



A program of Britepaths, Fairfax, Va.

Statement of Purpose: To work with high-risk pregnant women and new mothers promoting consistent prenatal care, fostering positive parenting skills and supporting them in planning a healthy future for themselves and their babies.

FALL 2016

Parent Organization's New Name and Website Better Reflect Mission

Britepaths Supports Naomi Project with Staff, Publicity

- **Co-Directors:**
Betty Ann Wilkins
Susan Lampazzi
Mary Rank
Bridget Simpkins
- **Program Manager:**
Jill Beres
- **Newsletter Editor:**
Christy O'Farrell
- **Training Coordinator:**
Laura Greenspan
- **Publicity Coordinator:**
Monica Galloway

Don't Forget!
Please Come!
Mentor Roundtable
Wednesday, Oct. 19
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
4080 Chain Bridge Road, Ffx
More details, p. 4

The newly renamed Britepaths continues to help community members in need in all the same ways as when it was known as Our Daily Bread. The name change more fully describes the nonprofit's multifaceted work, from stabilizing families by providing short-term food and financial assistance to building resilience with mentoring, classes and longer-term guidance. Other seasonal programs provide school supplies and holiday meals and gifts for children.

"Britepaths' mission and work to help struggling families in the Fairfax County area move from a place of need to one of true financial self-sufficiency remain the same, and there is so much



more work to be done," the organization said in an article about the change. Noting that 181,000 county residents live in or just above poverty, Britepaths said that those who volunteer or donate "are giving help and hope to someone who lives surprisingly close to us."

The name change is in keeping with Britepaths' evolution over the last 32 years, Executive Director **Lisa Whetzel** said in a press release. "We've refreshed our name, logo and look to reflect who we are today and what we strive to be in the future," she said.

Just in 2015, Naomi Project helped 28 new and expecting mothers, according to Britepaths' annual report, building on NP's 21-year legacy of having helped hundreds of women and children at a critical time in their lives.

Naomi Project mentors can still access resources and tools on the Britepaths' website, by navigating to "Naomi Project" under "our programs," and then to "mentoring." There you will find links to:

- the encounter report forms to fill out each time you have contact with your client.
- listings for medical care services available to low-income and/or uninsured residents, including families, women and children.
- listings for other types of assistance.
- the Naomi Project Goals checklist, which can help set the "agenda" for client visits and calls.

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Naomi Project co-director **Betty Ann Wilkins** attended the July 21 Britepaths launch at the Tower Club Tysons Corner. Photo by Edmond Joe.



britepaths
Formerly Our Daily Bread

BIRTHS



Congratulations!

... To Karla, client of **Felicia McClain** (Spring '15), on the birth of her baby on Jan. 10.

... To Nusrat, mentored by **Clare O'Keeffe** (Spring '15), whose daughter, Adwoa, was born March 28.

... To Charlie, who welcomed Klohe on April 7. Her mentor is **Christine Kenny** (Winter '16).

... To Delfina, client of **Holly Neyland** (Spring '16), on the May 22 birth of daughter, Lucia.

... To Maria, mentored by **Karen Covell** (Spring '16), whose daughter, Kimberly, was born June 27.

... To Josselyne, client of **Shaina Goldberg** (Spring '16), on the July 21 birth of daughter Xira.

... To Shannon, client of **Anh Nguyen** (Winter '16), on the birth of her baby on Sept. 2.



Volunteer News

We would like to give a shout out to Mentor and Area Coordinator **Sarah Bock** (Spring '99), who also used to serve as a co-director. Sarah is a role model to her client, her students (she's a high school Spanish teacher at Flint Hill School in Oakton) and to her own kids, Kate and Sam. She is passing down her love of mentoring to Sam, 17, who now tutors her client's 9-year-old daughter in reading and math. Sarah is a tremendous help!



Thank you, Sarah, for all you do!

GET TO KNOW JILL BERES

Jill Beres is thrilled to be the new Naomi Project Manager, replacing Jessica Ramones, who moved on to new endeavors. Jill began her career at the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, where she was a program manager for several criminal justice programs. In 2001, Jill left DOJ to raise her two children, Lily, now 16 and Jake, now 13. During these busy years, she was an active volunteer at her kids' schools and in the community.

In 2015, Jill joined the staff at Britepaths as the Holiday Program Assistant. This was a seasonal position, but Jill loved the work and the wonderful mission of the programs at Britepaths, so in April 2016, she accepted the position of Naomi Project Manager. She enjoys working with so many knowledgeable and dedicated Naomi Project volunteers and believes that this program makes a difference in the lives of women and children who are often marginalized.

In her spare time, Jill loves reading and participating in book clubs. Please welcome her, as we bid a fond farewell to Jessica!



We Warmly Welcome Our Latest Talented Mentors



Class of Spring 2016

Left to right: Julie Bruno, Karen Covell, Shaina Goldberg, Isabel Santa, Carol Froehlich, Holly Neyland, Kathrin Golczyk, Christine Lusk, Rosha' Ruffin and Brandi Mehok



Class of Winter 2016

Back row, left to right: Mary Scherer, Lisa Throckmorton, Marianne Allen, Christine Kenny, Shravya Maranganti, Karen Ralston, Anh Nguyen and Marisol Aldahondo-Aponte
Front row: Alex Dixon, Maria Tristan

THE NAOMI PROJECT

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www.facebook.com/NaomiProjectofNorthernVirginia/
britepaths.org/our-programs/naomi-project

The Naomi Project, in its 21st year, is an all-volunteer resource mothers program. Trained volunteers mentor disadvantaged clients in a one-on-one relationship.

Clients are referred to the program, which is free, confidential and interfaith, by Fairfax Hospital, the city and county health departments, and human services agencies in Northern Virginia.

Since its inception in 1995, more than 200 Naomi Project volunteers have helped more than 500 women. The program is active in Fairfax and Arlington counties, and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church.

RSVP for Mentor Roundtable Oct. 19

All Naomi Project volunteers, especially mentors, are encouraged to attend the mentor roundtable discussion from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Britepaths' office in the Massey Annex of the courthouse complex, 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd floor, Fairfax. Park in the outdoor lot across the street from the building. This is the first in a series of planned networking and sharing events for mentors, and a time for you to learn from and about one another. Refreshments will be served. To reply, email Jill Beres at jberes@britepaths.org.

Free Eye Exams and Glasses for Eligible Children

Collaborating with FOREYES, LensCrafters, Lions Club and MyEyeDr, the Fairfax County Health Department started "Give the Gift of Sight," to provide children up to 18 years old with basic eye care services. For now, the program is being piloted in 11 zip codes. For more information, call a family assistance worker at 703 246-7127. Adults may receive similar services through a previously existing partnership.



BRITEPATHS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: SPREAD THE WORD!



Sunday, Nov. 6: Sixth Annual FOODRaiser event, Complete the Circle, hosted by Britepaths and Lorton Community Action Center. We would love to see you and your friends of all ages at South County Middle School in Lorton from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for this service project to fight

hunger in our community. Our goal this year is to have 1,500 attendees, and to raise 15,000 pounds of donated items for our pantries. Those who turn out become part of a "living picture" formed with people and donated food, and photographed from the air by internationally renowned artist Daniel Dancer. Admission is \$5 per person, plus three or more pantry items or a grocery store gift card. Also enjoy family fun including live music, balloon art and face painting.



Wednesday, Nov. 30: Wine and Wonderment. Join us from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for a wonderful evening of wine tasting and food at 2941 Restaurant in Falls Church. This event benefits the Holiday Program, which provides meals

and gifts to families that have not been matched with sponsors. Registration is \$50.

For more information on either event, visit britepaths.org/get-involved/events.



- Any Naomi Project volunteers who have suggestions for how to improve or enrich the program, for both mentors and clients, please send them to Jill Beres at jberes@britepaths.org.
- All thoughts and ideas are welcome and appreciated.
- Thank you for your time, effort and support!