



Formerly NWW Committee



## Winter Newsletter

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## A Letter From Executive Director, Brenda Noel

Dear Friends,

What extraordinary circumstances we found ourselves in during 2020. I need to first acknowledge that many of us have experienced unspeakable loss, and my heart aches for you. For all of us, it has been exhausting, both physically and emotionally.

At Pathway to Possible, we persevered. We learned about ourselves, and we found strength we didn't even know we had, **and we had you.** (cont. on page 3)





# Together We Thrive.

Stand with your community by supporting your neighbors in need during this critical time.

## Are you ready to make an impact to your neighbors in need?



As our residents spend more time at home, there remains an urgency for items and services to keep **our residents happy and our homes safe.**

Sadly, our residents will be unable to travel home for the holidays to see their families this year. Please help us to ensure that residents in all six Pathway to Possible homes **have the best possible holiday experience.**

Together we **will** thrive.

## Ways to Give

- \$50** Will cover the cost of a **birthday party** for one home.
- \$100** Will provide a **music therapy class** for one home.
- \$250** Will pay for a **deep clean** of one agency vehicle to transport residents.
- \$500** Will provide a **holiday dinner** at one of our six homes.
- \$750** Will pay for all six homes to be **cleaned** professionally.
- \$1000** Will cover the cost of **personal protective equipment** (masks, gloves, smocks, hand sanitizer) for one week at all of the Pathway to Possible Homes.

**Or give whatever amount you are able to!**

### Give Online at

[pathway2possible.org/give](https://pathway2possible.org/give)

**OR**

### Mail a Check to

1301 Centre Street  
Newton, MA 02459

When the pandemic hit in March and day programs closed, we needed your financial support to increase staffing, and **you were there**. When toiletries and cleaning products were impossible to find, we asked for your help, and **you delivered by the caseload**. Your support has served as our emotional and financial foundation. **With you by our side**, we can overcome anything.

We find ourselves in 2021 with a renewed sense of hope. There is a vaccine on the horizon. Our clients and staff have thrived, finding joy together while being quarantined at home. We have found creative and safe ways for our folks to remotely visit with **family and friends**, keeping everyone connected to loved ones.

From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of the Board, Staff, and the folks we serve, I want to **thank each and every one of you** for the support and compassion you demonstrated to ensure our health, well-being and sustainability. It's not over yet, but **it gives us great comfort to know you are there for us**. I wish you and your loved one's health and happiness for the New Year, and I look forward to a time when we can gather together in person.

Warmly,  
Brenda Noel, MSW, LCSW  
*Executive Director*

## Barbara Pemberton: Parent, Board Member & Supporter

**“P2P is more than a house, it's a home for our son.”**



**B**arbara Pemberton exemplifies Pathway to Possible in many ways. She is a parent of one of our residents, Alan; a Board Member for more than 17 years and a long-term supporter and advocate of P2P. Barbara and her husband, Bill, raised their three children in Newton and were always active members of the community. Alan is the oldest of their three children and moved into his home at Webster Street 18 years ago. Alan said with excitement and pride, **“I have my own place!”**

Webster Street has always been more than just a house to the Pembertons; it is **a loving home!** Barbara feels that everyone at Webster is a part of their extended family. The hard work, caring nature of staff and dedication to the P2P residents constantly amazes her family.

**Barbara and her family feel so fortunate that Alan has been in a P2P home throughout the pandemic.**

She shares that P2P has done a remarkable job at doing their utmost to keep all residents safe. Barbara says, **"The staff have been my heroes! Their dedication is astounding, and they continuously step up to the plate to keep clients busy while they are not going to their day programs"**.

It has definitely been challenging for Barbara's family too. When the P2P homes were in quarantine, not being able to see Alan was tough. She is looking forward to a time in the near future when she can give Alan lots of hugs and gather for the holidays again.



Barbara and Alan enjoying a day out together pre-pandemic.

Barbara's time and impact as a P2P Board Member has been **tremendous**. She has dedicated more than 17 years to the Board. Barbara reflected that, when she was a young girl, she would always organize a carnival in her yard to raise money for nonprofit causes in need. This helped paved the way for her desire to serve the community. When former Board Member and friend, Carol Beard, asked Barbara to join Pathway to Possible's Board, it was a no brainer. Barbara says, "it is a privilege to represent such a fine agency." She believes that the quality of the P2P homes is **exceptional** and due to the smaller size of the agency, it has enabled **top quality care and more personal relationships**.

Barbara hopes that in the future Alan can continue to gain more independence with the support of P2P staff. She would also like to see an acquisition of a new home in the future to give others the same **incredible opportunities** that Alan and her family received.

## More Client Artwork!



### Our residents made glass fusion ornaments for the holidays!

Our residents have developed a close relationship with **local artist and P2P supporter, Verda Abdulaf**. She has **designed and coordinated multiple art projects** for our folks, including tie dye and glass fusion methods. She provides thorough instructions (with room for lots of creativity) and **donates almost all materials** needed for each project.

The residents not only have fun making these art projects but **feel a sense of pride** when one of our supporters decides they want to decorate their own homes with these handmade pieces.



Residents wrote personal handwritten notes for each ornament, wishing our supporters a wonderful holiday season.

## About Verda Abdulaf

Verda was born and grew up in Istanbul, Turkey. She worked in the airline industry for 19 years and travelled around the world. In 2013, she moved to the United States with her husband, two children and dog.

Verda is an incredible artist and works with a variety of media, including clay, paint, photography and more. Her favorite medium is glass because of its delicate nature and its beauty when fused with other media. She currently has an online Etsy shop called "HamsaWorks" where she sells her beautiful, handcrafted pieces.



Verda became connected with our agency through Asli Scott, P2P Board Secretary. Verda has not only provided multiple artwork projects for all P2P residents but also became a pen pal to Bontempo residents! She writes them weekly letters about her childhood, family, daily life, and dreams. Since Verda still feels new to this country, being involved with P2P makes her feel more connected. She is very fond of our residents and feels that they have a lot to give.

We are so grateful for her contribution to the happiness of our homes and look forward to continuing to work with her in the future. Stay tuned for more exciting art!

## Weekend of Resilience Recap



Pull, our video production team, teaches resident, Forrest, how to film!

**T**he Weekend of Resilience proved to be an amazing opportunity to highlight all of the things that are most important to us: **our clients, our caregivers and our community.** We hope you enjoyed the weekend's content, and found something that made you smile, made you think, or maybe just **warmed your heart.**

We are **so grateful** for the relationships with our community and are truly humbled by your support. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and expertise to making this weekend run as smoothly as possible!

**We were able to raise over \$75,000!** The money we raised this weekend is critical to ensure that we can serve individuals with disabilities, especially during COVID-19. **Thank you to our loyal supporters.**

## Fun Memories from the Weekend





Check out [pathway2possible.org/weekend-of-resilience](https://pathway2possible.org/weekend-of-resilience) to see all of our videos, as well as a full photo gallery from the weekend!

## In Memory of George Kovar

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of one of our beloved P2P residents, George Kovar. George was a member of the P2P family for 38 years and lived in a variety of P2P homes, including Orchard, Juniper, Grove, and, eventually, Coyne.

George was a massive New England sports fan and absolutely loved the Boston Bruins. For years, George shared his birthday with our community by including us in a bus trip to see the PawSox. When at McCoy stadium, everyone would be treated to a cookout and great seats to watch the game.

When George was younger, he worked in a very busy Newton Café and was a top employee. He also formed many lasting friendships as a member of the Price Center community and the Marquardt Nursing Center extended community.

George had an infectious laugh and a great sense of humor. He was a loving and supportive friend who was always there for everyone with a smile and an "I like you"! We will always remember George as an unforgettable member of our P2P family.



George and Lise, George's sister, having fun at our 2019 Autumn Auction.

# Holiday Cheer & Delicious Delights Sent To Our Homes



Our residents feel so thankful for the support of our fellow community members.

Typically, at this time of year, we would be holding our Annual Mayor's Holiday Party. We would be surrounded by a room full of colorful decorations, while enjoying a buffet of delicious food made by Buddy Alexander from the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. There would be dancing feet and glowing smiles as Santa from Chapman Construction and Mayor Fuller walk in to greet our residents.

Unfortunately, we were not able to have this event due to the pandemic. Despite this, Buddy and Santa remained committed to our homes. Buddy

Alexander and his family cooked and hand-delivered holiday meals to every single one of our homes. Santa recorded and sent a sweet video message of encouragement to our residents to keep spirits up.

**Thank you Buddy Alexander from Newton Commonwealth Golf Course and Santa from Chapman Construction for your dedication to our folks!**



Our mission is to provide **housing, support, and advocacy** for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities – and their families – while erasing barriers, building confidence, empowering independence, and expanding opportunities that enrich their lives and their communities.

1301 Centre Street | Newton, MA 02459 | (617) 954 - 6860

[www.pathway2possible.org](http://www.pathway2possible.org)

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