



## The Pathfinder



### Give Instead Gala

*You're Invited!* Our Give Instead Gala on September 26 is an opportunity for you to be charitable instead of spending time and money on an evening out.

Instead of getting ready for a big evening out, we ask that you choose to **GIVE HOPE** to a mother struggling to put food on her table. Instead of buying raffle tickets, **GIVE PROMISE** to a family eager to transition to financial independence. Instead of purchasing a new outfit, **GIVE JOY** to a child starting the school year with tools for success.

We hope you *WONT* join us! But once you purchase your ticket, we would love for you to share with us what you'll be doing *instead*. Share photos in your social media with the hashtag #GiveInsteadGala and a link to our site so that others can do the same. Tag us at @britepaths on Facebook & Twitter and @britepathsfx on Instagram.

*Thank you to our Sponsors!* The Rightteam @ Avery Hess Realtors, Edelman Financial Engines, Glenn Hediger and Nancy McLernon, The Wine House and Chubby Squirrel Brewing Company. *Sponsorships Still Available!* Learn more and purchase tickets at [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org).

### 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
- Supports for Children

### Board of Directors

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**Diana Vallenilla**, Financial Programs Manager

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**Maria Jose Cantoni**, FEC Director

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**Natalia Ermicio**, FEC Assistant

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### 2018 Impact Report



Britepaths' 2018 Impact Report is now available on the Financials page of our web site, [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org). Request a printed copy at: [info@britepaths.org](mailto:info@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.

### Britepaths Named Non-Profit of the Year



In a great highlight for our 35th Anniversary, Britepaths was honored to be named **Non-Profit of the Year** by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce at the **Greater Washington Good Business Awards** on June 7, 2019.

Executive Director Lisa Whetzel accepted the award for Britepaths. She said, "We were humbled to be in the impressive pool of non-profit nominees, and are so honored to have been named Non-Profit of the Year. This award is a testament to the fantastic work of Britepaths' staff and board, and to our community who support our work."

Thank you for helping us achieve this honor! We hope you'll continue to support our work to help our struggling neighbors *Thrive*.

## Thanks to YOU, Annette is Debt Free!

*"I came to you in March 2018 with a laundry list of debt. I am extremely happy to inform you that I have been applying everything [we] talked about on that day. It has helped and continues to help me stay in tune with my spending habits. I want to sincerely thank you for helping me.*

*"As of September 2019, I will be debt free. It has been a journey, but one well taken. There were a few times when challenges would come up, but I stayed the course and I finally did it!" – "Annette"*

We met "Annette" last year at a Financial Coaching session that the Financial Empowerment Center at South County (FECSoCo) brought to Kingstowne Senior Center. She is retired and receives a good monthly pension, but she

was overwhelmed with nearly \$30,000 of debt. We worked with her face-to-face three times, and also kept in touch via email.

We helped her create a budget and better prioritize her spending so she could put more income toward debt repayment. Using a debt reduction calculator spreadsheet, we helped her create a debt plan she felt she could follow, and provided advice occasionally when she needed to adjust her plan.

Annette's relief and pride in her success are palpable. YOUR support allowed us to help Annette make the necessary decisions and changes she needed to navigate a stressful situation and have a comfortable retirement. **Thank You for making a difference in her life!**



*"I Think I've Made It!"* Thanks to YOUR Support, Lilian and her family are in a better place. Watch her video at: [britepaths.org/Lilian](http://britepaths.org/Lilian).

### Has Your Giving Changed? Because the Need Continues to Grow!

In wealthy Fairfax County, 73,000 residents live in poverty. In 2018, we served 7,151 households in need. It's clear the need far exceeds our current capacity to support, but YOU can help. Please consider increasing your gifts or making a first-time donation to help fill the gap. Today, you can make a difference in the lives of struggling families in our community. More details about what your gift does for our neighbors in need can be found on our website at [britepaths.org/our-impact](http://britepaths.org/our-impact).

### Remember Our Families at the Holidays

Britepaths' Holiday Program makes it easy for community members to make the season brighter for children and their families. Starting in October, we will ask supporters to sponsor families for Thanksgiving meals, December holiday meals and gifts for children. Cash donations and Program Sponsors are also greatly needed to assist those who are not sponsored. This is a rewarding service project. Visit [bit.ly/BritepathsHoliday](http://bit.ly/BritepathsHoliday) or call 703.273.8829 to learn more.

### Save the Date for Fall Events

There are many fun ways to support our work this Fall. We are grateful to local businesses and organizations that are hosting many of these events on our behalf. See our Events page at [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org) for details.

- Give Instead Gala, Sept. 26 (see p. 1)
- Wine Dinner at The Wine House, Oct. 3
- The 19th Street Band at JV's, Oct. 10
- NVAR CARES Party With A Purpose, Nov. 6
- Wine and Wonderment at 2941, Nov. 20

## Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Workshops



Britepaths and the Financial Empowerment Center at South County were honored to partner with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to offer financial literacy workshops to their summer interns.

Our dedicated Financial Literacy volunteers presented and fielded questions at the three sessions held at the University of California Washington Center in June, July and August.

The topics covered were: "Building Wealth, Eliminating Debt and Reducing Costs of Living," "Investing With Little Money" and "Reducing Your Tax Burden and Student Loan Debt."

We received enthusiastic feedback about our volunteers who presented, Tee Carty (second from right in top photo on page 1) and Naima Barnes (left). Other presenters were from Motley Fool Wealth Management, The College Place and Triangle Financial Independence. We thank them all for lending their time and talents.

This relationship was made possible through our partnership with the Foundation for Financial Planning. We are grateful to our partners for helping us share financial knowledge with more community members.

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