

## The Pathfinder

### ReFraming The Issue

*"Working with Jessie has been so impactful. It has changed my thinking and really changed my life."* – Roshon Casey Lee, Financial Empowerment Mentee

In September, Britepaths launched a new quarterly series, ReFraming the Issue, to address challenges facing our community and highlight innovative solutions. Our first conversation focused on suburban homelessness and featured a panel discussion with Britepaths' Executive Director Lisa Whetzel and Development Director Abra Kurt, and Roshon Casey-Lee, a Britepaths client.

We discussed the root causes and conditions that can lead to homelessness in Northern Virginia and the Fairfax County area, and Britepaths' approach to helping prevent community members from becoming homeless through our stability and personal empowerment programs.

A special thank you to ReFrame Wealth, our series partner, who hosted the event. Their Founding Partners, Mitch Falter and Jessie Doll, are both Britepaths Financial Empowerment volunteers, and Jessie is Roshon's Financial Mentor (*Roshon is at left with Jessie in the top right photo*). The Foundation for Financial Planning recently shared articles about Roshon and Jessie's mentoring relationship. Read their stories and view video of Roshon at: [britepaths.org/story/roshon](https://britepaths.org/story/roshon).

If you would like to learn about future ReFraming The Issue events, contact: Harper Garcia at [events@britepaths.org](mailto:events@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.



#### Mission

Britepaths provides our neighbors in need with short-term safety-net services and empowers them to work toward long-term self-sufficiency. We deliver our services with respect, compassion, and equity, always preserving the dignity and self-esteem of our clients.

#### Services

Stabilizing Families  
Personal Empowerment  
Supporting Children

#### Board of Directors

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#### FY 2023 Impact


In Fiscal Year 2023, Britepaths and the Financial Empowerment Center at South County served 7,999 families, impacting the lives of 11,555 people. Your generous donations, and the support of 473 volunteers serving 5,583 hours, made this possible.

**Stabilizing Families:** 935 Households received Food and/or Financial Assistance, assisting 2,683 people.

**Personal Empowerment:** 2,761 People received Financial Empowerment and Workforce Development services.

**Supports for Children:** 5,140 Children received Food4Thought, Back to School, Holiday, or Youth Financial Literacy services.

Learn more at: [britepaths.org/about-us/our-impact](https://britepaths.org/about-us/our-impact).



### In The News

In June, The Arlington Catholic Herald highlighted Britepaths' partnership with Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington to help newcomers to the United States understand the U.S. financial system. Visit [britepaths.org/news](https://britepaths.org/news) to read the article.

## Help Us Put Food On The Table—For The Holidays and Beyond

*Did you know? 41% of Fairfax County households with children experience food insecurity.*

For many of us, November and December are a time for celebrations and holiday traditions.

For the families Britepaths serves, whose budgets are already stretched far too thin, it can mean making heartbreaking choices. You can help local families put food on the table this fall and ensure a season of joy for all our neighbors.

Sponsor a family for holiday meals. A \$200 donation will help a local family put food on the table this holiday season. *Any amount you can contribute will make a difference!*

Visit [britepaths.org/holiday](https://britepaths.org/holiday) to donate. Contact Harper Garcia at [events@britepaths.org](mailto:events@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.

### Help Our Neighbors Year Round!

Britepaths' Food Bridge program provides emergency food through our Pantry and offers short-term food gift card supports to help clients stay in their homes and stabilize after a financial crisis.

Additional offerings include Food4Thought weekend food for students and two farmers market initiatives to make fresh produce more accessible.

Visit [britepaths.org/donate-food](https://britepaths.org/donate-food) to donate and volunteer.

Contact Brenda Hernandez at [info@britepaths.org](mailto:info@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.



Innovating to Launch and Grow Careers

Britepaths began piloting our first Workforce Development offering, Project BRIDGE, in 2011, and we have continued to refine our programming to best meet the needs of community members who are experiencing barriers to attaining and advancing in jobs that pay well and offer career growth.

Our current offerings include workshops and one-on-one job readiness coaching provided through the Financial Empowerment Center at South County, Network Up short-term career mentoring, and two I.T. training programs: AWS re/Start and Google IT Certification with CompTIA A+.

This spring, we piloted a Leadmen Leadership training series with C.J. Coakley Co. of Fairfax, and the pilot was such a success that Coakley hired our team to support a second class



The second group of graduates of our Leadmen Leadership Training series with C.J. Coakley Co. on July 28. Workforce Development Specialist Iris Woodard is at left, and Coakley Vice President Paul Gallagher is at right.

this year. We plan to offer more in 2024. Learn more at: [britepaths.org/story/coakley](https://britepaths.org/story/coakley).

Our Workforce Development program welcomes volunteers to work with our clients and local businesses interested in hiring clients or bringing our programming to their employees.

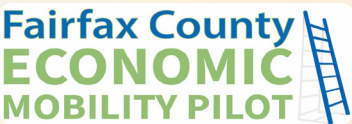
Contact Sally Meyer at [slmeyer@britepaths.org](mailto:slmeyer@britepaths.org) or 703.704.6101.



Fairfax Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving

We are grateful to the organizers of the Fairfax Turkey Trot in Mantua for once again choosing Britepaths as the beneficiary of this fun 4-miler on Thanksgiving morning, November 23. Last year's race raised \$27,600 to help our families. We hope you'll join us and invite your friends. Register at: [fairfaxturkeytrot.com](https://fairfaxturkeytrot.com).

**Thank You to Our Sponsors!** Anne and Sarah Harrington, Long & Foster; Amazon Fresh Fairfax; Ourisman Kia of Fairfax; and VLP Financial Advisors.



Economic Mobility Pilot

Fairfax County has partnered with United Way of the National Capital Area and George Mason University to implement a new Economic Mobility Pilot (EMP). Britepaths was honored to receive grants to provide supports and offer financial empowerment services through the Financial Empowerment Center at South County to the selected participants in the pilot, which provides a monthly payment of \$750 to 180 eligible families for 15 months.

40th Anniversary

In 2024, Britepaths will celebrate 40 years of providing stability supports and personal empowerment tools to our Fairfax County area and Northern Virginia neighbors in crisis. We will begin sharing our celebration plans in January. If you're interested in learning about sponsorships or would like to share photos or reminiscences, contact Harper Garcia at [events@britepaths.org](mailto:events@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.

Back to School: Thanks for Helping Our Kids!

Britepaths is grateful to everyone who supported our 2023 Back to School drive! We were able to help 2,500 students at our 10 Fairfax County Public Schools partner schools start off strong in the new school year.

**Thank You to Our Sponsors and Partners! SCHOOL SPONSORS:** Jim McKay Chevrolet, Kearney & Company, MainStreet Bank, Mason District Council of Community Associations, PenFed Credit Union, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax and an Anonymous Friend of Britepaths

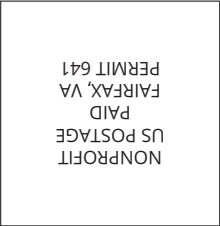
**PARTNERS:** Church of the Holy Comforter, Community

Foundation for Northern Virginia/ Avalon Charitable Fund, Fairfax Ace Hardware, Herndon Chapter #55 Order of the Eastern Star, Kiwanis Club of Fairfax, NVAR Cares, St. Katherine's Philoptochos Society, and Welcome Club of Northern Virginia.



PenFed Credit Union sponsored Daniels Run Elementary. They delivered 150 supply kits and 100 backpacks to the school on August 14.

Return Service Requested



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