

The Pathfinder

A Lifeline in Challenging Times

"Many folks have barely recovered – if at all – from the pandemic, only to face additional financial hardships due to inflation. Demand for food assistance, rent, and car repair assistance is rising, and many of the families who are referred to us are at high risk of becoming homeless." – Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel

Britepaths is a long-time member of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. We appreciate them examining and seeking our input about the very concerning issue of inflation and how it is affecting members of our local workforce who were already reeling from the pandemic. Visit our website to read their article, *"On the Heels of the Pandemic: Inflation-Induced Hunger,"* at: britepaths.org/news.

We are so grateful to all of our supporters who have helped us provide a lifeline for local families who are struggling during these challenging times, and we hope you will keep us in mind in the coming months. Here is just one of the many thank you notes we've received from community members we have assisted.

"Your generous help has provided [my tenant] with a lifeline, not only in concrete terms, but also in terms of peace of mind, dignity and hope. Your organization helped not only her, but also me, as I own only one rental property and, as a retiree, very much rely on that income." – A Fairfax County Landlord whose tenant received Financial Assistance for rent from Britepaths



Mission

Britepaths provides our 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

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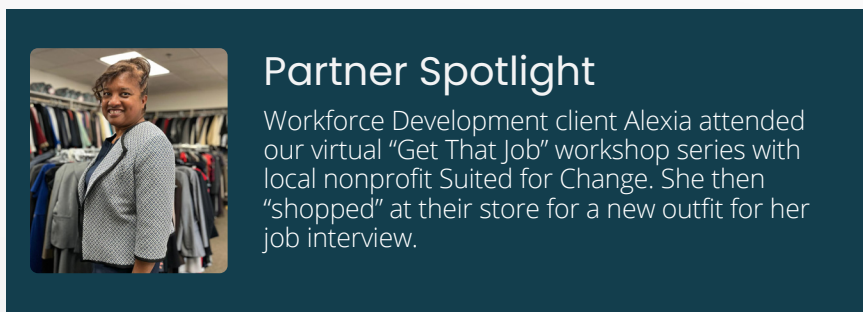
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Partner Spotlight

Workforce Development client Alexia attended our virtual "Get That Job" workshop series with local nonprofit Suited for Change. She then "shopped" at their store for a new outfit for her job interview.

Celebrate & Donate to Help Families for the Holidays



After a two-year hiatus, we are excited to gather once again at our popular Wine & Wonderment wine tasting. We hope you'll join us to kick off the holiday season and support our Holiday Program.

Wine & Wonderment

Wednesday, November 9, 6-8 p.m.
2941 Restaurant

2941 Fairview Park Dr., Falls Church
Visit: britepaths.org/event/ww2022

Britepaths' Holiday Program is seeking donations of funds and gift cards to help 265 local families in

need enjoy festive holiday meals and gifts for their children.

A gift of \$100 will provide holiday meals for a family and \$50 will provide gifts for children. Any amount you can offer will make a big difference for children and their families who live very near you.

We also welcome companies and organizations to sponsor our program.

Visit our Holiday Program page to donate and learn more, or call 703.273.8829.

britepaths.org/our-services/holiday-program



Our DEIA Vision

Britepaths endeavors to provide programs and support that are free of barriers and discrimination.

We value and celebrate the range of diversity, culture, and unique differences of all of our clients and team members.

Our workplace aspires to reflect the communities we serve and to be an environment where employees and volunteers feel empowered to be their full, authentic selves.

We are committed to taking meaningful action to assure equitable representation, participation, and decision-making.

See our Mission, Vision and Values at: britepaths.org/about-us/mission-value



Together Again at Artful Living

We couldn't have asked for a nicer evening to connect with our neighbors and friends once again after such a long time apart. A huge thank you to all who joined us and all who supported Artful Living: Connected on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at the Country Club of Fairfax.

We enjoyed a juried art show and sale, a live auction with fabulous vacation getaways, an opportunity to hear from a client, delicious appetizers, desserts and drinks, and raised critical funds to help our families on their journeys to self-sufficiency. A special thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and guests.

Visit our Artful Living page to view photos and video from the event. Information on our 2023 event will be posted there soon. britepaths.org/events/art



Artist Lynne Heiser Blake (second from right) won People's Choice. She's with Keith and Dawn Sykes, Jennifer Rose and Rodney Blake.



Artist Maria Francisca Roura's photograph "No Barriers" won Best of Show. Photo by Hernan Vargas.

The Power of Changing a Life

"Nobody had taught her or her family what they needed to do financially. Just giving her basic financial education, as well as getting some help through the Foundation as well as Britepaths, really helped me provide her the information that she needed to succeed." — Dennis Elias, Financial Mentor

Watch a heartfelt video with our volunteer Financial Mentor Dennis Elias and hear first-hand how his work with mentoring client "Amey" made a profound impact on her life when she and her family were reeling from job loss and illness during the pandemic.

We are grateful to our grantor the Foundation for Financial Planning (FFP) for producing the video and providing significant ongoing support for our financial coaching and mentoring programs.

Watch at: britepaths.org/story/changing-a-life



Thanks for Helping Our Kids Go Back to School!

Thanks to our community's support, we were able to provide 2,500 school supply kits and 375 new backpacks to local students in need at our Fairfax County Public Schools partner schools. We are grateful to all who donated.

Thank you to our sponsors: NVAR Cares, Fairfax Ace Hardware (pictured), MainStreet Bank and Morrison & Foerster Foundation. We also thank our backpack donation partners: Alya Salon & Spa, Fairfax Ace Hardware, University Mall Theatres, Sugar Mama's Ice Cream, Cinema Arts Theatre, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce/Office Evolution Fairfax, "Hugo the Gargoyle" Little Free Library, FVCbank and Demaine Funeral Home.

Learn more: britepaths.org/story/bts-22

Fairfax Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving

Britepaths is grateful to the organizers of the Fairfax Turkey Trot in Mantua for once again choosing us as the beneficiary of this fun 4-miler on Thanksgiving morning, November 24. Last year's race raised \$24,446 to help our families. We hope you'll join us and invite your friends. Register at: fairfaxturkeytrot.com



Volunteer & Supporter Appreciation

We had a wonderful time connecting with many of our volunteers and supporters in Fairfax City on September 18. Learn more at: britepaths.org/story/volunteer-appreciation-22

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