pathways' interns. It amazes me how much they have learned and grown. It is a great feeling to give back to both the Biomolecular Science Department professors, as well as the upcoming stars in Pathways, and of course, my man Nick. I hope to have many more semesters in which

I can mentor the Pathways' interneers. It's a beautiful thing to be able to give them the same opportunity to work in a lab that I once had."

We are very proud of our interns and we could not be happier that they are working with such a great mentor as Shaniqua! We would also like to thank Dr. Tom King and Dr. James Mulrooney of CCSU for all they do with our students and for their unwavering support of Pathways.

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If you prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please contact gelterich@snet.net. This will help save resources and reduce waste. The newsletter will be sent as an attachment and you will need Adobe Reader to view the document. Thank you.

Family Tale - continued from page 1



Eyda Jazmin Calderon at the Holiday Party.

always supervised at Pathways and parents are welcomed to visit and are kept well-informed about their kids' behavior. There are just so many different influences out there surrounding them, parents need to be aware. The Center allows parents to evaluate their child's personal development. I like seeing how they act in their own environment."

Now that Eyda works at the Center, she has even more opportunity to positively influence her own kids, as well as other community children and families. "I represent the program when talking with families,

especially Latino families who can't communicate very well with us. As a mother of program participants, the parents tend to be more open and expressive; they aren't intimidated as they might be otherwise. After talking with the parents, I get together with staff and we find a solution to any problem that may arise. Being a Latino parent, I can provide a different perspective and I'm more familiar with cultural differences. I feel a deep connection with the families so it helps."

As Family Liaison, Eyda does multiple other tasks at the Center as well. Throughout the year, she organizes in-kind donations for youngsters and their families, arranges our food pantry, decorates the Center for various holidays, wraps gifts for the holidays, and whatever else needs to be done. "I really like working here; it's good to give back. The program is great, and best of all, free! So the least I can do is give something back—time, ideas, suggestions, anything. Pathways is a program that allows and really encourages parents and staff to give their input on the programming and ways to improve. I really would love for more parents to get involved; it is a great bonding experience. Parents can get involved by helping with the holidays, special events, field trips, cleaning up around the Center, music/dance/art activities, or just sharing ideas. I believe if you don't offer solutions to the problem, you become a part of it." Eyda has certainly become a part of the solution and we all appreciate everything she does at the Center.

If you are looking to volunteer, please give us a call at 860-229-2776 and ask for Geoff.

Otis Hispanic Leadership Forum and the Pathways/Senderos Center

In January, Jocelyn Colon of the Otis Hispanic Leadership Forum presented Pathways/Senderos with a check in the amount of \$1,673. Otis-HLF is a coalition dedicated to the promotion of Latino advancement and we are extremely grateful that Otis-HLF has chosen to honor our work with Latino youth. We have established a wonderful relationship with Otis over the last few years and we are very grateful for their continued support.



Otis Hispanic Leadership Forum presents Pathways/Senderos with a check.

2010 Donors List

Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.

We wish to thank our donors for their generosity and vision. The essential support system that our youngsters receive puts them on the path to success now and in the future.

This list reflects 2010 donations made through Dec. 31. If we have inadvertently omitted any donor's name, please accept our apologies and immediately notify Executive Director RoseAnne Bilodeau. We will acknowledge your generosity in the next newsletter. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

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Thanks to our donors' commitment, vision, and belief in Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention Inc., we have successfully served the underprivileged youth and parents of the Arch Street area for 18 years. We are proud that during that time, 100% of our participants who stay in the program graduate from high school, and 97% have remained pregnancy-free, while 85% continue on to higher education. Others have begun full-time employment. Without your generosity and your support, it is probable that these successes would not have materialized. Please realize that your contributions positively affect local youth, your community, and ultimately, the future. Remember that our first program participants are now college graduates, property owners, taxpayers, and leaders.

We hope that you have taken the time to browse the donors list to see who our many wonderful supporters are; you will find your friends, neighbors, and business associates. Our Gift Clubs enable us to more completely recognize and acknowledge your gifts. The donations you make this year are totaled when identifying your Gift Club placement in the 2011 Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc. Pathways/Senderos donors roster. The Gift Clubs are: \$500+ Los Amigos De Senderos (Friends of the Senderos), \$100-\$499 Los Amigos De Futuro (Friends of the Future), \$1-\$99 Los Amigos De Nino(a)s (Friends of the Children).

Why don't you set your sights on joining one of our gift clubs in 2011? Invest in the future of our youth and community!



John King, Esq., Board of Directors' Second President

John King, Esq. has been involved with Pathways/Senderos almost since its inception. When the program opened, his friend Nancy Howe was the first President of the Board of Directors. She described the program and asked him to serve on the board. John had experience serving on boards and commissions, so he was well prepared to serve on the Pathways board. Eventually, he became Board President when Nancy stepped down.

John has lived in New Britain since 1975. He and his wife have six children and have also raised numerous foster children over the years. John is the Principal Attorney for Updike, Kelly and Spellacy. He dedicates much of his personal time volunteering for various causes and agencies. The positions he has held are too numerous to list, but here are just a few: the Chairman of Civil Services in New Britain; the Chairman of the New Britain Democratic Town Committee; the President of the Hartford Red Cross; the President of the Board of Trustees at Mooreland Hill School (currently a Founder at the school); the Chairman of New Britain Housing Authority; the Past President and current member of the New Britain Municipal Economic Development Agency; served on the Board of Governors of Fairfield College Preparatory School; served on the Board of Directors of the Community Mental Health Affiliates; currently serves on the Board of Directors for the New Britain Chamber of Commerce; and recently completed a term as President of the Hartford County Bar Association.

John initially decided to join Pathways' board based solely on Nancy's description of the program. He stayed involved, "because the program really does make a difference in terms of its impact on the children and young adults it serves. It has significantly affected

the outcome of its participants. There are many other worthwhile programs, but the impact this program has is well documented and extraordinary in terms of breaking the cycle of poverty. In many instances, these kids are the first in their families to graduate high school or go to college. I truly feel that if not for the intervention of this program, these accomplishments would not have been achieved."

John hopes that the agency continues to exist for a long time to come in order to serve the children. Given the economic climate, funding is constantly in jeopardy: "The board and especially the Executive Director have been very successful at finding financial support, but the program is still dependent on the Connecticut Department of Social Services for the majority of its operating costs," John stated. Funding from CT DSS has been reduced in the last few years, even while the number of participants has increased. "My immediate hope is that these funds continue at the same level, or even possibly increase. It would be great if the program was able to expand to include more kids and maybe even find additional space to house another Center."

Pathways owes much of its success to John's unwavering support and diligent efforts. RoseAnne Bilodeau, Pathways' Executive Director, states, "John King is one of those rare individuals who is exceptionally talented and yet gives of himself quietly, tirelessly and endlessly. He is a champion on behalf of Pathways/Senderos and always works to assure the betterment of the whole New Britain community. We've been blessed by the gift of having John King on our Board of Directors for 16 years and we are extremely grateful for all that he has done for us!!!"

Pathways' Budding Artists

By Heather Mills, Middle School Coordinator



Pathways/Senderos' artists hard at work on their projects.

a grant in collaboration with the Art League for our children to participate in a summer long arts activity. That summer, a group of Pathways students worked with two artists to create 3D sculptures using clay, and to learn different dancing techniques. At the end of

In 2008, Pathways/Senderos was approached by Melanie Carr Eveleth, a volunteer from the New Britain Art League. Melanie had heard many wonderful things about Pathways from various members of the New Britain community. She was successful in writing

the activity, the students had a "showing" of their artwork and also performed the dances that they had learned.

Since then, Melanie's relationship with Pathways has evolved. She has worked with our students creating artwork for our annual art show, and most recently, has been hired as our Arts Consultant. Melanie finds her work with the Pathways students to be "super rewarding" and believes that they have a "mutual exchange of ideas" that she truly enjoys.

This year, Melanie has worked on a different art project with the children each quarter. During their lessons Melanie encourages the students to try the project even if they think they will not be good at it. So far the students have worked on drawing and collage making. Future projects include painting and photography. Ultimately, the goal is to have the students produce work that they are proud of, and to display their work at our annual art show in New Britain City Hall. This year, the art show will be held in June with an Opening Reception on June 8th. We would love to see you there!



Meet Our...



...New Board Member: Karen Kellerman



Karen Kellerman has been a social worker for her entire career, starting with jobs at Hartford Hospital and UConn Health Center. She then worked as a school social worker in New Britain for 32 years. Most of her time was spent in the elementary schools, but she also worked at the high school.

In 1995, Karen was honored as Connecticut School Social Worker of the Year. "I feel very passionate about School Social Work and New Britain," Karen said. Throughout her career, she supervised graduate UConn Social Work students and undergrad students from CCSU. She was on the CT Assoc. of School Social Workers Board for many years in various capacities. Giving back to the youth in the community is nothing new to her.

She became familiar with Pathways/Senderos from her work in the New Britain schools and had even recommended some students to the program. When asked why she joined Pathways' board, Karen stated, "I support the mission and goals of the program. Pathways is a program I can feel enthusiastic about since it serves the families and community I am committed to. I enjoy involvement with the many projects and activities at Pathways and hope I can help with the agency's continued growth and success."

...New Board Member: Lynda Moecker



Lynda Moecker is a marketing consultant and President of *Social Impact Marketing*. She is highly involved in charitable organizations, especially those dedicated to the arts and benefiting the community. Recently, she served as the President of the Greater Hartford Assoc. of Realtors and of the Alzheimer's Assoc.

Lynda has only been on our board for a few months, but has already made a powerful impact. She obviously has a great mind for marketing and it is her goal to bring more attention to the success of Pathways. Currently, she serves as chair of our upcoming event on 3/31/11 at CCSU to honor our founding board presidents.

Lynda decided to join Pathways' board because, "I saw the passion in what the Executive Director and the board are doing, their commitment to the kids, and the unbelievable success in terms of kids and results." Having worked with various agencies and organizations, Lynda feels that Pathways is an exceptional program: "I love this program. I've never seen a program that fundamentally changes a kid's life as this one does. It is absolutely the right approach to our success as a country. It's thrilling to see because you don't see it every day."

**Check out our web site www.pathways-senderos.com
or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/pathways-senderos
for the latest news, photos and information about events.**

UConn's Urban Service Track



Pathways/Senderos and UConn UST participants prepare a feast!

(UST). UST is a large group of over 100 medical, dental, nursing and pharmacy students from UConn. They volunteer to educate inner-city youth about personal health and proper nutrition.

The UST students have visited our Center several times and each time has been a great experience for all involved. To begin each session, UST students make a short presentation about good eating habits,

One of our past interns, Elizabeth Chasse, attends The University of Connecticut's Medical School. Since interning at Pathways, Elizabeth has continued to volunteer with us. She also volunteers with UConn's Urban Service Track



Kim Singleton enjoys a green bean.

portion sizes, the nutritional value of various foods, and other important information regarding physical health. After the presentations, the UST and Pathways students wash their hands and head to the kitchen. During their visits, we have made a variety of healthy delights, including taco salad with ground turkey, cheese, and veggies. All the dishes were definite hits at the Center! On their most recent visit, a UST dental student, Julie McNeish, gave a short presentation on healthy teeth and gums, and then UST and Pathways students made fresh fruit parfaits. Our youngsters really enjoy their time with the UST students (especially when they eat!) and we appreciate the time and energy that the UST students put in to these sessions. Thank you Michael Zavaski, Arijia Weddle, Barbara Ruf, Robert Yau, Julie, and Elizabeth for everything!

CT State Medical Society Visits Pathways

In November, we were honored to have Dr. William Petit and Rhonda Hawes of the Connecticut State Medical Society visit the Pathways/Senderos Center. They were kind enough to choose Pathways/Senderos as the recipient of a \$1000 award for our work with poverty-stricken youth. The Connecticut State Medical Society presented the check at our Center, and our youngsters presented

thank you cards that they made for the occasion. Dr. Petit has been highly involved with Pathways/Senderos recently: The Petit Family Foundation was a Platinum sponsor of our Bike/Walk/Doggie-a-thon event for the past two years. We sincerely thank him and everyone from the Connecticut State Medical Society for their generous support!



Pathways/Senderos' participants and Executive Director RoseAnne Bilodeau present Dr. Petit and Rhonda Hawes of the Connecticut State Medical Society with cards and Pedaling for Pathways t-shirts.

United Way Donations

If you and/or your company make donations to the United Way, we hope that you designate Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention Inc. Pathways/Senderos as the recipient. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

This newsletter is printed in color due to the generosity of Barile Printers, who covered a substantial part of the color-printing costs.

Established in 1993, Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc. (GNBTPP) is based on Dr. Michael Carrera's successful prevention model developed in Harlem, NY. The Carrera philosophy states "In order to create an environment where positive change can occur, it is necessary to influence multiple facets of young people's lives over a continuous and prolonged period of time."

Because academic success is the key to teen pregnancy prevention, the core of this program integrates educational support with career/vocational preparation and family life education.

To accomplish its goals, GNBTPP has created a public-private partnership involving all of the community's key stakeholders that maximizes existing local resources.

Programming and participants at GNBTPP are evaluated annually by an independent social scientist to ensure that outcomes are measured accurately.

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