Pathways celebrates a “Caring Canadian” in our midst.

We are proud of you Sylvin!

In November of 1995, the Right Honorable Romeo LeBlanc announced the establishment of an award to honour Canadian Volunteers – the unsung heroes of our communities. The award recognizes people who volunteer their time to help others and to build a smarter and more caring nation. The award also highlights the fine example set by these volunteers, whose compassion and engagement are so much a part of our Canadian character.

Earlier this year, Pathways Club ABI staff and volunteers nominated Club ABI member Sylvin Pineau for this prestigious award. On November 10, Sylvin joined 27 other Caring Canadians and received his award from Governor General David Johnston at Queen’s Park.

Sylvin is known as Belleville’s “Piano Man” due to his growing reputation to volunteer his time playing free concerts to brighten peoples’ days. Originally from Montreal, Sylvin has sustained not one but two brain injuries. One injury was the result of a motor vehicle accident and the other was a result of a brain tumor. A man...who was in a coma for a month... and following a short recovery time was able to retain the ability to perform beautifully on the piano. Sylvin describes himself as a miracle. Our community calls it a gift. The gift of music that Sylvin shares at Pathways, Belleville General Hospital, Trenton Memorial, and various other locations in the Quinte region. Today, Sylvin lives independently, has a driver’s licence and is a highly contributing member of our community.

At the ceremony, Sylvin was the only recipient that was introduced in French. Sylvin is very proud of his French heritage and it was heartwarming to witness the Governor General, David Johnston share a private moment with Sylvin as they communicated in French. We asked Sylvin after the ceremony what the Governor General said to him and his response made us laugh:

“I don’t have a clue what he said...I was so excited I did not listen to him...I was just caught up in the moment!”
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And, another very “caring” Canadian.

Pathways celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2015 surrounded by “caring” Canadians!

Over 500 people joined us on November 6, 2015 to celebrate this special milestone with Clara Hughes, Canadian Olympian and mental health advocate. With the support of our sponsors and our community, Pathways raised over $25,000 that evening. The money will help us to build supportive housing for young adults entering our services.

On behalf of the people we support, Thank you to all of our “caring” supporters, friends, family members, and community partners who made 2015 a year to remember!
Pathways is very happy to announce that we have been awarded our 3rd, three year accreditation from CARF! This means that Pathways has met annual conformance requirements for quality standards that enhance the lives of the people we serve. This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards.

CARF is a continuous quality improvement process; the CARF standards are internationally validated and assist us in providing and continuously improving our services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury or a dual diagnosis.

For three days last December, 4 CARF surveyors visited Pathways and met with the people we support, their family members, our employees and community partners in both the Quinte and Ottawa regions. The surveyors reviewed our services, supports, practices and policies and they noted many strengths of the agency, as well as identifying areas that we can improve.

We are very grateful to our employees, the people we support, their family members and our partners who took the time to help us to prepare for and complete the CARF Survey process. We are pleased to share some of the strengths the CARF surveyors found during their visit. The complete CARF Survey Report, including all strengths and recommendations for improvement can be found on at www.pathwaysind.com.

“A resounding theme from the interviews with the persons served and the parents was a sense of relief, respect and trust. Parents feel grateful for having Pathways to Independence in their family member’s lives. Families also shared an abundance of positive experiences with the organization and voiced admiration for the exhaustive efforts of the leadership and staff members to provide quality living experiences."

“Pathways to Independence is congratulated for its longevity in providing services to the eastern and south-eastern Ontario area for over 25 years. The organization has a longstanding, well-deserved reputation in each of the local communities served. It is viewed as an integral part of each community, a valuable service provider and an organization with great integrity.

“Many persons served actively participate in volunteering in their communities including local food banks, the Salvation Army, the Humane Society and others. In both 2013 and 2014, the persons served surpassed the organizational goal of contributing 1,200 hours of service to their communities, with 2015 surpassing at 2,658 volunteer hours.”

“The organization has seen significant growth in its ABI services and is commended on its leadership in developing responsive supports for this population. The new homes in Ottawa and Napanee are state of the art and have been constructed and decorated with a high level of attention to elements that enhance the quality of life for the persons served and positively image them as members of their new neighbourhoods.”

(CARF Survey, Agency Strengths, 2015)
When Ann Dafoe was fifteen, her part-time summer job at Plainfield Children’s Home opened her eyes and her heart to a calling she’s followed all of her life. Ann was 19 when she first asked Childerns Aid Society (CAS) about fostering a child but was told she was too young. Finally she was the right age, had settled into a home and she began fostering children with developmental disabilities.

Nathan came to live with Ann when he was a year old. He is now 23 and has spent his life in the loving home of Ann and her family. When a foster child with a developmental disability reaches adulthood they are no longer eligible for CAS supports. That’s often when Pathways becomes involved and transitions the person and their family to adult services within the Pathway’s Family Home program. That’s the process Ann and Nathan followed when he turned eighteen.

Nathan calls Ann “Mammy” and the bond between the two is obvious. They are family in every sense of the word. Ann is proud of Nathan’s accomplishments. Nathan is autistic with strong OCD tendencies and becomes obsessively interested in subjects which fascinate him. Currently he is becoming an expert in bumblebees.

Ann credits Pathways for the incredible support they give her and Nathan. He participates in events and activities organized by Pathways. He loves trips to Canada’s Wonderland, fishing and especially enjoys going to Napanee to eat at La Pizzeria, the restaurant where Avril Lavigne worked. He has become a good bowler and each summer he enjoys YMCA’s Campability program.

Shopping is a favourite pastime for Nathan. After much teaching and guidance Ann is now able to drop Nathan off at the mall and he is able shop independently for a couple of hours. She instructs him to meet her at a certain time at a particular entrance. Nathan enjoys this independence and the autonomy it gives him. Although Ann may have been a little worried at first and initially stayed close by the Mall she too sees the benefits of his new found skills and ability to enjoy the community independently.

Nathan is proud of his two part-time jobs. He works at the Pathways to Independence Car Wash on Dundas Street near the Bay Bridge. He helps detail cars by vacuuming car interiors two days a week. He also works two shifts a week at the Thrift Store where he is responsible for ticketing merchandise. Ann says he has small but precise penmanship.

Ann feels it is her job “to protect and set things up for his success”. Conversely “you need to make it easy for him to try new things”.

Nathan is provided additional staffing support through Pathways. He really enjoys the extra time and attention this allows as well as personally tailored activities geared towards his interests and passions. Pathways ensures that each supported person in the Family Home Program has individualized planning focused on their unique gifts, capabilities and goals.

Ann shares “Sometimes you get to the place where you can’t see the woods for the trees, and Pathways helps you to re-direct.”

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For more information on becoming a Family Home Provider contact Karen Metcalf at 613-962-2541 ext. 223
What an amazing Fall and Winter we have had! There have been several fundraisers in support of the Pathways Foundation. We are truly grateful to all of the sponsors, organizers and volunteers who have helped us to make these events inclusive, fun, and raised money to improve the quality of life of the people we support!

We sold a lot of Poinsettias and Wreaths! Thanks to our amazing sponsors and talented sales team.

Robert Price
Rhonda Guthrie
Doug Bellwood
Kathy Fowler
Dorothy Paus
Marsha O’Rourke
Paula Scrimgeour
Robin Reinert
Sue Taft
Cassandra Bonn
Krista Aubertin
Gord Leverton
The Foundation raises funds to help to build accessible homes, support the costs of accessible transportation and to provide a little financial assistance to the people we support to access resources in their community's that they may not otherwise be able to afford. We call this the Community Access Fund, or the “smile fund”. In the last year this fund has supported the costs of:

- Recently, James, Kyle and Garry received riding lessons and learned how to care for their horses after the ride. “When lesson was done in they came, unsaddled and put equipment away, brushed, cleaned hoofs and gave their horses a snack. Never has two hours passed so quickly. The guys led their horses out to the paddock and said their goodbyes. The trainers, Katie and Ann thanked the guys for a great day and gave them all great words of encouragement and praise. Three very proud men walked down the lane for a thank-you picture at the sign”.

Thank you Pathways Foundation!

-James, Kyle and Garry.
All you need is Love

And a little help from our Friends…

Great music? ✓
Good friends? ✓
Fabulous time had by all? ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Spring started with a drum roll and a lot of dancing at Pathways in March, when local Beatles tribute band “All You Need Is Love” led by Andie Forgie held a special concert just for the people supported by Pathways and their friends.
Ready, Set, Walk!
Come on out and support people living with a brain injury!

ABI AWARENESS WALK
June 25th
Belleville
Zwick's Park

1 in 26 Canadians are living with a brain injury. Many of them are our neighbours.

TO REGISTER www.pathwaysind.com/abiwalk

Join Us!
Saturday June 25th
Zwick's Park, Belleville
WALK WITH US
Registration at 9 • Walk starts at 10

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