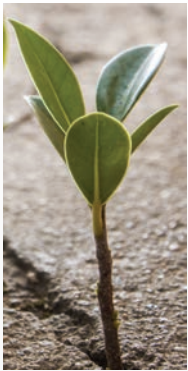


## The Pathfinder

### Artful Living: Resilience

Join us at our 2017 **Artful Living** event, an evening of Art, Wine and Strengthening Our Community, with Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival. The event is Saturday, April 22, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax City. Our theme this year is "Resilience."

Enjoy the delightful sounds of Batida Diferente while perusing works in our juried art show and sampling fine wine, craft brews, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. All art work will be for sale, with Britepaths receiving 50 percent of the sale price. Enjoy a live auction and fund-a-need appeal. Proceeds from the evening will benefit Britepaths' programs and the Spotlight on the Arts Scholarship Fund.



We are grateful to our sponsors and underwriters! Human Touch, LLC; GAP Solutions, Inc.; Tower Club of Tysons Corner; Ken & Linda Kozloff; Glenn Hedinger & Nancy McLernon; Apple Federal Credit Union; EagleBank; Team Freiman Morgan Stanley; Giant Food; Ravenswood Shell; and NOVEC HELPS.

*What does "resilience" mean to you?* Send a photo or brief statement to [photos@britepaths.org](mailto:photos@britepaths.org) by April 20 and we may display it at the event!

**Discounts for advance registration!** Register at: [britepaths.org/Art](http://britepaths.org/Art).

**"I am on my way to becoming debt-free, and I especially thank Jim for his mentorship. He is the best!"**

— Ms. A, Britepaths Client

### New Year, New Initiatives to Empower our Families!

Britepaths' staff and Board are continually looking for new ways to help our clients *help themselves* to better futures. In 2017, we have launched or plan to initiate the following programs:

**3 Cups of Coffee®:** This is a short-term mentoring program launched in January 2017 that matches professionals with job-ready clients who meet over "three cups of coffee" in six weeks and create a customized plan that identifies career goals and job possibilities while building networking connections. Britepaths is seeking mentees and mentors for this program.

**MPower Loans:** These zero-interest loans will provide clients enrolled in our Financial Mentoring Program with the option to take out a loan and pay it back. The goal will be to help them tackle a pressing financial burden or pay for an education initiative to help them improve their financial outlook as they work toward self-sufficiency.



#### **Pre-Apprenticeship Program:**

Partnering with Fairfax County's Housing Program and Skill Source, along with other potential community partners, Britepaths is working to establish this initiative to provide clients with an intensive six-week course to refresh writing/math skills, job readiness skills, and introduction to local apprenticeship programs, while providing a "success mentor" for support for nine months.

Visit [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org) to learn more and get involved in our Programs. Contact Sally Meyer if you would like to participate in 3 Cups of Coffee® at 703.273.8829 ext. 104 or [smeyer@britepaths.org](mailto:smeyer@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
- Seasonal Supports

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## Ms. E's Success Story

*"I've come from living paycheck-to-paycheck to now being able to save and live comfortably..."*

Ms. E is now supporting her family on her own after working hard in our Financial Mentoring program!

Ms. E is a medical assistant with two little girls who lives in the Fairfax County area. When she came to Britepaths, she was working hard but having trouble paying all her bills. The dissolution of her marriage caused further financial stress.

Over the past two years, she has worked closely with her volunteer Financial Mentor Rick Leino, and pro bono attorney Colleen Sweeney, along with Britepaths' staff, to understand her finances, set and stick to a budget and build her savings.

During that time, she finalized her divorce, but also lost her job. She was able to lean on her

savings and the supports she received from Britepaths while she looked for a new job. She quickly found work and started rebuilding her savings. She is now at a point where she truly feels like she can support herself and her daughters on her own.

Read more about Ms. E and watch video of her and Rick talking about her hard work and success at: <http://bit.ly/BritepathsStories>.



## Joy: Delivered!



Girl Scouts from Troop 4914 prepare to deliver Thanksgiving food to the family they sponsored.

It is always heartwarming to see how our community comes together to help our neighbors in need at the Holidays!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored families or donated so that Britepaths could ensure that 2,924 individuals and families in need in the Fairfax County area were able to enjoy holiday meals and gifts for their children during the 2016 Holiday season.

We are grateful to the many companies and organizations that sponsored our Holiday Program, and the 19 community-based organizations that provided meals and gifts to numerous families. Learn more about our Holiday Heroes and view our photo album at: <http://britepaths.org/HolidayHeroes>.

## 2016 By the Numbers

Thanks to your support, Britepaths was able to make a real difference for our families in 2016! In addition to the generous outpouring of donations we received, 814 volunteers donated 6,282 hours of their time. We assisted:

- 585 people with Financial Education.
- 281 families with Financial Assistance.
- 320 families with Food Bridge assistance.
- 14 Project BRIDGE families.
- 28 Naomi Project moms.
- 2,924 families with Holiday Assistance.
- 2,489 students with School Supplies.

## Food Bridge Supporters Needed

Britepaths' Food Bridge Program has an extremely great need for organizations to take a Sunday this year on our Food Delivery Calendar. This involves collecting and delivering food and supplies or grocery store gift cards to 30 of our Food Bridge families. This is a wonderful service project for companies, churches and community groups. Learn more at: <http://bit.ly/BritepathsFoodSupport>. Contact Christina Garris at 703.273.8829 ext. 444 or [cgarris@britepaths.org](mailto:cgarris@britepaths.org).

## Leave a Lasting Legacy

What better way to create a living memorial and continue to help our neighbors in need than to name Britepaths as a beneficiary in your will? By designating Britepaths as a recipient of even a small part of your estate, you will continue to help those in need for years to come.

Join the Lighthouse Society by planning now to leave a bequest to Britepaths, or make our organization the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan, stocks, bonds or other securities.

Visit our Lighthouse Society page for tools to help you get started: <http://bit.ly/BritepathsLegacy>. Or contact Development Manager Jennifer Rose at 703.273.8829 ext. 555 or [jrose@britepaths.org](mailto:jrose@britepaths.org).

## Back to School 2017

Our annual Collect for Kids Back to School Program to assist to local students in need begins in late June. We will need donations, program sponsors and backpack collection sites. Contact Joanne Walton at 703.273.8829 ext. 888 or [jwalton@britepaths.org](mailto:jwalton@britepaths.org).

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