



PATH

Palatine Assisting Through Hope

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PALATINE WOMAN CREDITS PATH WITH SAVING HER LIFE

A Palatine woman assisted by PATH credits the organization with saving her life in more than one way. Estella Cervantes learned over a year ago that she had tumors on her ovaries. Soon after, she injured herself on the job and was forced to go on disability. Estella was without health insurance to deal with her medical condition, and her situation continued to deteriorate. Her disability pay was less than half of the wages she normally brought home, leaving her barely able to pay rent or afford the most basic of needs for herself and her teenage son Sam. As a result, Sam's grades began to drop as both he and Estella were dealing with the emotional toll their situation was taking on them.



An example of Estella's work

Then PATH stepped in. PATH founders Rich Tyack, Debbie Rohrwasser and Andy Konopka learned of Estella's situation through The Palatine Opportunity Center; specifically by way of Nurse Rose Jensen who had been counseling Estella regarding her medical issues. They immediately sought donations to assist with rent, food and other basic needs. Sam's high school counselor was contacted, and he now receives mentoring to provide him with support and to keep him on the right PATH.

The most significant assistance Estella received was when PATH coordinated with Nurse Jensen, who found a surgeon willing to operate on her free of charge. Her surgery was performed on March 22nd of this year, and she is now doing well and continuing to recover. Estella has a whole new outlook on her life due to the generosity and concern shown to her by PATH. "They are my angels" Estella says. "I feel like my life is changed, and it couldn't have been changed without all that PATH has done for me and my son."

Estella has also been proactive in helping herself after receiving assistance from PATH. And that is something that is part of PATH's mission to help people to help themselves. Estella took on a roommate to share with the cost of rent, and started embroidering pillows to sell supplementing her income until she is able to get back to work. Estella says she no longer wants financial assistance from PATH, and instead wants them to be able to help others as she was helped. When asked how PATH's involvement in her life has affected her, she said simply, "PATH saved my life, and gave me hope for a better future."

If you are interested in purchasing pre-designed or customized pillows from Estella, please email info@PATH-Palatine.org for more information.

PATH is an organization dedicated to empowering people in need. This mission is carried out by providing food, clothing, and other basic needs for families in crisis. A wide variety of programs for underprivileged children are also supported.

PATH's ultimate goal is to transform lives by connecting those who need them with vital community resources in the Greater Palatine Area.



RICH TYACK DEBBIE ROHRWASSER ANDY KONOPKA

PATH Founders

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To volunteer, become a donor partner or to learn about upcoming events, check out our website at : www.PATH-Palatine.org

Mailing Address:
1224 W. Northwest Highway
Palatine, Illinois 60067

E-mail:
Info@PATH-Palatine.org



OMRON FOUNDATION CITES 'PASSION FOR GIVING' AS REASON FOR SUPPORTING PATH'S MISSION

Many large companies have been forced to scale back donations due to current economic times, but Omron has continued to support PATH. The Schaumburg-based company and its charitable foundation first became aware of PATH after employee Dan Armentrout volunteered for PATH's annual Day of Giving in November. Armentrout was so impressed with how many lives were touched by PATH, he urged other employees to donate their time as well. He also made sure to bring PATH to the attention of Omron Management.

Omron earmarks a percentage of sales to its foundation each year for worthy causes, with a strong focus on organizations in neighboring communities. Advisory board member Kevin Bulatek remembers the day PATH President Rich Tyack, Secretary Debbie Rohrwasser and Communications Coordinator Deb George presented their funding request before board members.

Bulatek recalls "I and other board members were touched by the true compassion PATH demonstrates for the clients they serve." Many of the heart wrenching cases PATH had worked on were highlighted, such as how they provided support for four young Palatine residents who lost their parents in a car accident, and helped a single Mom get beds for her children who had been sleeping on the floor. Bulatek says one of the most salient factors the board members considered was the personal commitment that PATH founders Tyack, Rohrwasser and Treasurer Andy Konopka take on in truly changing lives. After the presentation, it was clear that many more people could be assisted by PATH if they had additional resources. The foundation made the decision to fund PATH's entire 2009 budget.

What also impressed board members was PATH's diligence in giving a hand up, and not a handout to their

clients; with the goal of helping people to ultimately help themselves. It was important to the board how PATH received many of its cases; from highly reputable organizations, such as The Palatine Opportunity Center, The Palatine Police Department and Palatine School District 15 and 211 to name just a handful. They made note of how much PATH had accomplished on a shoestring budget and how its three founders reached into their own pockets many times when strapped for donations to help someone.

The Omron Foundation puts a strong emphasis on donating to causes where financial resources will be well spent. It also takes the time to evaluate the impact per dollar in its charitable giving. The board was confident that funds would be utilized to the fullest by PATH. Bulatek describes PATH as an inventive, resourceful and selfless organization that creatively identifies resources for its clients.

PATH'S MOBILE FOOD PANTRY KEEPS ON MOVING

PATH's Mobile Food Pantry has expanded its reach over the years, and Dave Hasbach has been an integral part of that growth. Hasbach got involved through his membership in the men's PEACE group at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. PATH President Rich Tyack was invited to present to the group and made them aware of the need for individuals to deliver food to needy families. Hasbach, along with the rest of group took on the task of delivering food to individuals living in a Palatine apartment complex who don't have transportation to the Willow Creek Food Pantry. The PEACE group makes these deliveries once a month.

The deliveries made by the Mobile Food

Pantry consist of a couple of bags of groceries provided for 15 families on a monthly basis. Since Hasbach began volunteering, two more distribution sites have been added along with assisting 60 additional families in need.

Hasbach cites the many types of giving PATH is involved in as one reason he decided to get on board. "I know they'll help needy families with whatever they need, whether it's food, clothing or furniture." "They work with the schools to provide winter coats for kids who don't have them, and each November their Day of Giving allows local families to receive donated, gently used clothing that they direly need."

Hasbach is proud of his involvement with PATH, because he greatly respects the work that they do. "I know the people who run PATH have a huge heart for people struggling to make ends meet." Hasbach adds "the people on the receiving end are extremely grateful for the help they receive." Hasbach also took on the responsibility of documenting all of the families that have received assistance from PATH, and he says that list continues to grow along with PATH's reach in the community.



Dave Hasbach