



## ALUMNI NEWS

Dear New Pathways Family,

My name is Willette "Chelly" Curtis. I graduated from New Pathways successfully in March of 2001. I have established myself, since then, as a professional business woman. Through the help of New Pathways I was able to purchase a home outright and through saving up, have it fully furnished. I am writing this letter to inform New Pathways of where my career challenges and changes have placed me. I am now a Licensed Mortgage Loan Consultant. In my line of work I help customers to obtain home loans, refinance homes, obtain commercial properties, refinance for lower mortgages or to just pull equity (money) out of their homes for many different reasons (i.e. vacations, tuition, buy a car, or to remodel).

My 1<sup>st</sup> goal is to help new Pathways clients realize that when you go into NICHAC it doesn't always have to be to rent an apartment, it could be to own a home. Home ownership is one of the best feelings of accomplishment next to obtaining an education. It means that you have worked hard, established a steady income, and are truly ready for adulthood.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is to inform New Pathways that I work with over 125 mortgage lenders so that I am sure to get the best interest rates for my customers. It doesn't matter whether it is your 1<sup>st</sup> home, 2<sup>nd</sup> home, investment property or commercial property; I can handle all of your mortgage needs. Are you in foreclosure and have bad credit? No problem. I can help you to keep your home and get some cash out to put in your pocket. Is your mortgage too high and do you need some relief...Call Me!! Talk to me!!! I will come through for you. We also do credit repair and debt consolidation.

You are able to reach me 24/7 on my cell phone 443-220-6586. I would love to be of assistance!!!

Willette "Chelly" Curtis

## EDITORS NOTE

In this issue of the NP News: National Bike Month, National Foster Care Month, postage stamp rate increases, current and Alumni updates and other valuable information. Read on.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW PATHWAYS

By Jeff Lambert

The following is a timeline showing significant years in the history of New Pathways.

**1977:** New Pathways begins as a small group home in the Mount Clare Junction neighborhood in southwest Baltimore City. The group home houses six young men from the Juvenile Services Administration. The group home is known as A Place for Us.

**1985:** Independence Plus officially begins as a program. It is opened in response to the need for continued services for young men after they left the group home at age 18. Because they were Juvenile Services placements, they had to leave when they turned 18. In many cases, these young men had no where to go live, so apartments were opened to prevent them from becoming homeless.

**1990:** The group home reopens as a twelve-bed group home as the result of a court settlement. It is named Mount Clare House. The program provides services for young men from the Departments of Juvenile Services, Human Resources, and Health and Mental Hygiene who have been institutionalized for long periods of time at detention centers or hospitals.

**1993:** Mount Clare House is turned over to another company for operations. Independence Plus begins providing independent living services on a state-wide basis.

**1996:** New Pathways begins operating the Mentors for Independence program. The purpose of this program is to provide mentors for young people who are aging out of foster care.

**1997:** New Pathways opens the Second Generations program. This program opens as a result of the need for independent living services for young foster care mothers and their children.

**2002:** New Pathways establishes Aftercare Program with funds from the first Golf Tournament Fundraiser

## FYI: US POST OFFICE RAISES STAMP PRICES

On May 14, 2007 the cost of mailing a letter will increase to 41 cents (for the first ounce). The cost to mail a postcard will increase 26 cents. Mailing large brown envelopes (6 1/8" x 11 1/2") (3 1/2" x 5") will increase to 80 cents for the first ounce.

Stamp collecting is a great hobby and good way to invest your spare cash in an affordable way. Stamps never lose their face value. Many times, collectable stamps increase in value if you hold them long enough. The US Postal service is releasing Star Wars stamps on May 25, 2007 and this is a prime opportunity to start collecting. Enjoy!



## "BIG UPS TO"



**BIG UPS** to Wonderlynn big-ups for cleaning the kitchen after April's All-client meeting. Although she got some help, she was leading the troops.

Ericka Morgan

**BIG UPS** to Latoya R who was just hired at Mt. Washington Hospital and is on her way to NICHAC.

LaToya R

**BIG UPS** to Mr. Tom for giving me the opportunity to help with the Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program.

Cortney

**BIG UPS** to Ms Daphney for calmly, professionally, and safely handling the apartment fire at Reisterstown Square.  
Mr. Jeff Lambert


What is "BIG UPS TO" you ask? It is your opportunity to acknowledge something good about a staff member or client at New Pathways. Did someone do something nice for you? Did you enjoy an event or class at New Pathways? Do you have something nice to say about someone at New Pathways? This is your chance to share your thoughts and feelings. Please write down your Kudos and forward them to the NP News c/o Main Office (this can be done via your case manager or other staff member). Thank you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Pathways, Inc. would like to wish Ebony R, Cheyenne C, Toshuna H, Tarron R, Ms. Jazmin, Mr. Thadges, Ms. Sharnett, Ms. Karen and Ms. Laura a very Happy Birthday.

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Nadia Surin to our Case Managers' team! She joined us on April 16, and she will be working with a majority of clients at Walker Manor and a few at Reisterstown Square. Ms. Nadia earned her MSW from the University of Maryland's School of Social Work, and completed her undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Albany. She has experience with treatment foster care youth, and has been a therapist with children and adolescents. She is very excited about working with young adults within the foster care system. Please extend a warm New Pathways welcome to Ms. Nadia when you see her!

New Pathways  Inc.

### Independent Living Programs for Maryland's Youth Mission

New Pathways is committed to the development of self-sufficiency in young adults. We prepare youth to become empowered, educated, and economically independent adults, who are able to meet the daily challenges of life and make positive contributions to the community.



## LETTERS TO MR. BOB

Dear Mr. Bob:

Why do I feel so stressed all the time?

Stressed Out

Dear Overstressed:

Sit down with pen and pencil and begin to compartmentalize your stressors. After you identify two or three areas of stress begin to make a list of options to reduce each area of stress. You should begin to feel less stressed and overwhelmed.

Good luck!

Mr. Bob

Do you have a problem or question and don't know where to turn for an answer? Send your problem or question to the NP News Desk at the main office. We will respond in the next issue of the NP News. All submissions will be discrete and no names will be published.

## FINANCIAL TIP OF THE MONTH



Dear Penny Bank:

I'm leaving New Pathways shortly and have about \$2,100 in my escrow account. What should I do with the money?

Money to Burn

Dear Money to Burn:

You have saved for many months/years to get this amount of money. Hold on to it. **TAKE IT TO THE BANK AND DEPOSIT IT IN YOUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT AS FAST AS YOU CAN! Hold on to it!** It is your money. Don't let it go. Keep it. It is your money.

Once your money is safely in your bank account, leave it there.

The first year you are on your own, will be hard. You have to learn how earn enough money from your job to deposit money into your savings account (pay yourself first), pay your rent, BGE, Phone, transportation, food, etc. how to stay out of debt and create good credit.

If you keep your money in your savings account for a year and add to it, you will have the money you started out with, the money you added to it, and interest. But, best of all, you will still have it. The reality is, if you hold on to it, it is still yours. One you have taught yourself how to hold on to your money, make a plan to invest in IRA's, Certificates of Deposit (CD's), US Savings Bonds, etc. Good savings.

Penny Bank

Do you have a question or problem about bill paying, saving money, budgeting or other money related question? If so, please send your questions to Penny Bank NP News c/o Main Office (this can be done via your case manager or other staff member) and we will be happy to answer your question in the next issue. Answers to Penny Bank will be kept simple.

## MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH



By Jeff Lambert

May 2007 is the 51<sup>st</sup> annual National Bike Month. The League of American Bicyclists is promoting Bike-to-Work Week from May 14-18 and Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 18.

Following are several ways to celebrate Bike Month.

- Help count cyclists in this May, and every month.
- Ride a bike to school.
- Commute to work on a bike.
- Teach a child to ride a bike.
- Join a local bicycle club.
- Plan a cycling vacation. (Ask me about this one. I do it 3-4 times per year.)
- Write your congressman about the importance of bicycling to the nation's transportation system.
- Help clean up a local bike trail for kids.
- Take a ride with friends on a local bike trail.
- Ask your employer to install bike racks and showers at your place of work.
- Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper discussing the positives of bicycling.

## HOLLYWOOD & FOSTER CARE Ms Carey Andrews

As we celebrate National Foster Care Month, I have taken a few minutes to reflect with some of my colleagues at New Pathways on the many, many movies, movies that you may have seen and loved (or not), that are actually about children growing up in foster care. Whether it is kinship care or foster families, many of the heroes you see on the big screen have actually had an upbringing in foster care. Batman grew up with the butler after he lost his parents one tragic night. Superman landed on earth from Krypton and was raised by two strangers who found him on their farm. Spiderman was in kinship care, living with his aunt and uncle (and a "sticky" secret).

Where did Harry Potter learn his magic? Under the steps in his aunt's house where he spent his childhood after his parent's died. And before Dorothy went to Oz, she was living in Kansas with her dear old Auntie Em. Simba also finds a foster family in *The Lion King* when he runs away after his father's death and is "adopted" by Pumba and Timon.

These are just some of the movies I thought of when I began to look for the theme of foster care in big Hollywood hits. Can you think of any movies that I forgot?



FRANCIS S will be performing in:

## THE AMEN CORNER At COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

A play about faith, family, flesh and forgiveness

May 4, 5 at 7:30 PM  
May 6 at 3 PM

Playing in the:  
James Weldon Johnson Auditorium  
2500 West North Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21216

\$15 General admission  
\$8 seniors & non-SCU students  
\$5 Coppin students with ID  
Tickets/Info 410-951-3366

Come out and show your support!

## THOUGHTS FROM MR. KEVIN

Hello all,

It seems that the speech about finishing what you start is even more appropriate as springtime approaches. It seems that so many people I see are very good at getting off to a great start, whether it is jobs, school, or even relationships, but so often do not see things through to complete them in a positive way. This time of year, as the school year is coming to a close, the nice weather makes it even harder. I look forward to the graduation dinner next month to celebrate a wonderful achievement by so many people, and what I will tell everyone is that this is not the end of a journey, but the beginning of a new one. Do not get distracted so close to the end. Think about the goals you want to achieve, and finish things strong.

In light of May being a month that attempts to bring some attention to the situation of young people in the foster care system, it is even more meaningful to achieve your goals and make a point that you are not going to be a statistic of the system. It is not a secret that there are many challenges that young people in the system face, but lets all take this opportunity to show that these obstacles can be overcome, and we can all celebrate your accomplishments together.

As always, take care and be safe,

Mr. Kevin

## Sudoku

	8			2		6		9
		2		6				
	9		1					7
					8			2
		1				8		
4			5					
1					6		7	
				3		5		
7		9		5			8	

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

### NP NEWS MAY 2007

E M A G I C K S W S E N G B D  
 F C B D O C E L E A R E X N J  
 S U N R V C I T M S A H D A M  
 U T N E I O A T Y I C C F M E  
 M E R V D I C M S Y R T S O N  
 R O R E C N P A R I E I E W T  
 R E T O S H E O C R T K V M O  
 S E S H O S T P C Y S A I I R  
 D S E N E S O A E B O V T S I  
 A Y Y R I R R R G D F R I S N  
 C E W H A E S D S G N V S I G  
 L N L A I C N A N I F I O O E  
 H O L L Y W O O D C X V P N J  
 R M D M O R T G A G E B I K E  
 E S U O H E R A L C T N U O M

ADVOCACY	AFTERCARE
ASSOCIATES	BIKE
CAREER	CORNER
FINANCIAL	FOSTERCARE
HISTORY	HOLLYWOOD
INDEPENDENCE	KITCHEN
MAGIC	MENTORING
MISSION	MONEY
MORTGAGE	MOTHERS
MOUNTCLAREHOUSE	
POSITIVE	SERVICES
STATISTIC	STRESSORS
SYMPHONY	WOMAN

Still want to search for words?  
Find the list of words in the NP News and  
circle them for an additional  
Word Search Challenge

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH BARBEQUE CHICKEN



- 1 ½ lbs chicken (cut up - breasts, drumsticks, wings, etc.)
- ½ cup ketchup
- ¼ cup cider or red wine vinegar
- 3 Tbls. firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbls. Dry Mustard
- 1 Tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ Tsp. cayenne pepper or Tabasco sauce or other hot-pepper sauce
- ¼ cup onion, finely chopped (optional)

1. Combine all ingredients, except the chicken in a saucepan. Bring to boil, reduce the heat to low and simmer for 15 minutes, until thickened and flavors are blended. (This is homemade barbeque sauce from scratch.)
2. Wash chicken and pat dry.
3. Place a thin layer of the barbecue sauce in baking dish.
4. Place chicken in dish and evenly cover with remaining barbeque sauce.
5. Cover with aluminum foil and bake chicken in preheated 350° oven 45 minutes. Remove aluminum foil and cook for another 5-10 minutes.
6. Make sure chicken is done by cutting into the meatiest piece to see if chicken is cooked all the way through.  
(If you do not want to make your own barbeque sauce from scratch, you can substitute a bottle of your favorite barbecue sauce from the store.)



## **Parenting Q & A- May**

Q: My kids' father has never been part of their lives; he's into drugs and I don't want him to be around them. What do I say when they ask me "Where's Daddy?"

A: That's a tough one, and can be heartbreaking for the parent who is with the kids all the time. Some things for you to think about when this question comes up:

- Share that it is OK to come from a different family background than a friend or family member. A family doesn't have to be the traditional idea- any group of people who care about the child and are responsible for his well being can be a family.
- Answer questions when your child asks them - don't say, "We'll talk about it when you are older."
- Meet your own needs by taking care of yourself. Find other adults to talk to, socialize with, and remember the basics - rest, proper diet, and exercise.
- If the other parent is not seeing the child, find another male role model for your child (this is important for both genders). Perhaps an uncle, neighbor, or other family member will help.
- Take your time in introducing new partners to the children. You may be in a hurry to "replace" the child's other parent, but your child is not. Do not encourage your child to call male friends "Daddy" until you feel the relationship is truly long-term.
- If your child's father lives far away, you can explain that he would see the child if he lived closer. You can keep in touch through phone calls, letters or email.
- If the child's father is not safe to be around, you can let the children know that while their father cares about them, he is not able to see them (due to drug addiction, violence etc) right now. Avoid saying negative things about the other parent - you may talk about his behavior but stay out of judgments of the person. Remember to stress the positive (but be honest) about the other parent - after all, your wonderful child is half his!
- Be aware that the other parent has legal rights to visit the child as well as responsibilities to pay child support and other expenses like medical coverage. Consult an attorney or legal services for information on these rights and responsibilities.



## **MENTORING PROGRAM**

The NPW's Mentoring Program is off to a good start. Since the 4/1/07 goal of presenting every NPW's admission with a mentee (Buddy) at the time of admission, we now have eight matches.

The feedback to Mr. Tom, Mentoring Coordinator, has been very positive. New clients seem to appreciate the added support. Thank you to all the clients who are "giving back," as mentors.

Please contact Mr. Tom if you want to be more involved in the NPW's Peer-to-Peer Mentoring program. Phone or make an appointment with Mr. Tom at 410-207-3481.

## **YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

Committee (WM): Shenetta R, Keaira W, Sherice J, David G, Danyette R, Dakita J and Jennifer G.

The Walker Manor Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) will have its first meeting Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the staff office. Present committee member include: Dakita J, David G, Shanetta R (SG), Jennifer G., Keaira W., and Antonia R. The first agenda item will be to re-name this committee. Any clients who wish to join the YAC please contact Mr. Tom at 410-207-3481.

The Reisterstown Square Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) will have its first meeting Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 6:00pm at the staff office. Present members include Taneya J, Jennifer P, Elaina M, Whitney J, Jamal C., and Lakiesa G.

The mission of the YAC is to provide NPW's youth in having a voice in decision making at NPW's. Please contact Mr. Tom if you care to join.410-207-3481.

## **AFTERCARE**

The NPW's Aftercare Program consists of the following clients, Brandy S., Jennifer G., Priscilla D., Devin P., and Dante J.

The purpose of this program is to create support and guidance for clients after they age out of NPW's. It is strongly recommended that any client past the age of 20 years old become an active member of this committee. The first scheduled meeting date is TBD.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
SAVE THE DATE  
New Pathways Family Reunion



Saturday, August 25, 2007  
At Druid Hill Park – Columbus Pavilion  
Noon – 8:00 PM  
Watch for further information

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS  
MAY 2007**



- 5/4,5&6/2007 The Amen Corner-Coppin State University
- 5/5/2007 Cinco De Mayo ( Victory of the Mexican Milita over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862)
- 5/10/2007 All client Meeting and Bowling Night
- 5/13/2007 Mother' Day
- 5/19/2007 BSO Soulful Symphony
- 5/24/2007 Career Expo & Job Fair
- 5/28/2007 Memorial Day Belvedere Square Office Closed
- 6/14/2007 All Client Meeting
- 8/25/2007 New Pathways Family Reunion

**\*\*ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



**New Pathways, Inc.**  
Community  
Career Expo and Job Fair 2007

Where: YMCA, Stadium Place  
900 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Baltimore, Maryland, 21218

When: Thursday, May 24, 2007  
9:00am – 3:00pm



*Sponsored by: New Pathways, Inc., YMCA of Central Md.,  
Baltimore City Department of Social Services, Casey Family  
Resource Center, Youth Advocacy Program of Baltimore*

For questions contact:  
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Director of Training and Vocational Services  
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Staff

- Kevin Keegan, Executive Director
- Jeffrey Lambert, Associate Director
- Lois M. Peach, Financial Director
- Echo G. Hester, Administrative Assistant
- Angel Lyles, Secretary
- Barry Smith, Safety & Operations Coordinator
- James G. Sutton, Jr.-Facility Manager
- Angela Womack – Housekeeper
- Brenda Campbell, Dir of Training & Voc Svs.
- Jamal Evans, Life Skills Trainer
- Thomas Mumaw-Mentoring Coordinator
- Independence Plus
- Jennifer Johnson Pettis, Program Director
- Adia Crawford, Case Manager
- Carey Andrews, Case Manager
- Erica Morgan, Case Manager
- Thadges Boone, Intern Case Manager
- Levern Williams, Coordinator of Res Life
- Vonzell Barker, Life Skills Counselor
- Kenneth Barnes, Life Skills Counselor
- Karen Brown, Sr. Life Skills Counselor
- Jasmine Cryor, Life Skills Counselor
- Cornell Dews, Life Skills Counselor
- Kelly Ellerbe, Life Skills Counselor
- George Hairston, Life Skills Counselor
- Yolanda Hawkes, Life Skills Counselor
- Sharnett Kelly, Life Skills Counselor
- James Richard Jr, Life Skills Counselor
- James Sippio, Sr. Life Skills Counselor
- Christopher Sutton, Life Skills Counselor
- Gloria Taylor, Life Skills Counselor
- Daphney Williams, Life Skills Counselor
- Deborah Young, Life Skills Counselor
- Second Generations
- Laura Fertig, Program Director
- Makda Belay, 2G Life Skills Counselor
- Beth Bitler, Parenting Trainer
- Tonya Cook, Life Skills Counselor
- Judith Dukes, 2G Life Skills Counselor
- Deanna Murray, Life Skills Counselor
- Brenda Phelps, 2G Sr. Life Skills Counselor

**NP News Staff**

**Echo G. Hester - Jeff Lambert – Carey Andrews**

The New Pathways News is a monthly publication for staff and clients. Any client or staff member may submit articles, stories, poetry, etc. for publication. Articles must be submitted by the third Friday of the month for the next month edition.

A special thank you to all clients and staff who have made the NP News possible.