



The Pathfinder

35 And Thriving: Thanks to YOU!

Thanks to YOUR support, Britepaths is celebrating our 35th year of helping struggling families in the Fairfax County area to THRIVE!

Over the years, we have changed our name, expanded our services and grown our staff, volunteer base, partnerships and number of families served. But our founding concept that community members who have means and determination can work together to help our struggling neighbors succeed remains the same.

Britepaths began in 1984 as a homeless shelter that rotated among several local congregations – many of which still support our work. When Fairfax County opened a shelter, we started a soup kitchen for the homeless. In 1986, we were named “Our Daily Bread,” and in 1989 we became an independent non-profit. We rebranded as Britepaths in 2016 to better reflect our evolving mission.

As the cost of housing in Fairfax County rose sharply through the 1990s and 2000s, we shifted our focus to helping the working poor who had a place to live but were struggling to pay for all their necessities. In response, we offered emergency food, financial assistance and seasonal assistance, and eventually launched a Financial Literacy program.

Today, Britepaths continues to adapt and expand our partnerships to provide impactful services. We still provide Stability services and Seasonal supports, but we have greatly expanded our Resilience services to help our neighbors help *themselves* to self-sufficiency.

Because of YOUR support, we served 7,000 local families in need last year. Thank you for helping our families THRIVE!



Mission

Britepaths provides our Fairfax County area neighbors in need with short-term safety-net services and empowers them to work toward long-term self-sufficiency.

Services

- Stabilizing Families
- Building Resilience
- Seasonal Supports

Board of Directors

Dave Sands, President, PwC
Kären Rasmussen, Vice President, No Child Goes Hungry
Salman Yusuf, Treasurer, Hilton Worldwide
Courtney Williams, Secretary, Vericred, Inc.

Directors:

Jennie DeVeaux, ICF, Inc.
David Halstead, Halstead Global, LLC
Joni Henderson, Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation
Verda “Vee” Johnson, Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services
John McWilliams, Reed Smith
Ed Moore, Edelman Financial Services
Catherine Read, Creative Read, Inc.
May Shallal, Fairfax County Office of the County Attorney
Saurabh Verma, Acumen Solutions
Dave Wiemer, Conquer Cancer Foundation
Sarah White, Fairfax County Department of Family Services

Staff

Fairfax Office:

Lisa Whetzel, Executive Director
Christina Garris, Programs Director
D'Ivonne Holman, Director of Development
Marcelle Miles, Financial Literacy Director
Jill Beres, Workforce Development Manager
Mila Cobos, Operations Administrator
Gwendyl Harter, Data Architect
Nate Kamau, Program Performance Intern
Lynn Latimer, Grants Manager
Maggie Massaro, Development Associate-Special Events
Cheryl Mitchell, Finance Manager
Carole Rogers, Financial Literacy Manager
Diana Vallenilla, Financial Programs Manager
Joanne Walton, Seasonal Programs and Volunteer Manager
Heather Webb, Communications Manager

FEC at South County:

Maria Jose Cantoni, FEC Director
Dawn Sykes, FEC Manager
Martha Borowski, Financial Mentoring Manager
Natalia Ermicio, FEC Assistant
Kristie Kleha, Adult Basic Education Instructor
Sally Meyer, FEC Workforce Development Manager



In the News!

Britepaths' leadership team is featured in the cover story of the March-April 2019 issue of Fairfax Woman Magazine in celebration of our 35th Anniversary. View the article at fairfaxwoman.com.

Celebrate With Us at Artful Living: Thrive

We hope you'll join us for an extra-special Artful Living event this spring in celebration of our 35th anniversary.

The event is on Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

This momentous evening will feature: A juried art show with art for sale; live music by Batida Diferente; delectable eats and lovely libations; a live auction with one-of-a-kind experiences; raffles; and client testimonials. Proceeds will benefit Britepaths' Programs to help our families Thrive.

Call for Art! We're seeking quality works in a variety of media for our Juried Art Show. Submit by April 5.

Early-Bird Tickets through April 11. Order tickets and view sponsorship information and art guidelines at: britepaths.org/Art.



Thank You to Our Sponsors and Underwriters! Executive One Holding Company; Edelman Financial Services; Bank of America; Financial Investments, Inc.; Ken and Linda Kozloff; Apple Federal Credit Union; Cruise Planners; Starfish Foundation of Fairfax, Inc.; Team Freiman at Morgan Stanley; United Bank; Sullivan, Bruyette, Speros & Blayney; Printing Ideas; The Cake Pop; Nothing Bundt Cakes; Unfazed Media; Fairfax Woman Magazine; and Busboys and Poets. *Sponsorship opportunities are still available.* Contact D'Ivonne Holman at dholman@britepaths.org.

Our First Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates

“Before this class, I didn’t know how to start my career...I learned a lot for my career and how to reach my goal.”



Congratulations to our clients who graduated from our very first class of Healthcare Pre-Apprenticeship Training!

We celebrated on November 30, 2018, with a special lunch and PowerPoint presentations from each of our eight graduates. They shared which medical training they plan to pursue and why they selected it. Eighty-seven percent of students demonstrated improvement in their math, reading and writing skills.

They are preparing for their next steps, which include medical training and/or apprenticeships,

and pursuing their first jobs in their selected field. Our team will continue to provide guidance and support as they launch their careers.

This Program is designed to help Fairfax County residents pursue better-paying jobs in healthcare fields that have a great need for skilled workers.

Britepaths and the Financial Empowerment Center at South County (FECSoco) partner with Fairfax County’s Department of Housing and Community Development to serve clients in the Program. It is funded through the Fairfax County Community Funding Pool. Initial client recruitment was focused on Department of Housing clients in the South County area.

On March 4, we welcomed a new cohort of students who will train through May 31, 2019. We wish them well on their journeys.

Seasonal Supports Ease the Stress



Acumen Solutions employees gave gifts to 52 children in our Holiday Program!

For the families we serve who are working hard to pay the rent and put food on the table, the thought of finding funds to buy gifts for their children at the holidays or school supplies in the fall is extremely stressful.

That’s why we’re so grateful to generous supporters like YOU for supporting our Seasonal Programs to provide hope and joy at these stressful times.

This fall, we were overwhelmed with donations and community members who committed to sponsoring local families in our **Holiday Program!** We were able to make sure 916 families received festive Thanksgiving and December holiday meals and gifts for their children. Funds and gift card donations helped us provide gift cards to families who were not sponsored. Thank you!

Please remember our **Collect for Kids Back to School Program** this summer to help Fairfax County Public Schools students in need. We’ll be requesting donations of funds and backpacks in July and August.

Plan now to help kids in need. Be a Sponsor! Contact Joanne Walton at jwalton@britepaths.org or 703.273.8829 to learn more.



Braddock District Supervisor John Cook visited volunteers at Britepaths’ Stuff the Bus Food Drive.

Thanks for Helping Us Stuff the Bus!

It is always amazing to see how generous our neighbors are at our annual Stuff the Bus food drive! Britepaths is grateful to all who supported us on February 16 at Walmart in Fairfax City. And a big thank you to Fairfax County’s Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer for joining us at the event. We collected more than 1,200 pounds of food and pantry supplies, valued at \$2,000, and \$1,700 in gift cards and monetary donations.

Thank you to Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, the Office of Public Private Partnerships, MV Transportation and Walmart for making this possible! A special thank you to our amazing volunteers from the Fairfax Royals 13U Blue Baseball Team, Fairfax County Police Department’s Fair Oaks District and Volunteer Fairfax’s Volunteers for Change for staffing our drive.

The Stuff the Bus drive was featured in the Fairfax Connection. Read the article at: britepaths.org/news.

2018 Impact

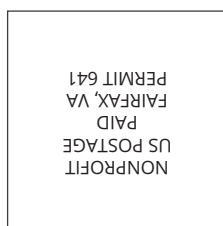
Thanks to YOUR support, Britepaths was able to make a real difference for our families in 2018, **servicing more than 7,000 households.** In addition to the generous outpouring of donations we received, **934 volunteers donated a record 10,410 hours of their time.**

Building Resilience: 2,264 people received financial literacy, workforce development, and support for new mothers.

Stabilizing Families: 1,401 families received food or financial assistance to address a crisis. Includes Food4Thought weekend food packs for kids and Our Daily Veggies vouchers.

Seasonal Supports: 3,571 households received Back to School or Holiday Assistance.

Return Service Requested



UWNCA: #9661; CFC#82471
Catalogue for Philanthropy

britepaths.org

info@britepaths.org

703.273.8829

Fairfax, VA 22030-6041

3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200

35 Years and Thriving
britepaths

